



Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission

Dr. Keshan Hargrove, Chair

TRUE COMMISSION Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall

Attendance: Commissioners Hargrove, Pryor, Barr, Zebouni, Letizia and Day

Excused: Commissioners Tyson, Luhrs, Raiti and Rounsville

Absent: Commissioners Henry and Hoffman

Also: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research; Tommy Carter, Council Auditor's Office

The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Hargrove and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Approval of Minutes

The 9/5/24 preliminary minutes could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

Public Comment

None

Council Auditor's Report

Council Auditor's Report Tommy Carter of the Council Auditor's Office reported that there were no new audits released since the last meeting.

Legislative Tracking Committee

None

Audit Committee

None

Chair's Comments

None

Old Business

Chair Hargrove presented her review of the August 22nd Finance Committee budget hearing. She highlighted discussions about increased insurance costs for special events, regular salary studies in Employee Services, employee tuition reimbursement, permitting delays, the need for more juvenile justice funding, afterschool programs and public service micro-grants.

Commissioner Barr gave his review from the August 9, 2024 Finance Committee budget hearing. He highlighted the discussions about DEI, the new medical examiners building, and the Police and Fire Pension Fund. He noted that the conversations held by council members during the budget process were very interesting.

New Business

Commissioner Pryor reminded the group to submit their questions related to the upcoming JTA presentation to Mr. Clements in advance of the November meeting. She also said that the North CPAC may have a prospective TRUE Commission member.

Commissioner Day said that JTA should send a representative who is high ranking, possibly CEO Nat Ford, and able to answer the questions proposed in advance and any questions that arise during the presentation.

Commissioner Zebouni extended an invitation to the group for an afternoon at the Catty Shack Ranch, a local wildlife refuge with which he is doing business. He said it would be on a Saturday, for a free tour and lunch. Mr. Zebouni said he had discussed it with the Ethics Office who said that if there is no mention of Commission business there will not be any Sunshine Law violations. He said that staff from the Inspector General's Office and Tommy Carter, Auditor's Office, are invited as well. It was requested that Mr. Clements coordinate the arrangements and select a date that does not conflict with college football games. Commissioner Day asked if the Catty Shack Ranch receives any City funds. Mr. Zebouni said it does not.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Pryor talked about the recent demolition of 3 residences on East Duval Street. She shared some background on the properties and her efforts to identify who authorized the demolition. She said they were the last residential structures on E. Duval that, although not granted landmark status due to insufficient criteria, were in her opinion contributing structures to the neighborhood. Commissioner Pryor indicated her suspicion about a "backroom" deal, or some sort of malfeasance. Chair Hargrove suggested Ms. Pryor call her council member, CM Peluso. Commissioner Day said the Commission should invite someone from the Real Estate Division to attend a future meeting. David Johnston, Inspector General's Office, said Ms. Pryor could, as a private individual, request an IG review to see if there was actual misconduct.

Next Meeting

The next TRUE Commission meeting will be November 7, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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Posted 10.16.23 5:00 pm