



117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Council Chamber, 1st Floor, City Hall

**Special Committee on
Duval DOGE
October 21, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Attendance: Committee Members Salem (Chair), Arias, Diamond, Miller and Gay; Council Member Peluso

Also: Brian Parks and Heather Reber, Auditor's Office; Mary Staffopoulos, OGC; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Meeting convened: 11:00 am

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Salem convened the meeting and called for introductions.

Public Comment

Tyler Nolan, John Nooney, Maria Cox

2% Lapse – Discussion on Template Form for Departments

Brian Parks, Auditor's Office, talked about a drafted template for departments to utilize for requests to restore the 2 percent of lapsed funds. There was discussion about the approval process, from submission of the form to the Auditor's for review, to the DOGE Committee for approval, and then 1-cycle legislation for the appropriation. Mr. Parks said the forms would be made available for department directors to use as needed. CM Diamond asserted that he will not be "rubber stamping" the request applications.

Homelessness Update – JFRD Path Program

JFRD Captain Jennifer Parramore and Jimmy Ricks, JSO spoke about the Path program. Commander Ricks said that, since the program's inception and the implementation of the camping prohibition on public property, there has been a decrease in offenses in Sector A against both property and persons. Capt. Parramore spoke about the Path program, and she said that since November 1, 2024 they have encountered 1558 clients. Capt. Parramore noted that all shelters are at capacity daily and there is a lack of availability for women, and a need for more areas for the storage of personal items. CM Salem talked about the need for a daytime shelter. CM Arias asked about how shelter capacity could increase with more funds, and the role of the Homelessness Initiatives Commission. CM Miller said that representatives from the shelters should attend the next meeting to speak about expanding capacity for more female beds. CM Arias requested a breakdown of Path activities by council district.

Opioid Grant Process

Madalaine Zarou and Laura Viafora-Ray, Opioid Abatement manager and coordinator, spoke about the Opioid Grant process. Ms. Viafora-Ray provided an overview of the opioid epidemic nationally and locally since 1999. She said that from 1999 to 2023, more than 800,000 people died in the US from an overdose involving prescription and/or illegal opioids. She noted that Duval County has had a higher opioid death rate compared with the state of Florida. Ms. Viafora-Ray discussed the societal impact of opioid use disorder, including economic effects, traffic crashes, arrests, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, HIV and Hepatitis C, and Infective Endocarditis.

Ms. Zarou talked about the lawsuits against manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids, in which the City was a plaintiff and from which the funds for the Opioid Grant program are derived. She talked about the role of the Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Grants Committee in reviewing the grant applications, in 3 distinct categories, and allocating funds. Ms. Zarou spoke about post-award management, including site visits and financial reporting.

JTA Update on the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C)

CM Diamond shared a list of questions for JTA related to the U2C, for which he would like answers prior to the next meeting. Jenny Busby, on behalf of JTA, said the questions will be answered as requested.

Chair Salem adjourned the meeting at 12:26 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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Posted: 10.28.25 5:00 pm