



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 27, 2025.

Time: 10:01 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Commissioner Members

PRESENT:

Christopher Crothers (Vice Chair)
Jolita Wainwright
Jitan Kuverji (Secretary)
Shantel Davis (Chair)

Dr. Megan Allyse
John Trevathan
Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll
Jolita Wainwright

Liaison Members

Commander Ricks (JSO)

COJ Support Staff:

Kenny Logsdon (HCDD)
Shannon MacGillis (OGC)
Schnell Chin (HCDD)

Neolita Maharaj (HCDD)
Kaylee Jones (HCDD)

Guests Present:

Brenda Boydston (Salvation Army)
Chip Harper (COJ)
Paul Stasi (City Rescue Mission)
John J. Nooney (Community at Large)
Samantha MacArthur (Community at Large)
Muriel Wallace (Community at Large)
Dimitri Demapoulos (UC CPAC)
Sandra Nester (COJ)
Joshua Hicks (COJ)

Brian Snow (Sulzbacher)
Jaime Williams (City Rescue Mission)
James Lewis (MAUD)
Dr. Tracy Polson (COJ)
Jennifer Rosenblum (Community at Large)
Kelly Frazier (Northside Coalition of Jacksonville)
Earnest Smith III (UC CPAC)
April Jackson (COJ)

Special Meeting called to order by C. Crothers at 10:01 a.m.

Section I. - OGC-Update and Impact of Legislation- S. MacGillis reported that there are no new filing or complaints about the Homelessness Statues. Even though there are no changes to the report, the Committee wants to leave it on the agenda.

Section II. - Jacksonville Housing Authority (JHA) Presentation- The CEO highlighted and informed HIC about the importance of partnerships and working in unison to address the homelessness in the City. She discussed current City funding for the Durkeeville Community and Franklin Arms Apartments.



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Discussions:

C. Crothers was curious about the transition of the current tenants and the long-term supportable efforts for residents.

J. Kuverji asked if sustainable materials were used in the construction of the buildings.

J. Wainwright needed to know the selection criteria and the vacant property on Moncrief Road and 45th Street.

J. Trevathan wanted to know what the percentage is for Jacksonville from the 92,000 October 2025 waiting list.

C. Crothers spoke about the 22,000-waiting list for shelter. He said that individuals have different housing needs and briefly mentioned Ability permanent and supportive housing programs.

Chair Davis requested monthly Board presence from JHA.

Response:

JHA reported that they received \$1M in ERAP2 funding for single family rental homes; tenants' incomes cannot exceed 50% of the local area median income. Tenants participate in wrap-around services. These programs teach residents about housekeeping, cleanliness, and budgeting. JHA has a partnership with Ameris Bank, to coach tenants on homeownership and building credit. JHA will email K. Logsdon with the Jacksonville waiting list percentage numbers.

Section III. -Consultant- K. Jones said that there was little to report and clarity is needed from Procurement. A meeting was scheduled with Procurement after the Special Meeting. She also noted that HIC are tentatively on the Jacksonville Procurement Awards Committee (JPAC) agenda on October 30, 2025, for approval of the second Consultant.

Section IV. -Public Comments (Limit 3 Minutes)- Speaker #1- J. Nooney (Community at Large) continued his narrative about marketing strategies with other external companies and the potential revenue source for HIC with electric car charging from the land in his District.

Speaker #2- Paul Stasi (CEO-City Rescue Mission) reported that 'we all aim not merely to provide relief, but restoration. We want to see people move from crisis to stability, from dependency to dignity, from homelessness to home. Our focus must be on long-term transformation, helping individuals achieve sustainable success so that they no longer need our services again. That's the measure of real change.' (His comments are attached.)

Section V. -Rubric/Application- J. Kuverji reported that there is no new rubric to discuss at this time. C. Crothers spoke about the importance of City Council to trust HIC for the ROI (Return of Investment). K. Jones discussed the templates that the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) subrecipients use to document program outcomes and demographics.

Section VI. -HIC Budget- C. Crothers mentioned the City's DOGE drive and the need for HIC to fill specific gaps. S. MacGillis reported that she will meet with CM Peluso to discuss policy and decisions. C. Crothers said to send a follow-up meeting after this meeting to HIC. S. MacGillis reported that HIC can only make recommendations.



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Discussions:

Chair Davis asked if HIC needs a Consultant.

Dr. Allyse mentioned that HIC does not need a Consultant, but there is a need to document outcomes in a logical manner.

