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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**

**November 17, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, City Hall

**In attendance:** Council Members Jimmy Peluso and Michael Boylan; Charlie Cofer, Public Defender; Chief Paschal, Director Goff, and Asst. Chief Prescott, JSO; Mone Holder, Florida Rising (Zoom); Judge Salem (Zoom); Judge Kalil (Zoom)

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

**Meeting Convened:** 9:03 a.m.

Chairman Peluso convened the meeting and called for introductions. He mentioned possibly scheduling a tour of the new jail facility in Nashville in conjunction with an upcoming Jags game trip. CM Boylan reminded the group that the full committee is meeting today at 11:30 to discuss working group progress and the list of immediate needs for the Police Memorial Building and the pre-trial detention facility. He said that the completion timeline for the working groups can be extended to February if needed.

CM Peluso talked about his recent tour of the UF Health inmate care area. He noted that it was crowded and that there was little separation of inmates waiting for care and members of the public awaiting medical attention. UF Health is undergoing renovations currently, which may impact the space and crowding upon completion. The group discussed an in-jail infirmary in the potential new jail facility, to decrease the time and expense for transfers between the hospital and the jail and to better manage regular health issues. Mental health care should be available in such an infirmary as well. There was discussion as to who would staff an in-jail infirmary, possibilities to include JSO employees, an outside vendor, or UF Health.

Director Goff and Asst. Chief Prescott gave a presentation about the Montgomery Correctional Center facility (MCC) and its training programs offered to sentenced inmates who are there for 120 days or longer. Asst. Chief Prescott said the programs are on a volunteer basis and include construction trades, like welding and electrical, horticulture, culinary skills and textiles (sewing). He described both hands-on and classroom training, limited by staff capacity. He said that the skills make the individual more hireable after release which reduces recidivism, and that he will provide data that they gather for 12 months post release. Asst. Chief Prescott mentioned other organizations with whom MCC collaborates (Paws for Change, Thinking for Change) and various community partnerships (Clara White, Jacksonville Re-Entry Center - JREC). He talked about JREC services to help transition folks from jail back into the community, such as help getting identification and job placement. CM Peluso said he would like JREC staff to attend a future meeting.

Asst. Chief Prescott said that MCC hold inmates serving county sentences and also hundreds of overflow inmates from the pre-trial detention center who are not yet sentenced. He said that the unsentenced inmates are transferred back and forth on buses to the courthouse for hearings and meetings with attorneys, and that the transfer process is inefficient. The group talked about establishing a space at MCC for virtual court appearances. CM Boylan asked if there is space at the MCC property for expansion. Asst. Chief Prescott said the property encompasses 400 acres. CM Peluso asked about mental health services at MCC, which are available as needed twice a week. For acute mental health issues, the inmate is transferred back to the pre-trial facility or UF Health. MCC has 4-5 on-site medical staff each day for other health issues.

Mr. Cofer said he is still working on his growing list of the group's recommendations. CM Peluso asked about an inmate advocate, to speak on behalf of the interests of sentenced inmates in an ombudsman type of role. CM Peluso said he would like someone from the work-release program through the Community Transition Center, and someone from the Thinking for Change program, in addition to a representative from JREC, to attend a future meeting.

Public comment: Carnell Oliver talked about MCC offering real life work skills training at the facility that could lead to state certifications, possibly using outside vendors like FSCJ or NEFL Builders Association. He indicated that the construction trades/horticulture/textiles/culinary programming at MCC now is essentially to utilize inmates to provide facility maintenance at a nominal cost. He spoke in opposition to unpaid prisoner labor.

With no further business, CM Peluso adjourned the meeting. The next meeting for this group will be December 8th.

**Meeting adjourned: 10:08 a.m.**

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division  
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