



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

Dr. Keshan Hargrove, Chair

## TRUE COMMISSION PRELIMINARY MEETING MINUTES

*MINUTES*

*(Note: these minutes are not official until reviewed and  
Approved by the commission at a future meeting)*

**August 7, 2025**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

**Attendance:** Charles Barr (Acting Chair) Commissioners: Stephanie Oglesby, Velma Rounsville, Ramon Day, Kim Pryor, Bruce Tyson, Chris McHugh, Daniel Henry,

**Excused:** Commissioners: Anthony Zoubini, Kevin Luhrs, Dr. Hargrove, Alexander Hoffman, and Andrea Letizia

**Also:** Nayeli Jimenez & Colleen Hampsey– City Council Research, Jason Teal – Council Secretary/Director

Acting Chair Charles Barr convened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. and the attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Acting Chair Barr reminded members that the TRUE Commission's purpose is to review revenues and expenditures, focusing on how public funds are raised and spent rather than investigative matters. He emphasized that the commission is not a civil review board and asked that discussion remain centered on financial oversight. Commissioner Day added that the original TRUE Commission, created in 1988, placed similar emphasis on monitoring expenditures rather than solely on revenue. Acting Chair Barr concluded by reiterating the need to stay focused on evaluating departmental funding requests and spending practices.

### Approval of minutes

The minutes of the June 5, 2025 commission meeting were approved unanimously as distributed.

### JSO- Division of Investigations and Homeland Security – Director Ed Cayenne

Director Cayenne presented JSO's proposed FY26 budget of \$638 million, a \$4.8 million increase from FY25. He noted that 80% of the budget is committed to salaries and benefits under contractual agreements, with the remainder covering required operational costs, leaving limited funds for new initiatives. He highlighted investments in technology such as the Real Time Crime Center, license plate readers, and forensic tools, and reported that JSO actively secures state and federal grants to offset costs.

Council Secretary/ Director- Jason Teal

Jason Teal, City Council Director/Secretary, addressed the Commission regarding public records requests. He explained that boards and commissions act as collegial bodies, meaning official actions must be taken by a majority vote within the scope of their enabling legislation. While individual commissioners may submit public records requests as private citizens, requests made under their role as commissioners should first be sanctioned by the full body. Mr. Teal noted that Florida law allows agencies to charge for extensive requests that require significant staff time, and the City Council's policy is to fulfill requests under thirty minutes of staff time at no cost. He emphasized the importance of narrowing broad requests to avoid unnecessary burdens.

Mr. Teal identified Commissioner Luhrs as having submitted a recent request regarding the UF land swap that was considered overly broad and resource intensive. Colleen Hampsey, Chief of Research, confirmed the request would have required extensive cross-departmental work. Acting Chair Barr remarked that the Commission had not authorized such a request, reiterating that in the past staff gathered information at the direction of the full body, not at the initiative of individual commissioners. Mr. Teal agreed and explained that while any commissioner may request records personally, they cannot invoke their title to compel staff compliance without Commission approval.

Commissioner Pryor asked whether a motion was required for requests such as those directed to JSO during the meeting. Mr. Teal clarified that requests made openly during Commission proceedings are acceptable because all members have an opportunity to object, whereas unilateral requests outside meetings are not binding. Commissioners discussed that such requests may proceed by implied consent unless objection is raised.

Commissioner Henry asked whether Commission meetings could be live streamed, noting prior questions on the issue. Mr. Teal explained that the City recently expanded public access through YouTube, with most meetings posted within 24 hours. He said he would follow up on whether TRUE Commission meetings could be broadcast live.

Public Comment

*MINUTES*

John Nooney addressed the Commission, referencing prior legislation and his involvement with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). He requested that the TRUE Commission consider adopting a resolution recognizing his efforts to advance potential land acquisition projects that would increase public access to waterways in Duval County. He identified three privately owned properties in different council districts that he believed should be acquired for this purpose.

Commissioner Day asked for clarification of Nooney's request, noting that his remarks were difficult to follow. Nooney explained that he was not seeking funding from the Commission or the City, but only a resolution recognizing his personal efforts to advocate for public access. Commissioner Pryor sought confirmation that the request was simply for recognition, and Nooney agreed.

Commissioner Day stated that if Nooney would prepare a draft resolution in proper form, he would bring it forward for Commission consideration. Nooney agreed to do so.

Council Auditor's Report

None

Audit Committee

None

Next meetings

Audit Committee – at the call of the Chair as needed when new audits/reports are released

Legislative Tracking Committee – at the call of the Chair as needed

Full commission – September 4, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 PM

Minutes: Nayeli Jimenez- Council Research Division

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