

# City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, November 27, 2023**

**12:00 PM**

**Council Chamber**

### **Special Committee on Homelessness & Affordable Housing**

*Council Member Joe Carlucci, Chair*

*Council Member Ken Amaro, Chair*

*Council Member Raul Arias*

*Council Member Jimmy Peluso*

*Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman*

Meeting convened: 12:02 pm

Meeting adjourned: 1:25 pm

Attendance: CP Salem; CMs J. Carlucci, Peluso, Amaro, Arias, Pittman and Miller

Also: Carla Lopera, OGC; Phillip Peterson, Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

## **1. Introductions & Opening Comments**

**CM J. Carlucci convened the meeting and called for introductions. He reviewed the progress from the previous meeting and he took a moment to clarify the distinction between the trust fund being discussed by this committee and the Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund established through 2023-671-E. There is currently a bill in committee (2023-804) appropriating \$200,000 from the Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund for a diversion program implemented by Sulzbacher centered at the Urban Rest Stop.**

**The group discussed that the Homelessness Initiatives Special Revenue Fund is focused upon assisting first time homeless individuals or families to obtain temporary or permanent housing. They agreed that the word 'diversion' should be included in the name of the fund to avoid confusion. Phillip Peterson, Auditor's Office, said that when 2023-804 is contemplated in committees next week, the name of the fund may be changed through an amendment.**

## **2. New Business Updates**

**The committee talked about 2023-807, the Mayor's Task Force recommendations bill. In the bill, the name of Neighborhood Stabilization Program Special Revenue Fund will be amended to include homelessness (Neighborhood Stabilization and Homelessness Program Special Revenue Fund). Angela Moyer, Budget Office, explained that it will be an all years fund, future appropriations will be subject to council approval and it will be able to accept gifts/donations. CM J. Carlucci said that 2023-807 has 3 appropriations geared towards homelessness assistance, one for diversion, one for temporary housing relief and one for a continuum of care (COC) match. These 3 appropriations will be drawn from monies directed to the Neighborhood Stabilization and Homelessness Program Special Revenue Fund through 2023-807.**

**CP Salem spoke about the need for a plan to assist the chronically homeless population. CM Peluso concurred and mentioned Dawn Gilman's (Changing Homelessness) proposal to the CQLI Committee for housing the chronically homeless and providing them with wrap-around services. CM Pittman said that the new trust fund dollars should go to multiple non-profit providers, not just one or two.**

## **Stakeholder Comments**

**Shannon Nazworth, Ability Housing, was asked about required reporting for the Board, and whether it should be yearly or every other year. She said that it makes sense to have a broad strategic plan spanning 3-5 years, with an annual action plan with metrics to measure annual performance.**

**4. Working Groups Discussion**

The committee discussed the composition and structure of a Homelessness Trust Fund Board, modeled somewhat after the Tree Commission. They talked about appointing members who work for Changing Homelessness and whether that would create a voting conflict. Ms. Gilman said it would be more appropriate to have those individuals serve as subject matter experts to avoid conflicts and Sunshine Law communication issues. CM Peluso said the Board will need a strategic plan with identifiable goals, and he suggested that a member be from the COC. CM J. Carlucci noted the CQLI funds set aside for a comprehensive affordable housing study. The committee talked about the Board membership, with 7 members: one council member designated by the council president, the Director of the Neighborhoods Department or designee, 3 general public members appointed by council and 2 general public members appointed by the Mayor and approved by council. They discussed staffing, which could be provided by Neighborhoods staff. Travis Jeffrey, Chief of Housing and Community Development, said his division is funded through various grants and staff administrative costs are incorporated into that (between 5-20%).

The committee talked about whether the Board would allocate funding directly or if appropriations would be requested by departments for certain programs. Angela Moyer said that if the committee decides that the process should be departmental requests, that the departments align those requests with the budget cycle and get the requests in by May. CM Arias asked about virtual attendance. Ms. Lopera explained that meetings may have a virtual option but a physical quorum of members is required. The committee talked about the terms for the members of the Board, to be 3 year staggered initial terms, with a minimum of 10 meetings per year. They talked about Board duties as an advisory entity, to include making recommendations to City departments, council and the Mayor; formulating an overall plan to address the needs of the chronically homeless; and encouraging public and private participation.

**5. Closing Remarks**

CM J. Carlucci recapped the discussion from this meeting. He requested that Carla Lopera, OGC, create a rough draft of the Board description for the next meeting on December 4th.

With no further business, CM J. Carlucci adjourned the meeting.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151

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