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August 1, 2022
5:00 P.M.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable City Council Members

FROM: The Honorable Council President Terrance Freeman

SUBJECT: Special Committee to Address Critical Quality of Life Issues (“CQLI” Special Committee)

The wellbeing of Jacksonville’s citizens continues to be a priority of the City Council and particularly during my tenure as Council President. Like so many other communities, three issues that continue to plague us as a community are **access to healthcare, affordable housing and homelessness**, factors which are clearly interrelated.

Following the model of the 2020-2021 Special Committee on Resiliency, where working groups led by Council Members, were established to address specific issues, I am hereby creating a Special Committee to Address Critical Quality of Life Issues (CQLI), with the assistance of subject matters experts in each of the fields, to address the following questions:

- 1. What is the scope of each issue?**
- 2. What are entities within the public, private and nonprofit sector currently doing to address each issue?**
- 3. What best practices or policies have other communities adopted that may assist us in addressing each issue?**

I would like to thank Council Member Boylan for offering to chair this Special Committee and Council Members Newby, Pittman, Salem and Howland who will be heading the respective working groups: healthcare access, affordable housing, and homelessness. Council Member Boylan will be hosting a noticed, organizational meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the Lynwood Roberts Room for all interested parties. In particular those individuals and organizations that are actively engaged in addressing these three critical “quality of life” issues are encouraged to attend. (As I understand it, Council Member Boylan has already begun reaching out to many of the subject matter experts and there is much interest in being part of this work.) The CQLI Special Committee and its

working groups will commence regular meetings shortly thereafter. These meetings will be open and available for the public to view and participate. The results and recommendations of the CQLI Special Committee will be provided in a report to the Council at the November 22, 2022, Council meeting.

To borrow a phrase from the Resiliency Committee's Executive Summary, "*The principle objective is to establish a reference guide for all the best-practices, strategies and lessons that were identified throughout the overall process,*" with an eye towards recommending policies, practices, funding and/or funding vehicles that would greatly assist citizens that are presently burdened by such critical quality of life issues.

cc: Council Members and Staff
Margaret "Peggy" Sidman, Director/Council Secretary
Merriane Lahmeur, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
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