

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC)

April 6, 2026

Hybrid Meeting: Main Public Library, 303 N Laura Street 32202 and via Zoom Webinar

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: CPAC Chair Ernest Smith, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; CPAC Vice Chair Tiffany Clark, Parents Who Lead; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Assn.; Michael Haskins; SPAR Council; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association

Excused: Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Bryant Shumaker, SPAR Council

Staff and Elected Officials: Williams Hanks, Zone 1 Supervisor – MCCD; Martinique Glover, Neighborhood Services Office; Captain Charles Johnson, JFRD; Lieutenant Fleman, JSO; Greg Pierce, JPL; Michele Green, DCPS; Cheryl-Lynn Freeman, JTA; Dan Durbec, EQD; Dana Krizner, Interim CEO-KHA; Paige DeBold, FDOT

Guests: Khadeja Ahmed, Jax Care Connect; Amos Harvey, Bridge the Gap Inc.; Ariane Randolph, Historic Eastside Residence Alliance; Nafeesah Bilal, 2nd Ministry; Pahriss Howard, Jax Care Connect; Alice Nelson, John. J. Nooney

Zoom: Marlo Zarka, The Blue Zones Project; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Dawn Curling, Jax Melanin Market; Joni Alexander, Groundworks Jax, Sandra; iPhone 15.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Ernest Smith called April 6, 2026, Urban Core CPAC Meeting to order at 5:35 pm and Martinique Glover verified that a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** March 2, 2026, meeting summary was approved.
- 3. Elected Official Report:** No Elected Officials Present
- 4. Chairs Report:** Chair Ernest Smith announced, “The Cook-Out: Unity on the Block”, scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in James Weldon Johnson Park. This free community event will feature live music, games, food trucks, line dancing, and a variety of community resources and organizations. Chair Smith also shared upcoming presentations: Jenny Hinton from the Office of Resilience on May 4, 2026, and Michael Haskins from SPAR on June 1, 2026. Additionally, Chair Smith reported attending a Downtown Investment Authority Evaluation Committee meeting. The committee issued a request for proposals for 330 East Bay Street. Instead of developing the entire parcel as one project, the site will be divided into multiple sections, with plans for a hotel, conference space, and food and beverage establishments.

5. Presenter:

- **Khadeja Ahmed, Jax Care Connect** - helps uninsured individuals find a primary care doctor for regular checkups and ongoing healthcare. Services are offered at low cost—or in some cases, free. For more information, call (904) 595-7770 or visit www.JaxCareConnect.org.
- **Travis Willams- CEO, Lift Jax**- Lift Jax, led by CEO Travis Williams, is driving a holistic revitalization of the Eastside through the Purpose-Built Communities model, focusing on education, housing, wellness, and economic growth. The team helped secure Eastside’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places, transformed John Love Elementary into a STEM Early Learning Center, repaired over 100 homes, transformed Debs Grocery into a community hub, and established Jacksonville’s first Main Street District. Lift Jax aims to sustain this momentum on the Eastside and expand to other neighborhoods as capacity grows. For more information, visit <https://www.liftjax.org/>

6. Staff Reports:

- **Kids Hope Alliance (KHA)**- Dr. Dana Krisner, announced the following:
 - registration for Summer Camp will open on May 1, 2026. More information is available at: <https://www.kidshopealliance.org/find-a-program/summer-programs>.
 - Dr. Krisner also shared that she would like KHA to have a stronger presence at the CPAC and will work with the incoming CEO to ensure regular participation at future meetings.

Dr. Dana Kristner: DKriznar@coj.net

- **JPL** - Greg Pierce shared the following:
 - The library is always looking for volunteers; there is an opportunity for kids ages 12-17 to volunteer at each of the 22 libraries across Jacksonville. For more information visit: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/volunteer>
 - The week of April 19–25 is Jacksonville’s annual Celebrate Reading Week, with the theme “*Reading is Magic.*”
 - Family Reading Day event at the Main Public Library on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 303 N. Laura Street.
 - The Speak up Jax Youth Poetry Slam will also be on April 25,2026 from 2pm-5pm at the Main Public Library.

Greg Pierce: GPierce@coj.net

- **DCPS** -Michele Green from DCPS presented information on upcoming summer programs.

- Michelle Green from Duval County Public Schools provided an overview of the district’s 2026 summer programs. The main academic offerings include 3rd Grade Reading Recovery and 8th Grade Credit Recovery, both running from June 8 to July 17, Monday through Friday. Third graders attend from 8:30am–3:00pm with transportation provided, while 8th graders attend 8:30am–3:15pm, but without district transportation.
- Additional Summer Programs:
 - The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Summer Enrichment Program is available for active ESOL students in both elementary and secondary schools. It also runs June 8–July 17, from 8:00am–12:00pm, with transportation included.
 - The Extended School Year (ESY) program for students with disabilities runs June 22–July 17, with schedules varying by program type.
 - Additional summer opportunities include KHA partnership camps, fee-based camps through Extended Day, and driver’s education programs.
 - For a complete list of DCPS summer programs, visit: <https://www.duvalschools.org/page/summer-programs/>

Michele Green- GreenM2@duvalschools.org

- **JTA-Cheryl-Lynn Freeman**
 - Presentation: U2C Phase2-Skway Rehabilitation & Downtown Service Expansion Project Development & Environment Study: The presentation presented JTA’s Downtown Service Expansion and the proposed options for the Skyway. For more information: (904) 630-3100

Cheryl Riddick- criddick@jtafla.com

- **JSO-Commander Jimmy Ricks**
 - A. Phillip Randolph Park (APR) & Springfield Liaison: To better connect with community and local businesses Commander Ricks has an officer assigned to APR this officer serves as a liaison between JSO and the community. This officer works directly with the officer in Springfield.
 - Riverfront Presence (North & Southbank): Thurs–Sat late evening the bicycle unit is out as well as the side-by-side unit for visibility/public relations.
 - Noise & Code:
 - Rooftop music curfews (example DECA rooftop: no music past 10 PM per agreement).

