



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
RESEARCH DIVISION**

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 2nd, 2024  
12:30 p.m.**

**Location:** Don Davis Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, City Hall

**In attendance:** Council Member Jimmy Peluso; Charlie Cofer, Public Defender; Tyler Nolen, Northeast Florida Regional Council; Ben McKissick-Hawley, Northeast Florida Regional Council

**Also:** Brooks Dame, District 7 ECA; Eamon Webb, Council Research Division; Ivana Gavric, Legislative Services Division; Judge Lance Day, 4th Judicial Circuit Court; Eve Janocko, 4th Judicial Circuit Court; David Kilcrease, Sulzbacher Mental Health Offender Program

**Meeting Convened:** 12:38 p.m.

Chairman Peluso called the meeting to order. He noted that this meeting would be the last meeting of the working group, and the working group's recommendations to the full special committee would be presented at its next meeting. Charlie Cofer, Public Defender, noted that the facility had received some Polycam machines but still needed more. CM Peluso noted that Judge Lance M. Day was in attendance.

CM Peluso noted that there had been some concern regarding the possibility of a portion of the Police Memorial Building being re-purposed into an infirmary site for the jail. He said that the City Council's role in the this process is to approve funding and big-picture goals for the site and that the site of the infirmary went beyond the scope of this working group. Mr. Cofer noted that courtrooms J1 and J2 would still need to be responsible for first appearances, no matter how the Council decides to proceed with its design for the facility.

CM Peluso directed the working group through the summary of general and policy recommendations that would be presented to the full special committee. Discussion on the suggestions included:

- Mr. Cofer stated that the point regarding increase of egress and ingress for larger transportation vehicles should also state that the working group recommends the creation of wider parking spaces for large vehicles.
- CM Peluso commented that the suggested Behavioral Unit and Mental Health Resource Center could be modeled after a similar facility in Nashville.
- Mr. Cofer stated that the request for isolation cells should reflect that an "increased number" of isolation cells is needed for primarily medical purposes.
- Mr. Cofer explained that the recommended re-entry facility and transition center should take some burden of of the Department of Children and Families. CM Peluso directed to Tyler Nolen, NEFRC, to work on language to describe the benefit to DCF of the proposed facilities.
- Mr. Cofer explained that the recommended mobile communications would be for the purpose of communicating with friends and family, not with attorneys, and that the working group also recommended additional space for communication with attorneys.
- Mr. Cofer noted that the recommendation that J1 calendars need to be simplified was redundant with other recommendations.
- CM Peluso said that the Sequential Intercept Model should show the different stages in which prisoners progress through the jail system and that Miami facilities could be used as a model for the recommended crisis stabilization units, which should reduce some burden off the jail system.
- David Kilcrease, representing Sulzbacher MHOP, commented that the number listed regarding individuals who could benefit from MHOP services was an initial number. He clarified that this number has grown from about 300 to about 800.

Public Comment:

Carnell Oliver stated that non-profit organizations should be raising funds to build facilities on their own rather than requesting public funds to do so.

Mr. Cofer thanked the working group for its work and to CM Peluso for the opportunity to be involved.

**Meeting adjourned:** 1:12 p.m.

Minutes: Eamon Webb, Council Research Division

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2.5.24 Posted 5:00 p.m.