



Duval County Legislative Delegation

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MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
AND GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020
1:00 P.M.
117 W. DUVAL STREET
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Vice Chair Clay Yarborough called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. followed by the invocation and pledge.

Members present: Senators Bean and Gibson; Representatives Byrd, Davis, Duggan, Fischer, Nixon, and Yarborough.

A quorum was present. The agenda was adopted by voice vote.

Vice Chair Yarborough then passed gavel to Senator Bean who opened the floor for nominations of the Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Duggan, who nominated Representative Yarborough. There being no further nominations, Representative Yarborough was elected unanimously as Chair.

Chair Yarborough then opened the floor for nominations of the Vice Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Nixon, who nominated Representative Davis and then recognized Senator Bean, who nominated Representative Byrd. There being no further nominations, a voice vote was taken and Representative Byrd was elected as Vice Chair in a 5-3 vote.

Speakers:

1. Office of Mayor Lenny Curry- Spoke about the community and the cooperation between the city and state to help the citizens.
2. Board Chair Elizabeth Anderson, Duval County Public Schools- Spoke about the School Board's legislative platform and the impact of COVID on families and districts.
3. Orrin Wayne Young, JEA- Talked about surface water discharge and the burden of proposed legislation from last session.

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117 W. Duval Street, Suite 240
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4. Michael Stewart, JAA- Requested support for the Florida DOT Work's budget which provides grants to continue infrastructure development.
5. President David Szymanski, University of North Florida- Asked for support for the Medical Nexus Program.
6. President John Avendano, FSCJ- Elaborated on enrollment numbers due to covid and asked for funding to remain level for the upcoming year.
7. Todd Roobin, Jacksonville Film and Television Office- Discussed the benefits of a film and television program on an economy.
8. Reggie Fullwood, Operation New Hope- Asked for funding to remain the same to continue with their work which helps place people in jobs.
9. Sharon Hoffmeyer Dykes- Elaborated on the need to expand access for people with disabilities such as the transportation disadvantaged program.
10. Jim McCarthy, North Florida Land Trust- Spoke about the role of the Trust and how they impact the local area.
11. Leonardo Alonso, D.O., Physicians for a National Health Program- Talked about the US healthcare system and how healthcare should be a right and not tied to money.
12. Kevin Duane, Pharm.D., Panama Pharmacy- Asked for protections to help retain small business pharmacies.
13. Mia Jones, AGAPE Community Healthy Center- Talked about the work of the center and how they are helping the community during COVID.
14. Diana Donovan, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.- Spoke about arts funding and how arts jobs have been hurt during COVID times.
15. Evan Holler, Alzheimer's Association- Talked about the Association's legislative platform for the upcoming session.
16. Keith Wingate, Northeast Florida Fair Association- Asked for the continued support for the Association's endeavors.
17. Susan Aertker- Spoke against using tax money for charter school funding without extra protections.
18. Lauren May, Lisa Moloney, Abinet Degu, Step Up For Students- Discussed how the tax credit scholarships have impacted their families and children's education.
19. Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flight- Spoke about the mission of the Honor Flight and the goal of a state license plate.
20. Nancy Staats, MD, Doctors Fighting COVID- Asked for support for a statewide mask mandate.
21. Dr. Christine Cauffield, LSF Health Systems- Thanked the Delegates for their support and spoke about the strain of COVID on the behavioral health system.
22. Trina Curry, Rowan Woods Mosely, and Audrey Fisher; Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options- Thanked the Delegates for championing for kids who are deaf and hard of hearing.
23. Daniel Thimann, MD, Duval County Medical Society- Talked about reimbursement rates from insurance companies and surprise medical billing. Asked that the dispute process not be optional but have it be a mandated process.
24. Lanelle Phillmon, League of Women Voters Jacksonville First Coast- Elaborated on the impact of COVID on disadvantaged communities and asked for the help for all communities.

25. Cecilia Denmark, Bridges International- Spoke about the issues facing private providers who provide returning citizens from prison with education, vacation, and substance abuse counseling.
26. Robby Pitts and Eric Moore, Green Party of Duval County- Asked for the support of the Repair Legal Holidays legislation which was introduced for the upcoming session.
27. Ernest Hamilton, Children's Home Society of Florida- Talked about the mission of finding families for children and thanked the delegates and partners for all their support.
28. Michelle Hollie- Discussed gain time and credit caps for inmates and asked for the cap to be changed from 85% to 65%.
29. Faye Johnson, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition- Spoke about the disparities for mothers and offered her office as a resource.
30. Jaqueline Dowdy, River Region Human Services- Elaborated on the services provided by the organization and asked for more funding to provide help.
31. Lucy Maddox, Women's Center of Jacksonville- Thanked the Delegates for their support and elaborated on sexual assault statistics.
32. Jim Jandreau, Cypress Village and Florida Life Care Residents Association- Talked about the mission of FLiCRA and the care for Alzheimer and dementia patients.
33. LaKeisha Wells-Palmer, Teach For America Jacksonville- Spoke about the uncertainties of teaching during COVID and the difficulties of learning virtually.

Additional Speakers not on Agenda

34. Jane West, 1000 Friends of Florida- Spoke about the legislative priorities and funding requests for the upcoming session.
35. Charles Sears, Step Up For Students- Talked about his experience with the organization and how it has positively impacted his family.
36. Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper- Thanked the members for their support of clean water policy and spoke about nitrogen counts in the river.
37. Carnell Oliver- Asked for the support of a corporate tax increase and asked for support of an upcoming criminal justice reform bill.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

This is not a verbatim transcript but a summary of the proceedings. A recording is on file in the Delegation office and posted online on the Delegation website.