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RESEARCH DIVISION**

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

Meeting Minutes

**January 12, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

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

In attendance: Council Members Jimmy Peluso and Michael Boylan; Charlie Cofer, Public Defender; Coral Messina, SAO; Mone Holder, Florida Rising

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

Meeting Convened: 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Peluso convened the meeting and called for introductions. CM Boylan provided an update on the progress of the other working groups. He said: 3 of the 5 groups have concluded their meetings; the Improvements to the Existing Facility group made recommendations for \$9,002,100 in improvements to the existing jail facility outlined in Ordinance 2024-42 filed January 9th; the Housing and Custody group is wrapping up its recommendations; the Administrative Services group is discussing the possibility of relocating the Sheriff's Office to leased space in the Florida Blue building or another location and there was conversation about repurposing the Police Memorial building into an infirmary site for the jail. CM Boylan said that for the committee's final report the groups should endeavor to capture the magnitude of the big picture, the transportation, housing and required services and how those things relate to the location of a new jail. CM Peluso asked what is covered through the \$9 million appropriation. CM Boylan said it will go towards immediately needed repairs/improvements (electrical, HVAC, mold remediation, waterproofing) to the jail to bring it up to reasonable condition for occupancy and safety. CM Boylan noted that a new jail facility would not be operational for possibly 5 years or more and may cost up to a billion dollars.

CM Peluso spoke about the tour he and Mr. Cofer separately took of the Montgomery Correction Center. Mr. Cofer said that he would like to see an expanded skill training program at MCC. CM Peluso said that

the MCC staff indicated that the new jail should not be constructed adjacent to MCC due to flooding issues and road limitations. CM Peluso said that the MCC training programs are seemingly good, but the effectiveness needs to be tracked to see if the skills lead to employment. They spoke about the tours they took separately of the Nashville jail. Mr. Cofer talked about the in-house mental health step down facility available to inmates in the last 30 days of their sentence or who are assigned to the program by the State Attorney, with soothing colors and lighting, staff not dressed in corrections uniforms, and a garden area. CM Peluso said the Nashville mental health area has 60 beds, 30 for men and 30 for women. He said the Nashville facility offers inmates free phone access, use of tablets, and has an in-house infirmary with dental services as well. Both CM Peluso and Mr. Cofer noted that the recreation area is not large/open enough. Coral Messina asked about who is eligible to go to the mental health unit. The mental health unit contracts with a health provider for staffing and provides 3 months of medication to participants upon release. There is no long-term tracking for outcomes. Cm Boylan reminded the group to focus on the facility design, not programming recommendations.

Melissa Duggan, 5th Circuit Adult Civil Citation Coordinator, spoke about their civil citation program. She said that the civil citations are utilized at the discretion of law enforcement for low-level first-time offenders to avoid a criminal record for the offender. Duval County has a juvenile civil citation program but not one for adults. The 5th Circuit citations are issued on the scene and include directions about required next steps. CM Boylan asked about the program's impact on recidivism and Ms. Duggan said they do not track that data. Mone Holder asked about equity in the discretion of the arresting officers as related to race, gender, geography and class. Ms. Holder asked about what accommodations are made for arrestees based on disability, homeless status, language barriers and internet access. Ms. Duggan said that their program is being discontinued because the usage does not warrant the use of resources. The group discussed the difference between a civil citation and a "notice to appear". Those arrested and issued a notice to appear do not go to jail but still flow through the court system. If they miss their assigned court date, a warrant is issued for their arrest.

The group took a break from 11:25 – 11:35 am.

The group talked about recommendations and future meetings. Mr. Cofer spoke about expanded areas for video conferencing, in house medical care including mental health, and an adjacent rapid resource center to assist those being released. Ms. Messina highlighted the need for timely attorney client access, and access for non-profit and VA staff. Ms. Holder said the report should include a recommendation for an adult civil citation program, and CM Boylan said that is a decision for the Sheriff's Office. For the final report, each working group will submit a description of the status quo, recommendations for a new facility and other considerations.

Next meeting: January 26, 2024.

Public comment: Carnell Oliver advocated for the expansion of a civil citation program in Duval County.

With no further business, CM Peluso adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 11:53 a.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research Division

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1.16.24 Posted 5:00 p.m.