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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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President Salem, Council Member Boylan, Council Member Johnson Special Committee on JSO Primary Facilities Subcommittees

Meeting Date: October 9, 2023

Topic: Special Committee on JSO Primary Facilities Subcommittees

Location: 117 West Duval Street, Henry Cook Room

In attendance: Council President Ron Salem, Council Member Michael Boylan, Council Member Rahman Johnson, Undersheriff Shawn Coarsey, Director Kevin Goff – JSO Department of Corrections, Beth Payne and Annie Seigler – Northeast Florida Regional Council, Dean Nick Allard – Jacksonville University College of Law, Jeff Clements – Council Research, Bill Delaney – Administration, Mary Staffopoulos and Carla Lopera – Office of General Counsel, Joe Johnson – ECA District 1, Elisa Worden – HDR Inc.

For a complete list of attendees, please refer to the sign-in sheet.

Meeting Convened: 1:07 PM

City Council President Ron Salem called the meeting to order asked the attendees to introduce themselves for the record. President Salem said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Special Committee on JSO Primary Facilities Subcommittees.

President Salem asked CM Boylan to review the charge of the Special Committee of JSO Primary Facilities Subcommittee on Holistic Services. CM Boylan explained that this working group has a pivotal and complicated role within this Committee, and he expects safety, security, and wellbeing of inmates to be at the forefront of the conversation. The charge recognizes that wellbeing extends to the staff of the facilities providing services to the inmates. President Salem clarified that a big part of these services does include mental health care.

CM Johnson said that during his tour of the facilities, professionals and jail staff had expressed concern related to the different kinds of health problems that existed for both the inmates and the facility staff.

President Salem said that his goal is that we make sure that the physical facilities are set up in a way that can manage the diverse health care needs of inmates. His experience with the Mental Health Offender Program is scratching the surface by diverting some of the most intense mental health cases out of the jail and into wrap around care.

Director Goff said that JSO is looking at the benefits of an onsite infirmary. JSO's main concern is the potential for new programs being mandated by this committee which they may not be able to staff appropriately. Any mental health care should not fall on our correctional officers but on professionals.



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President Salem clarified that creating a facility that can house all our needs is step one. The next step will be designating the appropriate professionals to work within the facility. Undersheriff Shawn Coarsey recommended a possible mental health wing that would be housed at the jail but run by an outside entity.

CM Johnson reiterated that the goal of the special committee is not to discuss new programs, just the needs of a new physical facility.

President Salem said he is also looking at indigent care at UF Health and one of the reoccurring issues is inmate care. Inmates that go to UF Health fall under the indigent care contract. Could we structure the jail to limit the number of transfers to UF Health? The current environment is not conducive to this.

President Salem encouraged CM Johnson and CM Boylan to designate topics for upcoming meetings in order to get to all the discussions that they want to have through this subcommittee.

CM Boylan said mid-January is the target for a meeting of all the subcommittees. If the subcommittees can get a schedule of discussions to Beth Payne, that would be helpful for her to make sure that she or someone from her staff can be at all meetings.

President Salem encouraged the participation of the companies who are currently building jails in these discussions.

CM Johnson said he is finalizing the schedule of upcoming meetings and will publicize that schedule this week.

Public Comment: Carnel Oliver said he wants to see an expansion of the citation program. Rather than incarcerating low level offenders and keeping them in jail, issue them a citation.

With no other discussion or recommendations from the group, CP Salem adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:42 PM

Minutes: Nikki Evans – completed on October 13, 2023

Attached: Sign-in Sheet

cc: Council Members/Staff
Peggy Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief of Research
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