



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Time: 10:01 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Committee Members

PRESENT:

Dr. Megan Allyse
Jitan Kuverji
Shantel Davis

Christopher Crothers
Jolita Wainwright

ABSENT:

Isaiah M. Oliver (Unexcused)
CM Jimmy Peluso (Liaison)
Capt. Jennifer Parramore (Liaison)

Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll (Excused)
Asst. Chief James Ricks (Liaison)

COJ Support Staff:

Kenny Logsdon

Neolita Maharaj

Guests Present:

Monique Elton, Changing Homelessness
Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher
Kaylee Jones, COJ
John H. Wyche, Wealth Watchers
Dimitri Demopoulos, Urban Core

Tracye Polson, COJ
Clarence Harper, COJ
Hurtis Wyche, Jr., Community at Large
Hawthorne Cornell, Community at Large

Meeting called to order by J. Kuverji, Secretary, at 10:01. a.m.

First Speaker-C. Funkhouser, CEO of Sulzbacher, discussed security concerns for her staff and clients at her facility at the Urban Rest Stop. She reported on the targeted shooting at the center during the weekend of the Inauguration. There were no fatalities, and the shooter was not a homeless individual. After this incident, staff received Active Shooter Training from JSO.

C. Funkhouser reported that the issue is budgeting. She said that when the Rest Stop opened 5 (five) years ago, the budget was \$250,000 and JSO provided security, but recently, they had to resort to private security because of budgetary challenges. JSO costs \$65 per hour for security, if they re-hire JSO, Sulzbacher will have to reduce services at the Urban Rest Stop. The private security firm costs \$20 per hour, but the firm does not provide the deterrent that JSO provides visually. She said that the stigma that homeless individuals are considered criminals put others and staff in danger.

J. Kuverji said that he will investigate the cost of armed security and spoke about Connect Duval as added security protection, but the CEO preferred choice is JSO for the added visual protection.



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M. Allyse asked about the number of clients at the Urban Rest Stop daily, and the CEO reported that they serve 150 individuals daily. She also requested that Sulzbacher write a proposal for security so that they can present it to the City Council.

Second Speaker-J. Wyche, Community at Large, is a community activist who advocates for resources concerning homeless individuals. He praised Sulzbacher and Family Promise for their work with homeless individuals. He also stressed that for the RFP, that it must be someone who can work with the population.

Extensive discussion on the Request For Proposal (RFP). C. Crothers emailed the June 2020 Review of the Regional Approach to Homelessness in Jacksonville, FL to K. Logsdon. C. Crothers reported that it was developed by the City Council, and it should be included in the RFP along with the report from Changing Homelessness.

C. Crothers made the motion to adjust the numbering scoring buckets, seconded by A. Megan and motion was unanimously passed and amended the grading points to:

• Organizational Capacity & Track Record-	30
• Prior Experience-	25
• Approach and Methodology-	35
• Cost-	10
Total:	100 points

Organizational Capacity & Track Record to use an ecosystem approach. Prior Experience must include proven success, engagement with other organizations, understanding local statutes, and using HUD's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Aggregate data. Approach and Methodology should include the homeless process map, produce background on ecosystem and staffing, draft content, strategies, recommendations, and goals. Costs with reference to the lowest bid and the selection.

C. Crothers and J. Kuverji asked C. Funkhouser about Quality Assurance (QA) and if an evaluative tool should be included in the RFP. S. Davis said surveys and M. Allyse asked how to measure quality. C. Funkhouser said that Sulzbacher is inspected by all grantors. They have client surveys that are administered annually, grievance surveys and focus groups to measure quality. The selected consultant has 6 (six) to submit a strategic plan.

Third Speaker- H. Wyche, Wealth Watchers, spoke after the public forum. He summarized his personal experiences, his outreach efforts and program model from Central Florida to Georgia, and the use of MyJax App.

The next Meeting (Public) is scheduled on Friday, 14 March 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Ed Ball Building, 1st Floor, Room 1002.



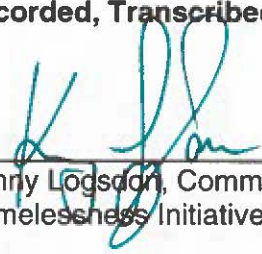
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Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

CERTIFICATION

Homelessness Initiatives Commission Special Meeting 18 February 2025

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:


Kenny Logsdon, Commission Staff
Homelessness Initiatives Commission

Approved by:


Jitan Kuverji, Secretary
Homelessness Initiatives Commission