- Sound meter enforcement is complex; often routed through Code Compliance for citations.
- Parking & Food Trucks: Increased enforcement for bus stop blocking; ensuring food trucks are more than 50 ft from businesses; code citations helping compliance.

Commander Jimmy Ricks: James.Ricks@jaxsheriff.org

- **FDOT-Paige DeBold**
 - Wrong-way ramps will be constructed on Haines St., Tilden St., and US1. Construction is expected to start July 25 2026 and the estimated completion date is May 2027. Ms. DeBold does not currently have any visual concept of the project to share but anticipates on having them when she attends the July Urban Core CPAC meeting.
 - Beaver Street Improvements: A project is planned; scope/details to be confirmed.

Paige Debold: paige.debold@dot.state.fl.us

- **MCCD — William Hanks (Zone 1 Supervisor)**
 - Tree Safety & Hurricanes:
 - MCC can cite clearly dead/dangerous trees (no foliage, missing bark, evident decay)
 - Borderline cases require a Florida-certified ISA Arborist Risk Assessment
 - Once a fallen tree is fully on your property, you are responsible for the debris on your parcel
 - Access Issues: If an owner refuses an arborist access, documentation of notice to the owner is critical; insurance may treat as “Act of God” if the owner was not notified.

Williams Hanks: WHanks@coj.net

- **JFRD- Captain Charles Johnson**
 - Yard vegetation & fire safety:
 - Best practices: clear leaves/branches from roofs/gutters; trim vegetation away from structures
 - Open Burning:
 - Permitted land clearing burns are managed by Environmental Quality Division / Forestry; JFRD may request revocation for nuisance smoke.
 - Homeowner-allowed uses: small recreational/campfires, religious/ceremonial fires, outdoor food prep, worker warming.
 - Size limits (recreational): fuel area ≤3 ft diameter; ≤2 ft height.

- JFRD no longer conducts live-fire training in condemned homes (training at FSCJ South Campus).

Captain Charles Johnson: JohnsonC@coj.net

- **NSO-Martinique Glover-**

- The Cookout—Unity on the Block: Saturday, April 18, 2026 James Weldon Johnson Park, 2pm-7pm.
- District 2 Block Party (Greater Arlington/Beaches): Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Ed Austin Regional Park 10am-2pm there will be line dancing, DJ, JSO horses/helicopter, food trucks, vendors

Martinique Glover: Mglover@coj.net

7. Old Business:

- **None**

8. New Business

- Street Renaming — Ord. 2026-0140: Proposal to rename Confederate Street (between Hubbard St. and Liberty St.) to Rose Arbor Way.
 - Context: A prior proposal to rename the street to Fraser Way was not approved due to the 10-year posthumous naming requirement. The current petition was submitted by the property owner and the nonprofit operating along the corridor, and SPAR has expressed its support. The CPAC voted to support the renaming to Rose Arbor Way. Motion made and seconded. Vote: PASSED.
- Item: Add Brooklyn to the areas permitted for 3:00 a.m. alcohol service, aligning the neighborhood with existing downtown provisions. Motion made for CPAC to support including Brooklyn in the 3:00 a.m. service area. Second received. Vote: PASSED

9. Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

- **Land Use & Zoning — Dimitri Demopoulos**

- **V-26-09:** Relocation request for a nonprofit hindered by nearby sexual-predator residency distance rule. Action: No CPAC action; allow Planning Commission process to proceed.
- **Z-6759:** Zoning consolidation/consistency for phased mixed-use around Phoenix & Franklin. Action: No CPAC action at this stage; monitor in May 2026.

- **Blight & Code Enforcement — Juanita Senior**

- Urban Garden fencing: Referred to UF/IFAS Duval County Extension (property responsibility) for installation.

- Public education: Distributed brochures on solid waste, recycling, junk vehicles to residents in neighborhood.
- Vacant house security: Collaboration with Code Compliance (William Hanks) to secure/board windows and deter squatting.
- **Homelessness -Cory Haynes**
 - **Update:** No Report
- **TRUE Commission (Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures) Kim Pryor** Report delivered by Chair Ernest Smith
 - Spending Committee (Mar 5,2026): Finance Department overview—areas of overspend flagged; JTA a notable variance (~\$14M over budget).
 - Commission Meeting (March 5,2026): City Council Auditor presented Report 900 & 901; general fund reviewed

10. Public Comments & Announcements

- **Dan Durbec- Jax Litter League**
 - provided an update on the Litter League, a community litter-collection competition organized by Keep Jacksonville Beautiful. The program began at the end of March and continues through July 3,2206 Teams compete by collecting bags of trash, and the team with the highest total will win access to the city’s suite at a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Game. For more information visit: <https://www.jacksonville.gov/mayor/initiatives/keep-jax-cute/jax-litter-league>
- **John Nooney- Public Waterway Access**
 - Mr. John Nooney urged the City to improve public access to Jacksonville’s waterways, stating current access is inadequate. He described recent kayaking trips and highlighted the natural assets available to residents. He expressed concern that surrounding counties are advancing quality-of-life initiatives while Jacksonville risks falling behind. He encouraged stronger investment in local water access and offered to share additional documentation.

11. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm the next UC CPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday May 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm

