

Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
September 14, 2026, Meeting Summary
Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd. 32210
Zoom Meeting ID: 885 0647 5589 Passcode: 864564

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members In-Person: Christina Purdy, Chair; Cecil Pines Adult Living Community; Jenny Watson, CHAPS-Cedar Hills Area Preservation Society; Earnest Surmons, Vice Chair; Glenda Meadows HOA; Bernice Germer, Fishweir Neighborhood Watch;

CPAC Members Via Zoom: Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries; Sandy Simpson-Smith, Chimney Lakes HOA; Christopher Ramseyer, Watermill Master HOA; Stefanie Jorgensen Walter, Fishweir Neighborhood Watch

Excused:

Visitors: Chioma Jerome, Kathy Beck, Cynthia Hoernlein, Steve Hoernlein, John Marcus, John Chapman, Linda Swafford, Ja'Mia Brown, Shakara Ramesar

Visitors via Zoom: Bill Fonferek

Staff and Elected Officials: : Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Lieutenant J.A. Benson, JSO; LT. Kwasi Dingle, JFRD; Christie Rogers, JPL; Deborah Sibley, KHA; Jared Chemay, MCCD; Andy Hetzel, PDD; Scott Carter, PW; Damani Barro, JEA; Lisa Jennings, JEA; Pranaya Neupane, JEA; Lauren Chappell, Parks; Necole Jenkins, Neighborhood Services Office.

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Purdy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Necole Jenkins verified a quorum.
2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** A motion was made and seconded to approve August 10, 2026, meeting summary.
3. **Elected Officials:** Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14:

- Councilman Johnson thanked residents who attended a recent community meeting and provided updates on several projects. He discussed Old Middleburg Road Phase 2A, stating that a pre-construction meeting had been held to review the plans and construction impacts. He stated that the project had been for about 25–26 years. He also discussed an upcoming sidewalk project and encouraged residents with questions to submit them.
- Councilman Johnson reported that the Argyle sign would be redone and illuminated. He also updated residents on James Road Park, describing improvements including a playground, painting, and a nature trail. He stated that he hoped to hold a community fun day at the park instead of a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony. He discussed plans for an approximately 110-acre regional park, stating that \$1 million had been set aside for planning. Residents would have opportunities to provide input regarding the park's design and amenities. He also discussed the Tega Hills and Golden Rings area and plans to improve access, stating construction was expected to begin by the end of the year.
- Councilman Johnson discussed his work on the City Council Finance Committee and expressed concern about a proposed reduction involving a \$5 million portion of the Kids Hope Alliance budget. He stated such a reduction could remove approximately 5,000 children from programming and encouraged residents to remain engaged in the budget discussion. He also stated that the budget process had put and that he hoped to receive final legislation from the General Counsel's Office after the budget process. Additional comments addressed waterways and the Value Adjustment Board.
- During the questions and answer session, residents discussed possible locations for additional water access, sidewalks in developing areas, the need for a senior citizen facility, and future development on the Westside. Councilman Johnson explained that sidewalk projects generally require supporting studies and data, and he encouraged residents to submit requests through MyJax and follow up with the appropriate Council office.
- A resident also asked whether citizens would have an opportunity to meet with the Parks Department regarding the proposed regional park. Councilman Johnson stated that community participation was already incorporated into the design process and described a series of meetings where residents could review recommendations, provide feedback, and later see how their recommendations were incorporated.

4. Guest Speaker/Presentation:

5. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Lieutenant J.A. Benson provided the following public safety update:

- Lieutenant Benson reported 52,607 dispatched calls for service year-to-date, while officer-initiated calls were down nearly 6%, totaling 27,167. Traffic stops were up 26%, with 8,372 conducted so far this year. Traffic homicides within the district were reported as down 26%, while citywide traffic homicides were up approximately 11.5%. Uniform traffic citations were up 1.7%, with 10,617 citations issued. DUI citations were down 2.5%, while traffic warnings were up just over 16%.
- Citywide crimes against persons were down 1.96%, crimes against property were down 1.32%, and total crime was down 1.61%. Within District 4, crimes against persons were down 2.03%, crimes against property were down 14.94%, and total crime was down 9.25%. JSO reported that the district still had several vacancies and noted that copper theft from cell towers was citywide issue, including within District 4.
- Members asked for an update on recent vehicle break-ins. JSO reported that thefts from motor vehicles were down 4.72% year-to-date, 3% over the previous seven days, and 5% over the previous 14 days. Arrests made in some of the cases were believed to have contributed to the recent reduction. Members also discussed traffic warnings and shoplifting. JSO advised residents who witness shoplifting to contact law enforcement rather than intervene personally and risking their own safety.

