Public Service Grant Council

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

July 7, 2021

Public Service Grant Council

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Courtney Weatherby-Hunter Cheryl Brown, Council Secretary City of Jacksonville 117 West Duval Street, Suite 400 Jacksonville, FL 32202

Ms. Brown:

On behalf of the Public Service Grant (PSG) Council, I would like to present our 2021 Annual Report of Activities. This year was filled with a number of accomplishments, which included pieces of legislation, new PSG members, and a significant increase in the number of PSG applicants. In addition, there are three sub-committees; Most Vulnerable Persons and Services, Budget and Rules, which are charged with concerns and/or recommendations to the current PSG process which includes upcoming changes to Chapter 118.

The PSG Council currently meets at 3:00 P.M. every fourth Monday in the Main Library Multipurpose Room. The council successfully navigated meeting via Zoom during the pandemic this past year and continues to offer a virtual meeting attendance option. Thanks to both the Mayor's Office and City Council, the PSG Council membership is currently at 12 members (listed left), with one additional member to be confirmed later this month. This leaves only one Mayoral Appointee vacancy and one City Council Appointee vacancy. These members represent a diverse cross-section of Jacksonville's community, which is imperative in the decision-making process that impacts the non-profit agencies' financial and operational well-being for our most vulnerable persons.

Throughout this fiscal year, we have held 13 PSG Council and Committee meetings. A considerable amount of our effort has been dedicated to proposing changes to Chapter 118 to ensure we have a clear picture of our agencies' financial capacity and programmatic achievements. We are most grateful for the continued support of our PSG Council Liaison Councilmember Kevin Carrico, the City Councilmembers, and the Mayor and his administration who have furthered the transparency of the PSG process. Monthly and annual trainings have been facilitated by staff to ensure there is clarity and one message. We continue to operate an Appeals Board which is led by Ms. Kendra Mervin, myself, Procurement, and OGC. The effectiveness of these modifications can best be assessed by our outcomes: reduced number of calls and concerns from the community; and an increase in smaller non-profit organizations having an opportunity to compete for funding. We continue to receive positive feedback from several City Councilmembers, the public and non-profit agencies on the progress and success of the improvements we have collectively been making.

However, the amount of funding PSG receives has not kept pace with the needs of our agencies. We are optimistic that the Mayor and City Council will embrace our improvements and increase our funding so that we can continue to address these needs. It is my great honor to serve, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (904) 349-0731.

Best regards,

Bob Baldwin, Chair

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