

City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber
117 W. Duval Street*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 26, 2021

3:00 PM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall & Virtual

Special Committee on Social Justice and Community Investment

*CM Matt Carlucci, Co-Chair
CM Brenda Priestly Jackson, Co-Chair*

Meeting Convened: 3:05 pm Meeting Adjourned: 4:06 pm

Attendance:

Committee Members Priestly Jackson (Co-Chair), Carlucci (Co-Chair), Salem, DeFoor, Newby, Boylan (Zoom) and White

Also: Council Member Gaffney; Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Phillip Peterson, Council Auditor's Office; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

I. Introductions

- II. SJCIC Jobs Initiatives, Other Proposals, Presentations and Updates**
 - A. Jax Youth Works**
 - B. Literacy Pros Jacksonville**
 - C. Miscellaneous**

Jax Youth Works- no representative was in attendance.

Literacy Pros of Jacksonville- Susan Kanuit, Board of Directors, was present to answer questions as needed. Ms. Kanuit also spoke about the track records of their existing literacy programs, the successes they have seen and the fully volunteer nature of the organization. Their funding request is \$20,000 for a billboard awareness campaign (in zip codes 32206, 8, 9,10,and 18) using the positive affirmation of real photos of DCPS students to encourage literacy.

CM DeFoor spoke in support of this program, noting the effectiveness of such campaigns, and made a motion to approve. CM Salem asked for more specifics in the budget, as related to billboard and supply costs. CM Gaffney expressed support. The committee unanimously agreed to move forward with this project and CM DeFoor will coordinate with OGC on the drafting.

Community Revolution Festival- no representative was in attendance.

Northside Coalition- since the Sims-Northside Coalition partnership dissolved, and new proposals are not being accepted, the project is no longer under consideration.

CM Newby spoke about the BOOST program (scholarship assistance for Workforce Training and FSCJ), for which council already approved \$200,000 funding. The program rollout has been successful and more than 100 participants have applied. CM Newby proposed increasing the funds for the two programs by \$50,000 each to enable services/assistance for more students.

Virginia Berg, Director of Government Relations and Community at FSCJ, described the three mobile enrollment events held the previous week. Many interested applicants attended, many were enrolled on site with application fees waived, and there was a food distribution.

James Coleman, Workforce Industrial Training, said there is already a waiting list for his program and said that a recent vehicle donation will help him assist students with transportation.

The committee unanimously agreed to recommend additional funding for the BOOST program, and Peggy Sidman, OGC, said that it could be drafted as an amendment to the contracts in 2021-23.

- III. Other Legislative Concerns of Council Members**
Funding Requested-
Noticed Meeting Date-
Target Population and Neighbors/Constituents to be Served-
Legislation Filed ☐ Yes ☐ No

IV. SJCIC Legislation, Budget and Balance

There was some discussion regarding the SJCIC contingency and how to handle any leftover monies. Mr. Peterson, Auditor's Office, said the funds will go back into the General Fund in October, unless legislation is passed that states otherwise.

To date, seven items have been approved by council for a total of \$1,622,888 (Mental Health Offender Program, Teen Court, JaxCare Connect, BOOST, Neighborhood Blight and Clean Up, Clanzel Brown after school/summer program, Safer Together Workshops). The legislation for the Black Expo funding has been introduced is pending the committee process.

There are 5 programs with committed funding, but not yet filed as legislation (Save our Sons, Quench the Violence, Mentor to Thrive, 5000 Role Models and Literacy Pros Jacksonville). There is roughly \$994,047 remaining after the aforementioned projects.

CM Priestly Jackson said that at the May 10th meeting, the members can make recommendations as to the remaining funds, and that all CMs may add input if desired as well.

V. Miscellaneous Concerns

CM Gaffney talked about the preservation/restoration project for the Old Stanton building, which is still a work in progress, and the potential for private donations in addition to SJCIC funds to assist with the expenses. CM Priestly Jackson indicated that SJCIC funds (approximately \$300,000) are earmarked for the project, when it gets to that stage.

Ms. Sidman shared that the legislation for funding for the Black Expo was filed as an emergency due to the timing, and that it was to be introduced at council the next day, and that the City will have four booths at the job fair/event at no cost.

CM Priestly Jackson mentioned the union trades high school apprenticeship program she has been working on in coordination with Al Lawson, with hopes of expansion to more schools.

The schedule for upcoming SJCIC meetings is: May 10 and May 24, with the final report due on June 22, 2021.

VI. Public Comment (if time permits)

Carnell Oliver talked about continuing the committee's work with new council leadership, economic mobility, the wealth gap, infrastructure and criminal justice reform.

Stanley Scott spoke in support of preserving the Old Stanton building, and possibly converting it into a community center.

This will be the last meeting with the option of Zoom public comments.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted: 4.30.2021 5:00 pm