Lieutenant J.A. Benson – (904) 630-8134

6. Jacksonville Fire & Rescue (JFRD) -Lt. Kwasi Dingle reported:

- Lieutenant Dingle addressed fire safety following a recent fatal fire involving children. Residents were reminded of the importance of having a home escape plan, knowing how to exit from different rooms, establishing a designated meeting location outside the home, and maintaining working smoke detectors. Residents were encouraged to test smoke detectors at least once a month. JFRD also stated that firefighters can assist residents with smoke detectors and provide guidance on developing emergency escape plans.

Lieutenant Kwasi Dingle - (904) 255-3284 or KDingle@coj.net

7. **Chair's Report:** None

8. **Staff Reports:** (3-minute Time Limit)

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) –provided updates on several projects:

- JEA representatives Damani Barro, Lisa Jennings and Pranaya Neupane discussed an upcoming electrical infrastructure project near the Florida State College Jacksonville campus and the new Fairgrounds property. The project aims to increase electrical availability and support growth in the area. Representatives explained that approximately 15 acres of JEA property would be exchanged for a narrow strip consisting of approximately 6 acres of park property to connect to existing power lines.
- The six-acre area was described as a 50-foot-wide strip along the park's eastern edge near the FSCJ CDL driving area. Representatives stated that the project would not directly abut residential properties and that the corridor would provide a safety buffer between the electrical lines and the ball fields under construction. The transmission poles were described as approximately 100 to 130 feet tall. JEA clarified that the infrastructure would support the broader electrical grid and future growth rather than solely serving the new Fairgrounds.
- A question was also raised about whether the transmission corridor would divide or negatively affect the park. JEA stated that the corridor would be along the property's outer edge and would not sever the park. Representatives also indicated that the required access road could improve access to the rear of the ball fields for Parks services and emergencies.
- Parks Department Representative Lauren Chappell accompanied JEA but stated there were no specific updates to provide. She offered to answer questions or obtain answers for members as needed.

Lisa Jennings, Community Relations & Project Outreach -(904) 665-54631 or projectoutreach@jea.com

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Christie Rogers, Branch Services Manager, announced:

- The annual Book Fest is scheduled at the downtown library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event includes nationally recognized and local authors, children's activities,

author talks, seminars, and other book-related activities. Children and teens attending the event would receive a free book. The representative stated that Book Fest typically attracts approximately 400 attendees, including many families and children.

- September was also recognized as Library Card Sign-Up Month. Residents were encouraged to visit one of the Library's 21 locations to learn more about available resources, including databases, online newspapers, and programs. Jax Book Fest Writers Day is scheduled for September 19, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. The event was described as an opportunity for authors writing .

Christie Rogers -(904) 255-6565 or ChristiR@coj.net.

Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) – Deborah Sibley announced:

- Ms. Sibley reported serving approximately 40,000 students each year through programs that include special-needs and workforce-development services.
- Ms. Sibley discussed Amendment 3 and stated that it was projected to reduce local government revenue by approximately \$12 billion annually once fully phased in during fiscal year 2031–32. According to the presentation, potential reductions in local government funding could affect programs such as summer camps, after-school programs, mentorship, and special-needs services.
- Ms. Sibley requested community feedback on children's programs throughout the city, explaining that the information would support program improvements and data-driven decision-making.
- An update was also provided regarding the organization's permanent CEO, who was expected to begin on September 21, 2026..

Deborah Sibley- sibleyd@coj.net

Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD) - Jared Chemay, Code Compliance reported:

- Mr. Chemay reported 8,237 inspections were completed in fiscal year 2026 within the Southwest CPAC area, including 813 inspections in the previous 30 days. The presentation focused primarily on junk vehicles. The representative explained the distinction between abandoned and inoperable vehicles and provided examples of conditions that could render a vehicle inoperable.

