



## JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

### TRUE COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE TRACKING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES April 13, 2012 12:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room B  
Suite 425, City Hall  
117 W. Duval Street

**Attendance:** Committee Members Joe Andrews (Chair), Greg Radlinski and Tom Martin

**Excused:** Diane Brown

**Also:** Jeff Clements – Council Research Division

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Andrews. Chief Micheal Edwards and Budget Officer Maxine Person of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office were present to discuss 2012-248 (appropriating \$900,000 from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund to Edward Waters College for construction of a joint classroom building/police substation). In response to questions from Commissioner Radlinski, Chief Edwards stated that the private funds required for the project have already been raised and the City contribution is the last bit of funding needed to begin the project. The Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund consists of funds seized by the JSO or forfeited to the government from criminal activity (cash used in drug buys, sale of confiscated vehicles involved in crimes, etc.). The Sheriff has control over the fund to disburse funds pursuant to the purposes outlined in state law and the Ordinance Code for crime prevention and reduction purposes. The funds cannot be used for normal operating expenses of the JSO and are typically used to fund school resource officers, community-based groups that operate programs to serve youth and keep them out of trouble, save neighborhoods programming, and other crime prevention efforts.

Chief Edwards stated that the substation in Zone 5 in which Edward Waters College is located has moved from a location in a credit union on McDuff Avenue to a vacant City building on Superior Street in 2008. Zone 5 has the highest rate of violent crime in the city, and the sub-zone (M-3) where EWC is located has the highest violent crime rate in Zone 5. A substation with a large police presence coming and going at all times will be a great help to combatting crime in the zone. EWC will provide all of the utilities and maintenance for the facility for the 99-year term of the lease. The JSO will occupy approximately 2/3 of the 10,500 square foot facility, including half of the first floor for public access functions and the entire second floor for a zone commander's office, lieutenant offices, conference room and roll call room.

2012-198 (amending Ordinance Code regarding mid-year CIP amendments): Commissioner Andrews will follow up with Council Member Gulliford to explain the TRUE Commission's reasoning for the resolution adopted at the last commission meeting.

2012-202 (appropriating \$9,200 from several City Council internal operating accounts to pay for City Hall parking for City Council members): the committee discussed the rationale for paid vs. free parking for council members, the availability of other parking, and potential safety considerations.

**Motion** (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the full TRUE Commission adopt a resolution opposing passage of 2012-202 – **approved 2-1.**

2012-212 and -213 (amending the Ordinance Code and City Charter to dissolve the JEDC, create a new Office of Economic Development in the Mayor’s Office, and create a new Downtown Investment Authority): the committee discussed the merits of the proposed economic development restructuring. Commissioner Andrews expressed vigorous opposition to creating a downtown development agency with taxing and eminent domain powers independent of City Council control. Staff was asked to send copies of the minutes of the City Council’s recent workshop meeting on this legislation to the TRUE commissioners. The legislation proposes to change approval of economic development incentives from an ordinance to a resolution process and to reduce the number of readings from 3 required to either 1 or 2, depending on the value of the incentives and whether or not a waiver/exception to standard policies is proposed.

**Motion** (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the full Commission disapprove passage of 2012-213 (creation of a Downtown Investment Authority) – **approved 3-0.**

**Motion** (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the City Council very carefully scrutinize 2012-212 before voting on its enactment – **approved 3-0.**

2012-235 (amending the Ordinance Code to create a St. John’s River (Mayport) Ferry Commission): the committee discussed the ferry’s operating costs and other potential operators, including the JTA. Commissioner Radlinski noted that the bill does not mention funding for the commission which will be crucial to its success and ability to operate the ferry.

**Motion** (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the full Commission disapprove passage of 2012-235 – **approved 3-0.**

2012-237 (directing the Procurement Division to promulgate an RFP for stand-alone management of the Equestrian Center, separate from the RFP for management of the facility as part of the larger public venues management RFP): the commission discussed the rationale for operating the Equestrian Center separately from the rest of the City’s public venues. Mention was made of the proposal to move the county agricultural fair from its current location in the Sports Complex to the Equestrian Center property.

**Motion** (Radlinski): the committee recommends that the TRUE Commission approve passage of 2012-237 – **approved 3-0.**

2012-215 (amending the Ordinance Code to create a program to provide \$2 parking options for citizens attending City Council or committee meetings at City Hall)

**Motion** (Martin): the committee recommends that the TRUE Commission oppose passage of 2012-215 – **approved 3-0.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Chief  
Council Research Division  
630-1405

Posted 4.19.12  
5:00 p.m.