



**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

TERRANCE EDWARD FREEMAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
AT-LARGE GROUP 1
OFFICE (904) 255-5215
FAX (904) 255-5250

SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL:TFREEMAN@COJ.NET

**Notice Meeting Council President Terrance Freeman and Council Member Sam Newby
Regarding Operation Boost Legislation
Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2023
2:00 P.M.**

Location: Henry Cook Room, 1st Floor City Hall

In attendance: Council President Terrance Freeman, Council Member Sam Newby, Phillip Peterson, Auditor's Office, and Rita Mairs, Office General Counsel. See attached for additional attendees.

Meeting convened: 2:00 p.m.

Council President Freeman called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for taking time to attend. He began the meeting talking about the Workforce programs and the value these programs have on the citizens and the city. He stated that is where I place focus and my efforts and that this initiative is important as CM Newby's previous Operation Boost Initiative. Council President also stated that CM Newby had many initiatives that did not received the media attention or news until the end and that your efforts were newsworthy. He said when I saw how badly and overlapping the challenges on what was being done in the workforce space, I was trying to look for a way to continue from some of the good things you were doing CM Newby and align them with this legislation and Operation Boos and Mr. James Coleman, who is currently on his way here.

That's why I have a bill that was drafted for me and I wanted to talk with you a little bit about the bill and having you being a co-introducer with me on carrying this bill through. CM Newby if you could share a little bit about your perspective from last year, I would appreciate it, not to put you on the spot. CM Newby begins to speak, thank you Council President Freeman and like you said I've done many initiatives but this one may be the most impactful initiative so far, because it affected so many people. I met a young lady that was enrolled in the program, and she came to me after her graduation and told a story that happened to her 6 years ago and she had to spend time in prison due to her boyfriend robbing a store and she was caught up and didn't know whether she would find employment.

She enrolled in Operation Boost's Program and ended up getting employment at Amazon. Mr. Coleman worked with the students and before they completed the program and graduated their jobs already waiting for them, that day that young lady came to me and said without programs like this I might not have a found a job making \$14.00 per hour, and for the first time my family will have a stable family life. This mother had four children to care for. CM Newby, Council President Freeman, I want to thank you for introducing this bill. CM Newby stated he often think about the 70 people who has already graduated from Operation Boost and gainfully employed because of the training provided.

Not only does the program change one person's life it changes the lives of the entire family.



**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

TERRANCE EDWARD FREEMAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
AT-LARGE GROUP 1
OFFICE (904) 255-5215
FAX (904) 255-5250

SUITE 425, CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
E-MAIL:TFREEMAN@COJ.NET

Council President Freeman what Operation Boost Program offers is training and certification, OSHA, forklift driving things of that nature that transitions people into the workforce by giving them a trade or a skill that can help now as they start to ascend in their working careers.

Mr. Peterson do you mind sharing where these dollars are coming from. Phillip Peterson, Auditor's Office, begins by discussing the \$22, 319.00 was left in a Special Contingency Fund that was created in 2022, so these funds will be appropriated to Operation Boost to fund twenty students to go through the Program.

Council President Freeman said so this was purpose of this meeting, CM Newby I would love to have you as a Coo-Introducer; CM Newby to Council President Freeman, I would love to be added as a Co-Introducer to this bill.

Council President Freeman acknowledged Rita Mairs from the Office of General Counsel and asked if she would like to speak, she answered no. Council President Freeman, are there any Public Comments, seeing none this meeting is adjourned.

For additional information or correspondence, please contact Gerrie Ford-Hardin, Executive Council Assistant at (904) 255-5179.

TF/gfh

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY 904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net

cc:

Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
CITYC@COJ.NET
Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall
Public Notice System – City Council Web Page
Media Box
File Copy