

# Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

## August 3, 2021 Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, First Floor Training Room, Jacksonville, FL 32202 and on Zoom

### Meeting Attendance

**CPAC Members:** Kim Pryor, Chair; Glen VanVorst, Vice Chair; Bill Hoff, SPAR Council; Greg Radlinski, Parks at the Cathedral Becca Dinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts; John Shermataro, SAMBA; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, Inc.

**Excused:** None

**Visitors:** Richard Lewis; Ernest Smith III, Michelle Thomas; Robert Maldonado; Michelle Tappouni; Dan

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Warren Jones, DCPS Board Member, District 5; Nicole Evans, ECA, Council Member Ronald Salem; Dorian Bush, ECA, Council Member Garrett Dennis; Opal Bryant, District 13 EA, State Representative Tracie Davis; Lt. Robert Pendley, JSO; Berdell Knowles, JEA; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Cheryl Reddick, Jacksonville Transportation Authority; Marshelle Berry, JPL; Connor Corrigan, Planning and Development Department; Jessica Denson, Neighborhood Services Office

### Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Pryor called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Jessica Denson confirmed a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary:** The June 2021 meeting summary was approved by the CPAC Members.
3. **Public Comment:** None
4. **Elected Official's Report:**
  - Nicole Evans, Executive Council Assistant to City Council Member Ronald Salem, At- Large Group 2, provided the following updates:
    - On July 1, 2021, Council Member Samuel Newby, At-Large Group 5, commenced a one-year term as Council President; Council Member Terrance Freeman, At-Large Group 1, began a one-year term as Council Vice-President.
    - Council Member Salem currently serves as the City Council Finance Committee, Chair. As the Committee Chair, Council Member Salem will work actively with the 2021-2022 Mayor Budget. The committee will review the budget vigorously at several meetings throughout August.
    - The Mental Offender Pilot Program that began in January 2021 has been a huge success and a bill for \$100,000 was recently passed to fund the program another year.

Nicole Evans can be reached at (904)255-5143 or [NEvans@coj.net](mailto:NEvans@coj.net).

- Dorian Bush, the Executive Council Assistant to City Council Member Garrett Dennis, District 9, offered to take comments, questions, or concerns from the UC CPAC members and report them to Council Member Dennis.
  - CPAC Member Deloris Swain wanted to know what Council Member Garrett Dennis plans for the homeless shelter that is being discussed for relocation on Fairfax Street located in District 9. Ms. Bush stated Council Member Dennis recently had a community meeting on July 13, 2021, to hear the community concerns. Council Member Dennis is planning more community meetings.

Dorian Bush can be reached at (904)255-5209 or [DJBush@coj.net](mailto:DJBush@coj.net).

- Warren Jones, Duval County School Board Member, District 5, reported the following:
  - On August 3, 2021, Duval County teachers will report back to work to pre-plan for the upcoming school year.
  - The 2021-2022 Duval County school year will start Tuesday, August 10, 2021.
  - The Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) will begin construction on a new elementary school located at Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary School, 4346 Roanoke Blvd in a few months, and is

expected to be completed in 2023. The new school is funded by the half-penny voluntary surtax.

- Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene issued a mandate that requires DCPS employees to wear a mask, students were not included due to the Governor Ron DeSantis executive order.

Board Member Warren Jones can be reached at [904-390-2372](tel:904-390-2372) or [Jonesw2@duvalschools.org](mailto:Jonesw2@duvalschools.org).

**5. Chairs Report:** None

**6. Old Business –** Chair Pryor discussed and reviewed UC CPAC Action Items list with the CPAC Members.

**7. New Business –**

- CPAC Member Greg Radlinski stated he would like for the UC CPAC to have input on Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) projects before a decision has been made because DIA projects drastically affect Downtown Jacksonville residents. Greg will send an email to DIA on behalf of the UC CPAC.
- Vice-Chair Glen VanVorst expressed his concerns regarding flooding at the Old Duval County Courthouse lot, 330 East Bay Street, and South Liberty Street. In the past, He was informed that the developer for the lot would address the issue, but the residents in that area would like for the City to deal with the concern. Vice-Chair VanVorst will submit a service request to the City of Jacksonville.

**8. Subcommittees:**

- **Code Enforcement and Blight:** Vice-Chair VanVorst stated that the Code Enforcement and Blight Subcommittee did not meet this month, but he asked UC CPAC members to submit any blight issues to be examined at the next Code Enforcement and Blight Subcommittee meeting. Members can forward issues to Jessica Denson, who will forward them to Vice-Chair Glenn to review.
- **Homelessness:** CPAC member Cindy Watson reported that the subcommittee met with Sulzbacher Center Brian Snow, Chief Program Officer, and John Bows, Health System and Budget Administrator, on June 28, 2021. Mr. Snow and Mr. Bows educated the subcommittee members on the outreach programs offered by the Sulzbacher Center and how to assist an individual who is homeless. CPAC member Cindy Watson informed the CPAC members to contact Jackie Brown, Sulzbacher Outreach Coordinator at (904)994-0066 to make a referral to the outreach programs.

