



# Duval County Legislative Delegation

**CHAIR**  
REPRESENTATIVE MIA L. JONES

**VICE CHAIR**  
REPRESENTATIVE JAY FANT

**SENATORS**  
AARON BEAN  
AUDREY GIBSON

**REPRESENTATIVES**  
JANET H. ADKINS  
JAY FANT  
REGGIE FULLWOOD  
MIA L. JONES  
CHARLES MCBURNEY  
LAKE RAY

Minutes  
Delegation Organizational Meeting  
& General Public Hearing  
Monday, December 7, 2015  
117 W. Duval Street, Council Chambers

Chair Adkins called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., followed by the invocation and pledge.

Members present: Senators Bean and Gibson; Representatives Adkins, Fant, Fullwood, Jones, McBurney and Ray.

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

Delegation members introduced themselves and their staff members.

Chair Adkins opened the floor for nominations of Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Fant, who nominated Representative Jones. There being no further nominations, Representative Jones was elected unanimously as Chair.

Chair Adkins opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Ray, who nominated Representative Fant. There being no further nominations, Representative Fant was elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

Representative Adkins thanked the members for working with her; she then passed the gavel to the new Chair, Representative Jones. Chair Jones presented Rep. Adkins with an award for her service as Chair.

Chair Jones recognized Sen. Bean, Delegation Rules Committee Chair, to explain proposed changes to the Delegation Rules of Procedure. They were as follows: 1. J-bills should not move forward without a sponsor from the Delegation. 2. Before a Delegation meeting is called a quorum of the members must be available to participate. 3. If the members meet outside of Jacksonville they are allowed to participate and vote via conferencing technology. 4. Update pronouns throughout Rules to be gender neutral.

There was a motion and a second. During discussion Sen. Gibson requested clarification regarding participation via conferencing technology – debate followed regarding the best way to allow meeting participation using this method. Rep. Ray made an amendment that a minimum of two members shall be present at meetings held outside of Jacksonville and the balance of the quorum may be achieved via teleconferencing. The amendment was moved, seconded and accepted unanimously via voice vote. A motion and a second were made to accept the changes to the Rules – the changes passed unanimously via voice vote.

#### SPEAKERS:

Becki Couch, School Board Member – Presented the DCSB’s legislative agenda. 1. Review lowest 300 schools 2. Flexibility on millage rate 3. Increased funding for technology and capital improvements 4. Increased funding for dual enrollment. 5. Accountability reform

Ali Korman Shelton, Office of the Mayor – Introduction and will be meeting with members individually to go over Mayor’s legislative priorities.

Brian Taylor, CEO, Jacksonville Port Authority – Reviewed annual projects for the Port, all are on schedule and on budget. Requested support to approve FDOT’s budget as presented.

Rebecca Steele, Commissioner, Florida Commission on Human Relations – Presented FCHR’s budget and current projects. Requested \$250,000 for case management system and support for housing discrimination bill.

Jessica Shepler, Director of Govt. Affairs, Jacksonville Transportation Authority – Presented St Johns River Ferry project for next year - requested \$1.5 million for phase II of the project. Requested support for CNG rebate program legislation.

Patricia Dodson, State Attorney’s Office – Expressed the SAO’s opposition to pending firearm legislation.

Penny Thompson, VP Govt. Affairs, UF Health Jacksonville – Requested support for UF Health funding - \$5.5 million in IGTs.

Matt Shirk, Public Defender – Greetings & thanks for Delegation’s support.

Todd Roobin, Manager, Jacksonville Film & TV Office – Reviewed benefits of film incentives programs and asked for extension of program since it will be sun setting this year.

Melissa Long, Jacksonville Environmental Quality Division – Requested support for septic tank inspection program for tanks near water sources in order to ensure water quality.

James Richardson, Program Administrator, Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board – Review legislative priorities 1. Support home rule authority 2. Oppose water withdrawals from St Johns River 3. Oppose state regulation of well-stimulation 4. Support septic tank remediation

Dr. Kelli Wells, Director, Florida Department of Health in Duval County – Presented state health improvement plan and creation of health equity program council.

Nicolas Abrahams, Governmental Affairs Manager, St Johns River Water Management District – Introduction and offered to meet with Delegation members in Tallahassee.

Jon Heymann, CEO, Jacksonville Children’s Commission – Requested support for Healthy Families program in the Governor’s budget, HB 89/SB 248, HB 293/SB 700, HB 7021, privatizing of foster care, increased support for mental health and school readiness.

Mary Nash, Program Manager, Healthy Families – Overview of program activities.

Colin Murphy, Jacksonville Children’s Commission – Requested support for SB 248/ HB 89.

Erin Skinner, Chair of Library Board of Trustees – Overview of program activities and requested reinstatement of state aid funding.

Steve Wise, Maritime Training Academy – Overview of program activities and introduced Capt. Robert Russo who established the program. Academy participant Ebony Wallace was also present for questions/comments about the training program.

Laura Gonzalez, Chair of Board of Directors, Pace Center for Girls – Introduced program participant Ashley, who detailed her experience at the Pace Center.

