

**City of Jacksonville**  
**Office of the City Council**

*117 W. Duval Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



**Noticed Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:30 pm

**Junior League of Jacksonville**

Riverside House  
2165 Park Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

***Council Members present***

*The Hon. Rahman K. Johnson, Ph.D. – District 14;*

*The Hon. Nick Howland At-Large - Group 3;*

*The Hon. Jimmy Peluso - District 7*

**Meeting Convened:** 6:30 pm      **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:45 pm

**Members in Attendance:** CMs Rahman K. Johnson, Ph.D. , Jimmy Peluso & Nick

Howland (6:30 pm);

Also in attendance from the Jacksonville City Council were Andrew Powers - ECA

(District14); Brooks Dame - ECA (District 7)

### **Purpose**

Council Members Johnson, Howland and Peluso were invited to share in a *'fireside chat'* type form to discuss elections, political affairs and their work on the Jacksonville City Council.

### **Introduction & Opening Comments**

Council Members Johnson, Howland and Peluso, opened the forum by introducing themselves. Each shared a brief bio, highlighting their respective backgrounds and experiences. CM Johnson, in particular, elaborated on his extensive involvement with the Junior League, emphasizing the significance of community engagement and collaboration.

### **Discussion**

CM Peluso highlighted the substantial impact of local government on citizens' daily lives, emphasizing the allocation of funds and resources into the community. He underscored how local government directly influences essential services such as law enforcement, firefighting, and business regulations, all of which shape community experiences.

CM Howland added to the discussion by shedding light on the financial aspect, noting the significant taxes imposed by local government, particularly property tax and utility fees. He emphasized the importance of voting in elections for local officials. He said those are the people who make direct decisions regarding local taxes, thereby highlighting the direct connection between citizens' choices and their financial obligations.

Discussing voter outreach CM Johnson emphasized the importance of voter registration in Jacksonville where voter turnout remains low. He highlighted the need for increased engagement and participation to address this issue. CM Howland further contributed by providing statistics on voter registration and turnout in Duval County, highlighting the gap between registered voters and actual participation. He emphasized the necessity of improving voter turnout to strengthen participation in the democratic process. CM Peluso elaborated on the challenges of voter outreach, including political affiliation, demographics, and election fatigue. He emphasized the need for sustained engagement throughout the

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various voting cycles to ensure robust participation in local government elections.

A constituent raised a crucial question regarding recommendations for voting in the upcoming elections. CM Peluso, Johnson, and Howland collectively advised visiting DuvalElections.com to access comprehensive candidate information. Johnson emphasized the necessity of continuous voter engagement. He pointed out the challenges he faced with a limited timeframe for his campaign. He also urged everyone to *always* remain civically engaged.

### Closing Remarks

CM Howland reflected on the impactful legacy of the Jacksonville Junior League, citing his mother's involvement as testament to its significance. He urged citizens to exercise their right to vote and emphasized the importance of civic engagement.

CM Peluso echoed this sentiment, commending CM Howland for his service on the city council and his role as an exemplary finance chair. He encouraged active participation in civic affairs and urged attendees to stay informed about candidates and issues, emphasizing the importance of utilizing resources like DuvalElections.com.

CM Johnson agreed with Peluso and stressed the importance of civic engagement, particularly through informed voting practices. He closed by urging collaboration and diversity from the Jacksonville Junior League by working with other organizations like the Links Incorporated, or African American Greek Letter fraternities and sororities. He further emphasized the need for proactive engagement beyond election day, and leveraging social media to promote civic participation. CM Johnson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the meeting, highlighting the importance of diversity and collaboration within the community. He encouraged ongoing partnerships and proactive engagement, emphasizing the importance of leveraging social media to promote civic involvement.

With no further business, Miranda Anderson ( Junior League, Host) adjourned the meeting.

Minutes: Andrew Powers , ECA District 14

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Posted: 3.25.24 1:00 pm