Rev. Kate said that the local organizations have expertise in addressing the homeless because they are established institutions.

J. Wainwright stated that the goal is to develop a 5-year plan but use local talent.

J. Kuverji reported that someone from the HIC needs to build trust with City Council.

Dr. Allyse said that Procurement has hindered the process.

Rev. Kate asked Counsel if the Committee can return to City Council and inform that HIC prefer not to have a Consultant.

Comm. Rick reported that HIC needs an outside entity, based on his prior experiences with local organizations who had great ideas in the past.

Response:

S. MacGillis stated that there is nothing in the Code that mandate that this body needs a consultant.

Section VII. -Develop a plan for success for the remainder of the year What are 2-3 objectives we want to accomplish by the year end then possibly develop high level quarterly goals? Chair Davis said that HIC needs to provide a snapshot of what was done for the remainder of this year. She wants to close down this year by sounding and unifying HIC as one voice to define success. Dr. Allyse mentioned that full participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is required in 2025-2026 for all organizations who receive HIC support.

Section VIII.-Unfinished Business-J. Kuverji asked about the (HMIS) and the need to collect data from all entities from the past to capture spent dollars.

Section IX.- New Business- J. Kuverji discussed a sub-committee to track how dollars are spent. He also spoke about developing relationships with other partners in order for HIC to become self-sufficient. Rev. Kate said that private partnerships can be used when HIC has concrete goals and that HIC must calculate the monetary ask from each partner.

C. Crothers spoke about the closing of the Urban Rest Stop in 3 years. He encouraged HIC to think big and to reflect on what a world class system would look like for addressing homelessness. He continued that there are enough data and great organizations working extremely well, but in reality, there is not enough money. There must be a plan in place to bring in the private sector.

Meeting Adjourned- Meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Next meeting Board Meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., 8th Floor, Ed Ball Building.

Speech to HIC: The Real Measure of Helping Our Most Vulnerable
Paul Stasi, CEO, City Rescue Mission 10.27.25

First, let me sincerely thank each of you for your service and for your willingness to engage deeply in finding solutions for those most in need in our city. Your leadership and commitment matter, especially to the hundreds of Jacksonville residents who depend on the compassion and wisdom of this body.

Over the past months, much of the focus has been on meeting the legal requirements of HB 1365. And yes, this work has value. Getting people off the streets, providing a bed, a dinner, and a breakfast; these are good and benevolent acts. They are compassionate. But I must ask a difficult question: Are we truly helping people, or are we just fulfilling the obligation of the Bill by eliminating tents downtown?

What we are seeing, time and time again, is that many of the same individuals cycle through our shelters. If we look at the names from the start of this contract to today, nearly 1 in every 6 people served are the very same people.

We all aim not merely to provide relief, but restoration. We want to see people move from crisis to stability, from dependency to dignity, from homelessness to home. Our focus must be on long-term transformation, helping individuals achieve sustainable success so that they no longer need our services again. That's the measure of real change.

Now, I want to address a second concern: the idea of bringing in yet another outside consultant. Over the last 25 years, I've seen consultants come and go with big promises and big invoices. Yet here we are, decades later, still having the same conversation.

I ask respectfully: Do we truly need to spend another quarter of a million dollars on an out-of-town firm to tell us what we already know?

Because sitting right here in this city are our service providers in our community, are people who have dedicated their lives to this work. We are the subject matter experts. We know the streets, we know the shelters, and most importantly, we know the people.

Every city is different. What worked in Dallas, Charlotte, or Memphis will not automatically work here in Jacksonville. Cookie-cutter solutions don't fit when human lives are involved.

If you want to know where the gaps are—ask us. We can tell you.

- There is a crisis among our aging homeless population, many of whom face serious and chronic medical conditions. They need long-term residential care with supportive services.
- There is a critical shortage of long-term residential care for individuals battling severe mental illness. They need long-term residential care with supportive services.
- If we want to truly help people escape homelessness, we need to offer services not just emergency shelter.

The question before us today is not “How do we meet a requirement?” but “How do we change a life?”

I urge you, as stewards of this city's resources and moral conscience, to invest in what brings lasting transformation, not just temporary relief. Let's build a model of care that lifts people up, not just tucks them in.

Thank you for your time, your heart, and your partnership in this vital work.



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CERTIFICATION

Homelessness Initiatives Commission Special Meeting October 27, 2025

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:

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Homelessness Initiatives Commission

Approved by:

Jitan Kuverji, Secretary
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

