



HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 2024  
9:30 – 11:00 AM

**Committee Members**

**PRESENT:**

Dr. Megan Allyse  
Rev. Kate Moorehead-Carroll  
Christopher Crothers  
Shantel Davis  
Jitan Kuverji  
Isaiah Oliver  
Jolita Wainwright

**Liaisons**

Council Member J. Peluso  
Capt. J. Parramore, JFRD  
Asst. Chief J. Ricks, JSO

Joelle Dillard, OGC

**COJ Staff Support:**

Barbara Florio  
Schnell Chin

**Guests Present:**

Cody Spencer  
Mauren Natkins  
Dawn Gilman  
Pete Hicks  
Darrell Dow  
C. Harper  
Linzee Ott  
Jenny Busby

Gary Judd  
Kaylee Jones, COJ  
N. Evans, COJ  
Kimberly Clay  
Emanuel Premate  
Karl Messer  
Vanessa C. Hopkins

**Call Meeting to Order, Welcome**

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:32 welcoming members and visitors. Quorum was present.

Minutes from 9/19/2024 were presented for approval. Minutes were moved for vote by Commissioner Allyse and seconded by Commissioner Crothers. Motion passed: 7-0

Commissioner Kuverji brought forth the utilization of hotels homeless housing. This would provide storage of items and through partnering with agencies could provide wraparound services. Further consideration of this option should be considered.

JFRD and JSO provided updates regarding the House Bill 1365-homeless 'camping' bill. JFRD Task Team members have been selected. They have set the three-week training course to start 11/4 and go-live date will be 11/23. SOP is drafted and copy is attached to these minutes. JFRD is working with JSO on the unauthorized public camping order and a place to put belongings when arrested. JSO has a lot to work out and a lot to do. Storage is still an issue for them. With their efforts of advising/warning our homeless, they have seen a decrease in camping and street living. Also, there has been reduction in other issues.



Discussion of creation of committees resulted in the decision to defer establishing any committees at this time. Commission discussion and decisions should be with all Commissioners.

Commissioner Crothers shared the design for developing cohesive talking points – being one Commission, one body, one voice. Attached to these minutes.

Council Member Peluso addressed the Commission about the focus and charge of this Commission. City Council established this Commission to create long-term sustainable solutions to the homelessness issues of our city. Developing a 5-year plan as defined in the legislation is the primary focus. Commission is designed to ultimately be highly established, well-informed group with the expertise to create a long-term strategy for years to come.

This Commission should not be focusing on HB1365-camping bill nor solve immediate problems. Administration, JFRD and JSO are working on solution to this issue. It is not this Commission's job to 'run after the ball', involving with issues not intended for this Commission. Encourages there be no emergency requests or immediate action by this Commission to City Council.

Council Member Peluso highly recommended researching the Miami/Dade County Homeless Trust. Take other actions such as hiring a consultant and reaching out to Cindy Schwartz, an expert in this field for guidance and education for the Commission.

From the Commissioners – they stated the public and others have perception there should be action to immediate concerns, not long term. Council Member Peluso recognized this and asked that the Commission not allow perception to change the task of this Commission.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were three public comments.

*Kari Messer* – Ms. Messer is representing Sulzbacher and shared information regarding the availability of storage units for homeless persons belongings. Sulzbacher has 97 units at this time.

*Vanessa Cullins Hopkins* – Ms. Hopkins shared her thoughts of utilizing vacant schools for housing the homeless. There are schools in areas of Jacksonville that could be converted.

*Kimberly Clay* – Ms. Clay shared information about homelessness increase along Hodges from Beach to Atlantic Blvd. 157 that won't consider going to shelters, missions, and temporary housing. This is due to drugs, alcohol, addiction, fear, no place for belongings.

Commission requested a Special Meeting be scheduled. Next meeting will be on MONDAY, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. This meeting will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Ed Ball Building – room 851.

**THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING IS DATE.  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH**



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**CERTIFICATION**  
**10/17/2024**

**Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B Florio", written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Florio, Commission Staff  
Homelessness Initiatives Commission  
Operations Manager, Housing and Community Development

**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shantel Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Shantel Davis, Chair