



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JSO PRIMARY FACILITIES
WORKING GROUP ON EXISTING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS**

Meeting Minutes

**September 20, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

Location: Don Davis Room, 1st floor, City Hall

In attendance: Council Member Randy White,

Also: CM Michael Boylan; Merriane Lahmeur and Steven Libby – Legislative Services Division; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Carla Lopera – Office of General Counsel

Meeting Convened: 10:02 a.m.

Chairman White convened the meeting and described his understanding of the task of the working group. The working group will have a chair and co-chair with the rest of the participants being subject matter experts who are not official members of the group so they are not covered by the provisions of the Government in the Sunshine Law. Carla Lopera of the Office of the General Counsel gave an overview of the Sunshine Law and described the impact of the law on the work of the group. She noted that the state's public records law also applies to the working group so any messages or documents produced must be retained and made available to the public if requested. Requests for public records should be referred through the Office of General Counsel.

CM Michael Boylan, Chair of the Special Committee on JSO Primary Facilities, highlighted the importance of this working group in making recommendations about what needs to be done at the jail and Police Memorial Building to make them safe and usable for the next few years while planning for new facilities takes place. Chairman White said his impression is that the City has done mostly short-term repairs and patching as needs arise rather than any substantial refurbishment, but the working group will determine what else needs to be or can be done.

Chairman White suggested looking at JEA's district energy system and whether that might be an option for dealing with the air conditioning system, which he understands is down to one chiller at present. Jordan Pope, Vice President for Corporate Strategy at JEA said they are willing to look at that and other options for dealing with air conditioning needs.

Chairman White said he would like for the subject matter experts to tour the jail next Wednesday at 9 a.m. to get a feel for the actual conditions and challenges.

The subject matter experts introduced themselves for the record.

JSO Director of Corrections Kevin Goff said his staff can host a jail tour next Wednesday morning. He emphasized that there are issues at the jail that need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Mr. White asked that representatives of the companies that handle the elevators and HVAC controls at the jail be invited to participate in the tour next week. JSO Sgt Aaron Parks said he is encouraged by the show of support today for the jail but the needs are great and things need to be taken care of soon. Assistant Chief Rick Long of the jail's Support Services Section said there are definitely trouble spots that need to be addressed first. Mike Lindsey of W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractors asked about the general nature of the problems – electrical, plumbing, equipment? The answer was "all of the above". Jordan Pope said JEA is ready to be helpful if they can. CM Boylan said mold remediation will be a big issue that has to be addressed urgently. Roy Birbal, Chief of Public Buildings, said the City has an environmental contractor under contract who would deal with that issue. In response to a question, Mr. Birbal said there have been several floods in the jail in recent weeks caused by inmates. ServPro is the City's remediation contractor for such incidents to remove water and dehumidify.

Chairman White confirmed next Wednesday at 9 a.m. for the tour of the jail. JSO will arrange secure parking and convey that location by email to the attendees.

Meeting adjourned: 10:22 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division
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9.21.23 Posted 11:30 a.m.