



**NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT**  
**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**JACKSONVILLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

**9:30 am**

Proceedings before the Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission taken on  
**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**  
Ed Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Commencing at approximately 9:30 a.m.

**Commissioners**

David Wakefield, Chair  
Raul Arias, Vice Chair  
Diana Galavis, Commissioner  
David Hacker, Commissioner  
Curtis Hart, Commissioner – **Unexcused**  
Ericia Moore, Commissioner  
Sharol Noblejas, Commissioner  
Lauren Parsons Langham, Secretary  
Thomas B. Waters, Commissioner  
Sol Wynter, Commissioner

**City of Jacksonville Staff:**

Dr. Johnny Gaffney - **Unexcused**  
Mary Staffopoulos, OGC  
Chiquita Moore, Operations Director  
Thomas Daly, Chief  
Travis Jeffrey, Affordable Housing and Community Development Administrator  
Adebisi Okewusi, Director Finance  
Nicole Spradley, Board Administrative Support  
Barbara Florio, Board Liaison

**City Council:**

Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman

**Guests Present:**

Stacy Amparan, COJ Senior Services  
Jeff Backfisch, COJ Senior Services  
Andy Fink, Ability Housing  
Brooks Dame, COJ

**Staff:**

Tina Griffith	Kenny Logsdon	Neolita Maharaj
Robert Ownby	Melody Saftner	Sara Tortorello
Davetta Williams		



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**Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Chair David Wakefield called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2021 meeting was made by Commissioner Thomas Waters and seconded by Commissioner Raul Arias.

**Motion Passed: 8-0**

**I. Public Comments**

No public comments.

**ii. Presentation**

Stacy Amparan, Program Manager, discussed services and events that the City offers to seniors that are funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Events include safety and mental health events, Fish-A-Thon, Spring Fling dinner and dancing, Bash at the Ballfield (a partnership with the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp), Walk for Wellness, two senior expos, Senior Prom, and Senior Games. The next Senior Expo will be held on July 14-15<sup>th</sup> and the Senior Prom is on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Services Directory is published annually and is expected to be distributed in July this year.

Commissioner Waters mentioned that the Northside of town does not have facilities dedicated to seniors and recommended that they host events in some of the parks.

Commissioner Galavis inquired about transportation to events.

Ms. Amparan explained that transportation is available to the community centers every day and that they coordinate bus transportation for the events.

Commissioner Arias asked how many seniors attend the Senior Expo and what attendees can expect to see.

Ms. Amparan explained that the event will be held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center this year and that they anticipate 5,000 in attendance. Vendors provide health screenings, information about health insurance and other senior resources.

Commissioner Waters suggested that the advertising be updated to include those individuals that are 55-60 years old.

Ms. Amparan stated that the average age in attendance is 75.

Commissioner Hacker inquired about the annual participation number and whether they have seen growth in attendance.

Ms. Amparan explained that approximately 15,000 seniors participate in the events each year and that they have seen an increase in participation due to additional funding.



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Council Member Pittman mentioned that the senior prom was a great event. She also asked if they promote these events at churches and/or businesses.

Ms. Amparan said that they have a list of 45 churches, senior groups and pastors that they communicate with. She will look into businesses that could also promote the events.

### III. Chief's Report

Chief Daly reported that the City Council passed the five FY 21/22 funding bills last night at the City Council meeting. The Mortgage Relief Program (MRP) has expended \$2,195,842.20 and assisted approximately 42 households. The Commission will be approving the LHAP today and the 5 year Comp Plan will be going out soon.

### IV. Presentation

Travis Jeffrey discussed the changes to the LHAP. Updates were made to the Foreclosure Prevention Program and Rehab for Homeownership Program per the request of the State of Florida.

Commissioner Raul asked what would happen if the housing market changes again.

Mr. Jeffrey explained that the LHAP could be amended.

Commissioner Galavis asked what the likelihood is of actually providing assistance to a homeowner prior to a foreclosure.

Mr. Jeffrey said the program offers up to \$12,000 to help a homeowner become current on their mortgage. They also offer counseling. He is unaware of a way to track homeowners prior to a foreclosure filing.

Chief Daly mentioned that they worked with the State of Florida to determine the three month rule.

Council Member Pittman asked if the Division could include program information in JEA utility bills. She also mentioned that JEA has a quarterly newsletter and suggested publishing information there.

Chief Daly agreed it was something that we could look into, but suggested not doing it on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Waters mentioned the need for preventative services for foreclosures, to educate people about predatory lenders and to advertise the services available.

Chief Daly cautioned advertising the program because funding is already limited and is expended fast.

Chiquita Moore mentioned that the Neighborhoods Department uses CPACS to disseminate information to the community. The City also offers programs like How to Start an HOA. She suggested working together to distribute information will grab the public's attention at minimal cost.

Council Member Pittman said that cross marketing is crucial and is usually free.

Commissioner Waters asked if the City had guest speakers that could come out to community meetings.

Ms. Moore said that Lisa Ransom could assist with scheduling a City staff member to attend a community meeting.



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Commissioner Parsons Langham has concerns about waiting until someone is three months behind on their mortgage before they become eligible for the program.

Chief Daly explained that the State of Florida wanted the foreclosure already filed in order to qualify for the program, but they were able to compromise at three months past due.

Commissioner Arias asked how long it took for a homeowner to be approved for funding.

Mr. Jeffrey said it typically takes two to four weeks.

Commissioner Arias questioned the age group and suggested using social media to target a younger crowd.

Council Member Pittman suggested that the Commission help spread the word about the programs when they are working in the community.

Commissioner Waters suggested that the Commission could help guest star in videos for social media.

Ms. Moore will schedule a meeting with the Office of Public Affairs to discuss what is feasible.

Commissioner Arias suggested using actors so that the video doesn't become obsolete when Commissioners term out.

Commissioner Wynter mentioned the importance of disseminating the information at libraries and to non-English speaking members in our community.

Commissioner Galavis inquired how an amendment to the LHAP works if there is a change in funding.

Mr. Jeffrey explained that we would only update the specific section or strategies impacted by the funding changes. He mentioned that if funding does increase we could fund additional projects.

Chief Daly mentioned that last time we update the LHAP to include Disaster Relief. Unfortunately, counseling is not an approved project.

### **V. Approval of LHAP**

A motion to approve the LHAP was made by Commissioner Diana Galvis and seconded by Commissioner Sharol Nobeljas.

**Motion Passed: 9-0**

### **VI. New Business**

Liaison Barbara Florio mentioned that Council Member Randy DeFoor is the newest voting member of the Commission and will join us next month.

This was Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman and Nicole Spradley's last meeting.

### **VII. Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business



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**CERTIFICATION**

**Recorded and Transcribed by:**

Nicole Spradley, Neighborhoods Administrative Manager  
JHCDC Staff Support

**Submitted by:**

Barbara Florio, Operations Manager  
JHCDC Board Liaison

**Approved by:**

Lauren Parsons Langham, Secretary  
JHCDC