



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

Re: Minutes - Noticed Meeting Regarding Homeless Trust Fund

Meeting Location: Henry Cook Room, City Hall
Meeting Time & Date: 1:00 p.m., October 10, 2023

Attendees: CM Joe Carlucci, CM Jimmy Peluso, CP Ron Salem, CM Ken Amaro, CM Raul Arias, CM Michael Boylan, Cory Armstrong, Eamon Webb, Ken Grady, Cindy Funkhouser, Carol Brock, Gerrie Ford-Hardin, Phillip Peterson, Harrison Conyers, Pat McCollough, J. Harper, Joe Inderhees, Joe Johnson, Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, George Foote, Katoia Wilkins, Dawn Gilman.

Audio Link: <https://www.coj.net/getmedia/c4813039-fb02-4a4c-b7a7-ec8d9aef0306/Henry-Cook-Rm-10-10-23.aspx>

CM Joe Carlucci welcomed everyone and noted that this was meeting 3 of 4 regarding Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

He recapped the topics of the first two meetings

- 1) Affordable Housing – 9/28/23
- 2) Community Land Trust Fund – 10/9/23

Today's meeting:

- 3) Homelessness Trust Fund

The first 30 minutes of the meeting was a discussion between the Council Members.

-CM Michael Boylan: Thanked all the new Council Members for taking up the task of dealing with this issue. He reminded the group that there is \$100,000.00 set aside for a deeper dive into how this might be funded. May need a little more time and effort before we get too far into the weeds about what does the Trust Fund look like and how much does it cost. "I don't want to get the cart before the horse in terms of making a determination regarding a Fund." His questions included... is this warranted? Who's going to administer it? How are we going to evaluate it and how much money does it need? "We need to know those answers before we go too far along."

-CM Joe Carlucci acknowledged **CM Michael Boylan's** comments & indicated his vision might be considered a broadening of the scope of **CP Salem's** Homelessness Fund and invited **CP Salem** to discuss. Feels that exact dollars can come later.

Council President Ron Salem detailed his current plan noting that the Fund aims to prevent homelessness through one-time expenses, such as car repairs, food, or rent assistance, and so on. He noted that the President's contingency provided \$500,000 to this cause and the Mayor matched it resulting in a total \$1,000,000.00. in the existing Fund. His thought is to allocate

around \$150,000.00 annually to Changing Homelessness, which will manage the Fund and it is good for the next 6 years under that model. Again, they will assist individuals on the verge of homelessness, and he wants it to be perpetual and last a long time but understands that ten votes can change it. That is the current design of the Trust Fund. He noted that maybe a second Fund could be set up for other uses.

CM Joe Carlucci – Not necessarily in favor of an additional Trust Fund. He would like one Trust Fund that can do what is already being done and broadened it to handle some of these other areas of need. Whether it's Emergency Services, long term wrap around services, transitional support, etc. He then requested thoughts from stakeholders in attendance.

Dawn Gilman (of Changing Homelessness) – Clarified six categories of need. 1 - Outreach, 2 - Emergency Bridge Housing, 3 - Traditional Housing, 4 - Rapid Rehousing, 5 - Permanent Supported Housing, 6 - Database to organize it all
There is a spectrum of needs and there are funding streams flowing into the system of care. Let's look at the unmet and most important needs.

Example 1: Example 200 chronically homeless – housing them and wrap around services could be \$5,000,000.00 to \$6,000,000.00.

Example 2 – Families – Not chronic. They have other issues and other needs. Noted the example of the County-wide plan in Miami Dade Homeless Trust. It is reviewed annually.

CM Jimmy Peluso – are there others? Dawn noted she can provide some research.
Note - The 100k can get a consultant to see what everyone else has done.

CM Joe Carlucci - "I think we have a pretty good research division, so we could start there and then look at funding consultants, etc. if needed."

Discussion about functional or effective zero. How many people flow in and how many people flow out. That number changes every Tuesday.

CP Ron Salem – We need to bring in the Private sector. It's not just a government process. It's a community process.

CM Raul Arias – Has already met with restaurant owners about possible involvement and will meet with them further next week. Also sought to clarify the actual personnel of the current Trust Fund and how it is run.

CP Ron Salem - Currently, the money is handed over to **Changing Homelessness**.

OGC Attorney, Mary Staffopoulos, noted Social Services in the Parks Recreation & Community Services Dept. has oversight for the funds. Also, Trust Fund bill outlines the criteria.

Followed by a fair amount of discussion about how the Fund/New Fund might be overseen with the CM's thoughts trending toward an Appointed Board, which would also serve to help motivate the private sector to contribute. There are 27 Continuums of Care in Florida (FL510 is Duval)

CM Joe Carlucci - There are a lot of different facets, and we need to learn more. **CP Ron Salem** – let's set up a special committee. It's hard to handle all of this in a brief meeting. A Committee can be set up. **CP Salem** also restated that he is passionate about the diversion part and wants to see it through.

CM Raul Arias – Adamant about the Board concept to address Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

CM Joe Carlucci – Stated his goal of getting this on some kind of autopilot. Get it right, and having it continued on.

CM Joe Carlucci asked for **Ms. Funkhouser’s** statement (Sulzbacher Center) – She agrees that Affordable Housing is what is driving this and noted that you cannot address homelessness without addressing affordable housing. Encouraged the group to keep the two of them together.

Homeless Management System Discussion – 4,300 right now. 25% increase. Diversion is different than prevention and talked about the details. Outlined the many facets of this issue... Families, Veterans, Chronically Homeless, Newly Homeless and so on.

Dupont Report - 2009 to 2019 = Jacksonville overachieved on every metric – The exception, we were 27% higher than the national average on unsheltered. The pandemic & real estate markets were contributing factors. “Investors are snapping up what used to be affordable housing and converting it to Market Rate Housing.” She also agrees that we don’t need a lot more studies. “Let’s use the info we have and implement a solution that solves these problems in the most efficient way.”

CM Jimmy Peluso Could we create a 501c3 to be used as private sector write off? – this needs to be investigated...

CP Ron Salem charged Mary Staffopoulos with looking into this idea.

CM Joe Carlucci – Recapped & clarified his view on Affordable Housing and Homelessness – Talked about his plan that directs the larger dollars for Affordable Housing gap funding for JHFA and interest and REV dollars that go to the Homelessness Fund for diversion and other programs – “walking and chewing gum at the same time.”

CP Ron Salem points back to a special committee to iron this out further. The committee can also seek testimony from experts, rather than having interest groups on the committee.

CM Raul Arias - Meeting four, next week, will wrap up these initial sessions.

CM Joe Carlucci – Meeting Adjourned.

JC/gjf

NOTICED ON: Monday, October 9, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., pursuant to 15.103(c), *Ordinance Code*

cc: Council Members and Staff
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Merriane Lahmeur, Chief of Legislative Services
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