



**OFFICE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL**

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**Minutes Noticed Meeting Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman
Regarding Districts Transition
July 13, 2023
3:00 PM**

Location: Henry Cook Room, 1st Floor City Hall

In attendance: Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman (CD 10), Council Member Randy White (CD 12), Council Member Jimmy Peluso (CD 7), and Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr., (CD 8). See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Meeting Convened 3:05 p.m.

Council Member Pittman convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. She said the purpose of the meeting is for the council members of districts 7, 8, 9 and 12, whose districts are all close together, to meet at the start of the Council year to share what is happening in each of the districts and how the members can work together.

CM Pittman discussed initiatives that may impact all four of the districts. One is the District Vision and Comprehensive Plan for business corridors. Part of the Myrtle Avenue Corridor is in CM Peluso's District 10 and Ms. Pittman said she has previously been working with two or three small businesses now located in his district on getting façade grants. Two have filled out applications and another is in the process of doing so. Retention pond safety is another issue that affects many districts, and she said the Council needs to be proactive in making sure this issue continues to be actively pursued. Litter clean-up and neighborhood beautification are also a big issue. Her district held a "Put your trash in a can, not on our land" event several months ago and she would like to see more beautification and clean-up events happen on a regular basis citywide. There is a lot of trash in Urban Core, and she wants to make sure that the residents can participate instead of complaining about what is going on in the communities. If something is done citywide, she thinks there would be a lot of citizen participation.

Ms. Pittman shared updates about the funding allocated for J.P. Smalls Park and Durkeeville Museum and discussed the district ambassadors program. She noted that JTA has robust programs for bicycle lanes and sidewalks and said more information can be obtained from Nat Ford, JTA's CEO, and his team.



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Regarding Council District 12, CM Pittman shared plans for improvements at Garden Park and discussed a problem with trains and an upcoming rezoning for a fuel storage site. Jason Gabriel, representing the applicant, Belvedere Terminal, described the location of the proposed project and said it is currently in the stage of transmitting the proposed land use change from Agriculture to Light Industrial to the state for review. He said the company will hold a town hall meeting further along in the process to keep the community updated on the fuel storage issue.

Council Member Reggie Gaffney, Jr. gave an update on current District 7 issues, which include a controversial liquor store opening near a school that has generated a great deal of community opposition, and the Jaguars' stadium renovation proposal.

Council Member Jimmy Peluso said he has been meeting with the community to learn about the issues in District 7. He plans on meeting with Paul Tutwiler, the CEO of Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corporation and said he wants to push for funding for the CDCs working in old neighborhoods that need revitalization. A process for cleaning up neighborhoods and strengthening small businesses is needed, and he would like to see a line item in the budget to support CDCs.

Suzanne XX from the Historic Eastside CDC discussed her organization which was formed in 2016 in an effort to revitalize the community in conjunction all the investments happening around the EverBank Field stadium area. As a CDC their goal is to protect the community and offer home repairs. During 2022, they repaired 28 homes for seniors between the ages of 56-93 on the Eastside. This year they are going to repair 14 homes and 2 churches. The CDC received funding from United Way to repair 15 additional homes. Housing is very important to the community and the CDC. She said we must find a way to include inclusiveness in the community because displacement is not an option. CM Pittman agreed that investing in communities is vital and noted that the Council had passed legislation appropriating \$500,000 to help preserve endangered historic buildings outside of the downtown area.

Kortney Wesley with Duval County Public Schools said she would love to meet with council members and to be a resource as it relates to School Board issues.

Council Member Pittman thanked everyone for attending and sharing information about their districts.

Meeting adjourned 3:39 p.m.