

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

Special Committee on Duval DOGE November 12, 2025 Emergency Meeting - Minutes

Attendance: Committee Members Salem (Chair), Arias, Diamond, Miller and Gay; Council President Carrico; Council Members White and Boylan

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

Meeting convened: 3:01 pm

Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Salem convened the meeting and called for introductions. He said that there would not be public comment at this meeting and that only committee members would be participating in the discussion, with deference made to the Council President.

Report on Telehealth - CM Diamond

CM Diamond explained the impetus for asking for this special DOGE meeting. He said that he has concerns related to the City's contract with Telescope for telehealth services. He spoke in support of such services to decrease non-emergency emergency room visits and transport. CM Diamond talked about RightSite Health that provides service in the city of San Antonio, with no city funds. He said that RightSite Health diverts non-emergency EMS calls and bills insurance companies for the service. CM Diamond indicated that JFRD holds an MOU with RightSite Health but is not utilizing the service. He expressed concerns about conflicts of interest, and potential upcoding. CM Diamond said he'd like to see call referral records. He also mentioned a possible connection between current telehealth vendors and political campaign contributions.

Committee Comments

CM Salem said that he has been skeptical of the City getting overly involved in healthcare. He asked about the availability of RightSite Health services for the uninsured. He said that he thinks a pause on campaign contributions during the budget season would be prudent, though he mentioned a possible issue with the First Amendment. There was discussion about the creation of a special investigatory committee (SIC) to delve into the telehealth contract issue.

CM Arias asked about the billing structure for RightSite Health. He asked for more details about the MOU with JFRD. He said he'd like more information about the benefits and cost of both services.

CP Carrico expressed cautious consideration of the creation of a SIC, noting the difference between the telehealth concerns as compared to the creation of a SIC in 2020 because of the pursuit of JEA privatization and Performance Unit Plan. Ms. Staffopoulos, OGC, offered options to include the creation of a SIC, creating a subcommittee within the DOGE committee to investigate, or amending the committee's charge to allow the DOGE Committee to look into this issue further. There was discussion about what is permissible for special committees, subpoena powers and the ability to place "witnesses" under oath.

CM Miller said he concurred with CM Diamond's concerns and wants to get feedback from the Inspector General's Office related to any information they have on the telehealth contract.

CM Diamond said he'd like to know more about the scope of the IG's inquiry into the topic. He said that at the next DOGE meeting he'd like to discuss document requests to gather more information. CP Carrico asked about the need to amend the DOGE Committee's charge. Ms. Staffopoulos said that the current charge is relatively broad and may not need amending, and that a DOGE subcommittee could be created by the chair through a memorandum to the Council President.

Chair Salem adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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