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RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JSO PRIMARY FACILITIES:
WORKING GROUP ON INTAKE, ADJUDICATION AND REHABILITATION (AIR)**

Meeting Minutes

**October 27, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Location: Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall

In attendance: Council Members Jimmy Peluso and Michael Boylan; Charlie Cofer, Public Defender; Chief Paschal, JSO; Reggie Fullwood, Operation New Hope; Mone Holder, Florida Rising; Coral Messina, SAO (Zoom); Judge Salem (Zoom); Judge Kalil (Zoom); David Bostwick, Gerry Guerrero, and Eric Weflen, HDR (Zoom)

Also: Brooks Dame, District 7 ECA; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

Meeting Convened: 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Peluso convened the meeting and called for introductions. He shared that he will be taking a tour of the JSO infirmary area at UF Heath next Thursday and invited interested parties to attend.

There was a presentation by the engineering firm HDR related to a recent jail project in Columbus, Ohio (Franklin County). The Franklin County facility handles 30,000 or more admissions annually, was constructed in 3 phases and will hold 2400 beds upon completion. The intake area uses a one-way flow design and consideration was made to include natural lighting and nature views to decrease stress. The intake area is roughly 12-15,000 square feet. The sally port has high speed bi-fold doors at the entry point, and it was designed to have enough space for 10 patrol vehicles and large enough for 2 Greyhound buses. The pre-booking area houses 12 workstations and a holding area for high profile or unruly/violent arrestees. There is also a space for medical examinations and DUI testing, with gender separation throughout.

The booking area has phones for arrestee usage at no cost, phone numbers for bond/legal aid are provided, and televisions display jail orientation information. 70% of those arrested are released within 24

hours. The holding cells have safety features to prevent self-harm or harm to others, such as rounded corners. CM Peluso asked for data about the impact of the new facility on jail deaths and suicide attempts. Mr. Guerrero said there has already been an effect on staff absenteeism and decreased assaults (between arrestees and from/upon staff). Columbus had a goal to decrease incarceration by 30% over 4 years and to provide wrap around services to reduce recidivism. The jail is about 6 miles from the courthouse and first appearances are conducted through video. There are also social services offered in the jail's housing pods.

The Franklin County facility has a rapid resource center outside of the security perimeter staffed by staff from nonprofits to assist arrestees and their families in various ways (obtaining ID cards, bus passes, links to substance use disorder treatment). The county's Justice Council coordinates those efforts. The group talked about the need for a separate mental health unit, particularly for those with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMIs). In the new Nashville facility, there is an SPMI wing with 60 beds.

Coral Messina, SAO, asked about hurricane grade windows and whether the arrestees are searched before entering the booking area. CM Boylan asked about a separate area for arrestees with mental health issues. Ms. Holder asked about air filtration and infectious disease prevention. The Franklin County facility has negative and positive pressure rooms to contain airborne pathogens. Ms. Holder also asked about Franklin County's release of 70% of arrestees within 24 hours and what the data looks like for the jail in Jacksonville.

CM Boylan said the working group should craft a wish list of what the new jail should have, if it is decided that a new facility is needed. Mr. Cofer said he is drafting a running list of recommendations made by the group, and that he is meeting next month with judges to ask about their preferences regarding virtual first appearances as discussed in the previous meeting. CM Peluso asked about vertical design, which is more used in urban settings where space is limited. There was discussion about the jail design needs in Jacksonville and whether one building or multiple buildings would be the better choice.

Public comment: Carnell Oliver talked about ethical conflicts for City vendors who provide jail services, and the need to prioritize the housing not just the booking area component of the jail. Ms. Wood talked about arrestee's mental health and substance abuse, and federal grants to prevent recidivism.

With no further business, CM Peluso adjourned the meeting. The next meeting for this group will be November 17th.

Meeting adjourned: 10:39 a.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division
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10.30.23 Posted 5:00 p.m.