



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202
904-255-5137

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW JSO PRIMARY FACILITIES:
WORKING GROUP ON HOUSING AND CUSTODY**

**Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2023
8:00 a.m.**

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

In attendance: Council Members Chris Miller and Michael Boylan; Asst. Chief O’Neal, JSO; Dan Lee, Perry McCall Construction

Also: Carol Register, ECA At-Large Group 5; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

Meeting Convened: 8:05 a.m.

CM Miller convened the meeting and called for introductions. He reviewed the committee charge and said that the focus should be on short- and long-term solutions. CM Boylan spoke briefly about his recent tour of the UF Health inmate infirmary, noting that there are challenges in that space as well. He said he has been in discussion with the Administration about remedies for the immediate/urgent issues in the jail and the Police Memorial building. CM Miller said that the presentations at this meeting and at future meetings should consider designs used in other city’s jails and apply those to see if they would benefit the jail in Jacksonville.

Terrence McNealy, Naphcare, discussed health services and other conditions within the jail. He talked about immediate needs, such as a modernized lock system using key cards with varying levels of access to decrease the time waiting for corrections staff to arrive with the appropriate keys. He spoke about the risks associated with vertical building and using elevators as a means of transport inside the jail. He said that the in-house clinic is lacking in space and permanent x-ray machines. He listed several other needs, such as wider hallways, larger exam rooms, holding cells within the clinic, satellite clinics in each housing floor, proper lighting and supply stocks, and separate patient care units for mental health and physical health. CM Miller asked for dimensions and specifics on hall widths, room sizes and lighting that would be ideal for a potential new facility.

Asst. Chief O’Neal gave a presentation about other challenges within the physical space of the jail. He said there is not sufficient parking for staff, there are 256 spaces in the east lot but 475 needed when they are fully staffed. CM Boylan said that the parking problem came up at a previous meeting and that Ms. Boyer, DIA, may be able to collaborate on a public parking solution with shuttle service for employees. Asst. Chief O’Neal talked about the staff locker rooms, and said there are not enough of them, and the ones located on the bottom floor have had repeated flooding. He said the locker room showers require renovations. He talked about housing and infirmary needs for all levels of

classifications, by gender, age, degree of offense and mental health. He said that each floor should have adequate recreation areas, multi-purpose rooms and classrooms, comply with ADA regulations, have TTY phones for deaf inmates, and contain video monitoring especially for inmates at risk for self-harm. Asst. Chief O'Neal said that ideally the jail would have more compact dorms with 12 cells to better manage the population and their behavior. CM Miller asked for specifics about classroom sizes, how many there should be and where they should be located within the facility. He noted that the key card system could be implemented in the short term. Asst. Chief O'Neal said that JSO Is already looking into it.

Dan Lee, Perry McCall Construction, talked about the jail plumbing and whether the existing system could be retrofitted or will have to be replaced. He said that if a new jail were constructed, it would have a brand-new vacuum plumbing system that would prevent flooding. He said it may be possible to retrofit the existing plumbing with a vacuum system. CM Boylan suggested taking the plumbing retrofit topic to CM White's working group that is looking at improvements to the existing facility.

David Bostwick, HDR, gave a presentation about the evolution of jails and the designs for jail housing today. He said modern jail facilities have turned towards outcome-based models instead of containment. He spoke about the services and styles of jails that may decrease recidivism, particularly for those with mental health issues, substance use disorders and those who are unhoused. He talked about behavior management principles and highlighted the importance of keeping the inmates occupied. He talked about housing classifications according to needs and risks, on a continuum from maximum security to medium and minimum security.

Mr. Bostwick said that in-jail housing is dynamic, in that as behavior stabilizes or improves, the security classification may adjust accordingly. He talked about housing pods that include recreation, classrooms, medical examination and counseling areas all on the same floor. He spoke about dorm designs that do not have bunk beds to decrease altercations among cell mates. He described the use of design, colors, furniture, lighting, textures, and murals to decrease stress and anxiety. Mr. Bostwick explained trauma informed design principles, as 80-90% of male and female inmates have experienced trauma. He talked about vertical buildings compared to a sprawling jail campus format, which depends upon location and available land. He said that urban high-rise jails are usually closer to the courthouse, but limit future expansion and force reliance upon elevators inside the jail. He said that the campus model is better for parking and expansion but can create complications for transport to court appearances.

CM Boylan said that at the next meeting there will be a discussion about the placement for other necessary components within the jail, such as storage, laundry, and kitchens. CM Miller said that the Clemons Rutherford Architects presentation will be rescheduled for the next meeting on December 1st.

Public comment: Carnell Oliver talked about ethical conflicts if subject matter experts work with this committee and then bid on construction jobs, and the need for proximity to public transit at any potential new facility location. Mr. Lee said he is assisting this working group with his expertise, but that his company does not intend to bid on the jail project for a new facility or improvements to the existing jail.

With no further business, CM Miller adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9:31 a.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

CHampsey@coj.net 904-255-5151

11.3.23 Posted 5:00 p.m.