CPAC member Cindy Watson informed the CPAC members that due to the COVID-19 spike in July, shelters are cautiously monitoring their capacity, and requiring COVID testing to gain entrance at the facility. If someone tests positive, the shelters are referring them to quarantine shelters that are located at various hotels.

- **Governmental Affairs:** CPAC member Bill Hoff reported the subcommittee reviewed four LUZ applications and made recommendations/motions to the four applications. The motions are:
  - Support of E-21-36 at 1719 Main Street North, an exception to the sale and service of beer and wine for on-premises consumption.
  - Support of WLD-21-07 at 1719 Main Street North, waiver of liquor distance, to reduce the minimum distance from a church from 1,500 Feet to 97 Feet.
  - Support of AD-21-36 at 0 First Street East, administration deviation, to increase the maximum lot coverage from 50% to 58% and reduce the required secondary front yard setback from 10 feet to 4.5 Feet.
  - Denial of O-2021-0418 at 1239 32nd Street East, conventional rezoning, RLD-60 to IL.

The motion was approved for the four applications by the CPAC members.

**9. Staff Reports:**

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)-**Assistant Chief Pendley provided a brief update on the recent crimes that have taken place in the downtown area. Most of the crimes are due to the increase in social activities (scooters, nightclubs, etc.) and the population of people who resides in the area. Chief Pendley assured that JSO is aggressively working on the increase of violence.

Chief Pendley can be reached at [James.Pendley@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:James.Pendley@jaxsheriff.org)

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)**- Marshelle Berry reported the following:
  - All JPL libraries are open to the public, but all programs are virtual until further notice.
  - JPL Main Library has extended the hours of operations to 9 a.m. through 6 p.m., Monday – Saturday.
  - The Brentwood Branch Library (3725 North Pearl Street) is hosting a backpack giveaway on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. JPL will give out 528 backpacks. Registration is required at the branch by Thursday, August 5, 2021. FarmShare will provide a free food giveaway at the event.

For more information go to [www.jacksonvillepubliclibrary.org](http://www.jacksonvillepubliclibrary.org).

Marshelle Berry may be reached at [mberry@coj.net](mailto:mberry@coj.net) or (904)255-6088

- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)**- Cheryl Riddick reported the following:
  - JTA has partnered with Agape Community Health Center at the Gateway Town Center, 5000 Norwood Avenue, to provide COVID-19 vaccinations on JTA Wellness on Wheels Bus.
  - In the event of a hurricane, JTA buses run on a limited schedule but will transport workers to their place of employment, and citizens to a local shelter.
  - JTA is currently hiring for Bus Operators, Cashiers, and Community Outreach positions.

For more information visit [www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com).

Cheryl Riddick may be reached at [criddick@jtafla.com](mailto:criddick@jtafla.com) or (904)632-5522

- **JEA** – Berdell Knowles reminded the UC CPAC members that the Atlantic Hurricane Season will end in November 2021 and JEA is prepared for storms as they arise. Mr. Knowles gave a brief overview of the three phases for JEA's Restoration 1-2-3 process in the event of a storm. The phases are:
  - Phase One: Public Safety
  - Phase Two: Individual Customers
  - Phase Three: Final Repairs

More information on JEA's Restoration 1-2-3 three phases can be found at [www.jea.com](http://www.jea.com).

Berdell Knowles can be reached at [KnowB@jea.com](mailto:KnowB@jea.com).

- **Municipal Code Compliance (MCCD)**: Robert Bautochka, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported that in July, MCCD completed 435 inspections in the Urban Core District and 6,313 inspections in the past 365 days in Planning District 1. Mr. Bautochka informed the UC CPAC that on July 16, 2021, the State of Florida passed a law that there'll be no more anonymous complaints. All complaints must include the person's name and their address to file a complaint with the City of Jacksonville. The MCCD Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR) still have funds available. The JAR Program may prevent a lien from being placed on your property. Please visit the Municipal Code Compliance Departments website for more information: [www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program)

Robert Bautochka can be reached at [RBautochka@coj.net](mailto:RBautochka@coj.net) or (904)-255-7055.

- **Neighborhood Service Office (NSO)** – Jessica Denson, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, announced that the CPAC election season is approaching, and the committee will need to form a UC CPAC Election Subcommittee. Ms. Denson informed the guests that the CPACs are always seeking new members so everyone's voice can be heard in their district and encouraged them to join the UC CPAC. Please contact Jessica Denson for more information about joining the UC CPAC.

Jessica Denson can be reached at [jcdenson@coj.net](mailto:jcdenson@coj.net) or (904)255-8260

**Public Comments** – None

**10. Adjourn:** There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, First Floor Training Room and via Zoom.

A copy of the audio recording of this Urban Core CPAC meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records can be found on the City's Website: [Public Records](#).