Jim Clark, President, Daniel Memorial – Overview of program activities and requested support for HB 147 and HB 293/SB 386.

Michelle Braun, CEO/President, United Way of Northeast Florida – Requested support to expand tax credit capability.

Chuck Young, Executive Operating Officer, Family Support Services – Overview of program activities.

Susan Bell, Regional Program Manager, Florida Department of Children and Family Services – Overview of program activities and requested support for Governor’s budget.

John Delaney, President, University of North Florida – Presented legislative priorities and requested support for 1. Advanced manufacturing (electron microscope) and 3D printing lab \$3 million recurring and \$5 million in onetime funding 2. PICO 3. UNF Public Service Leadership program 4. Lionfish consortium

Warren Grymes, CEO, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida – Overview of program activities.

Jennifer Chapman (Chair) & Theresa Little (Provider), Early Learning Coalition – Overview of program activities. Requested additional funding for school readiness program, increasing FTE for voluntary pre-K program, and support legislation to create quality rating improvement program.

Tony Allegretti, Executive Director, Cultural Council – Overview of program activities.

Deirdre Conner, Jacksonville Public Education Fund – Overview of program activities.

Denise Marzullo, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Northeast Florida – Presented legislative priorities 1. \$45 million in recurring general revenue funding for care coordination 2. Codification of mental health courts HB 439/SB 604 3. Telemedicine for psychiatric care 4. ARNP prescribing privileges HB 423/SB 946 5. HB 769/SB 128

Dr. Robert Lee, Fresh Ministries – Overview of program activities.

Cindy Funkhouser, The Sulzbacher Center – Requested reestablishment of ACORN funding.

Brian Phelan, Director, Farm Share of Northeast Florida – Overview of program activities.

Jim McCarthy, Executive Director, North Florida Land Trust – Asked for support of full funding for Amendment 1.

Dawn Lockhart, President, Family Foundations – Requested support for SHIP funding for affordable housing.

Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President, Florida State College at Jacksonville – Requested support for 1. Revitalization of the downtown urban core for student housing, 2. Stressed importance of FSCJ keeping its name 3. \$1 million for medical simulation lab.

Chris Card, Lutheran Services Florida – Requested support for HB 439, Baker Act alignment legislation, and the Governor’s community action teams.

April Seliga, Tobacco Free Jacksonville Coalition – Introduced program participant Tyler Brown who presented an overview of the program activities.

April Seliga, American Heart Association (Healthy Food Florida) – Requested support for healthy food financing legislation SB 760/HB 153.

Daniel Bean, Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association – Requested support for economic development plan and presented a brief overview of program activities.

Bruce Fouraker – Asked for support of full funding for Amendment 1.

Linda Levin, Eldersource – Presented legislative priorities 1. Requested funding be made recurring instead of onetime 2. Support for programs for frail elders.

Dr. Jay Schauben, Director, Florida Poison Information Center Network – Requested increase of \$500,000 in recurring funds.

Bruce Granger, Feeding Northeast Florida – Overview of program activities.

Keyna Cory, Chemours – Overview of program activities (wet mill dredge along I-10).

Dr. Theresa Rulien, Child Guidance Center – Requested support for increased Medicaid reimbursement rates and continue to fund community projects, especially Project Healthy Homes.

YSRYL, Jacksonville Black Chamber of Commerce – Requested support for improving dilapidated areas in Jacksonville as well as Jacksonville Youth Works.

Connie Benham – Requested increased state funding for UF Health Shands instead of relying on local dollars.

Sally Steinauer, President, Florida Native Plant Society – Asked for support of state parks.

Dawn Gilman, CEO, Changing Homelessness, Inc. – Presented legislative priorities 1. Affordable housing trust fund 2. Challenge grant 3. Reappropriation of the continuum of care staffing grant

Laura Bailey, Florida Nurses Association – Requested support for prescribing privileges for ANRPs.

Pamela Delano, Florida Nurses Association – Requested support for legislation which would mandate colleges to inform their students if they are not nationally accredited.

Dr. Rita Nathawad, Jax HATS, UF Health – Overview of program activities and request of recurring funds of \$400,000 for program expansion.

Travis Christensen, Republic Liberty Caucus of Florida – Requested support for open carry and campus carry legislation, campaign reform, and repeal of red light cameras.

Terri Foreman, Operation New Hope – Overview of program activities and requested funding for program expansion.

Toni Blanton, AMIKids Jacksonville, Inc – Overview of program activities and requested \$30,000 in additional funding, and assistance with exposure.

Brian Campbell, Duval County Medical Society – Requested support and appropriations to renovate the Sowder Building.

## ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS NOT ON AGENDA

Pastor Garland Scott, City Center Program for Boys – Overview of program activities and requested funding for program expansion.

Carnell Oliver – Requested creation of tax credit for job training.

Frank Ferrentino, Skyetec – Expressed opposition to HB 535/SB 704.

Betsy Dobbins, Public Defender’s Office – Requested support for SB 314.

Leslie Pierpont, Late Bloomers Garden Club – Asked for support of full funding for Amendment 1 and expressed opposition to fracking and cattle ranching in state parks.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:29 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.