- Vehicles in the public right-of-way fall under the jurisdiction of JSO, while Municipal Code Compliance handles vehicles on private property. When a violation is identified on private property, a notice is posted and mailed to the property owner, who is provided 15 days to correct the violation. If the violation remains, nuisance abatement, citations, or referral to a special magistrate may be pursued.
- Mr. Chemay also discussed illegal roadside signs. Including those placed in the public right-of-way. Residents were advised that improperly placed signs may be considered litter and may be removed when they are clearly within the public right-of-way and are not government signs. Repeat offenders may be reported through 630-CITY(2489) or the [MyJax](#) application.
- Members asked several questions concerning debris in drainage areas, delayed [MyJax](#) requests, junk vehicles, residential automotive repairs, complaint confidentiality, overgrown properties, and enforcement procedures. Mr. Chemay explained that residents experiencing delays with a service request could request contact from a supervisor. He also explained that complainants are generally required to provide their name and address, and that this information may be obtainable through a public records request.
- Additional discussion addressed automotive repairs in residential areas, the number and condition of vehicles permitted on residential property, Code Compliance officers' ability to observe violations from neighboring properties with permission, and enforcement involving overgrown or unsecured properties.

Jared Chemay - (904)626-0736 or JChemay@coj.net.

Public Works (PW): Roy Birbal:

- Mr. Birbal provided the CPAC with the Department of Public Works Active Monthly CIP Projects Summary handout.

Roy Birbal, Chief Of Public Buildings- (904) 255-4330 or RBirbal@coj.net

9. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee-** Chair Purdy announced that the Southwest CPAC LUZ Subcommittee lacked a quorum; therefore , the three

applications scheduled for consideration will be reviewed during the full CPAC meeting.

- **Application 2026-0697 – Waiver of Road Frontage:** The application concerned property on 103rd Street between Old Middleburg Road and Smith Road. The request was to reduce the required road frontage from 240 feet to zero feet, allowing two additional mobile homes on the property. It was explained that the property had legal access to 103rd Street via an easement. A motion was made and seconded to take no action.
- **Application 2026-0695 – Conventional Rezoning:** The application involved approximately 1.12 acres. The applicant proposed splitting the property into two lots and developing one single-family home on each lot. A motion to approve the application was made and seconded. The full CPAC passed the motion unanimously.
- **Application 2026-0696 – Ken Road and 103rd Street:** It was noted that the application sheet contained a clerical error regarding the location, but the description was correct. The request was to rezone approximately 0.2 acres from Commercial Office to Commercial Community/General-2. A motion to approve was made and seconded. The full CPAC passed the motion unanimously.

Andy Hetzel - (904) 255-7821 or AHetzel@coj.net.

- **True Commission-** Bruce Tyson stated that he was unable to attend the entire TRUE Commission meeting and therefore did not have the minutes to provide a full update.
- **Park Safety Council-** Bruce Tyson reported that the Parks Safety Council would meet on September 28 and stated that the meeting was open for others to attend.

Bruce Tyson- brucejt7214@gmail.com

10. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report:

- The Neighborhood Services Coordinator provided an update regarding formation of the Nominating Subcommittee for the upcoming Chair and Co-Chair election. Three individuals were needed to serve, but one person had volunteered. Additional volunteers were requested because the subcommittee needed to meet in September in preparation for the November election.
- The Coordinator also announced that the Northwest District 5 Neighborhoods Block Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from

10a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lonnie C. Miller Park at the Amphitheater. Residents seeking additional information were invited to contact the Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

Necole Jenkins- (904)555-8261 or FJenkins@coj.net

11. Unfinished Business – None

12. New Business –None

13. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:

- During public comments, Mr. Stephen Hoernlein referenced a September meeting regarding the Old Middleburg Road project and stated that he, Gail Adams, and Gerald Hatcher had submitted letters to Councilman Johnson and Mayor Donna Deegan. Copies of the letters were provided to the Neighborhood Services Coordinator for inclusion in the official meeting records. Mr. Hoernlein thanked Councilman Johnson and expressed his desire for continued collaboration between residents and City representatives.
- An additional announcement advised residents that Kia and Hyundai vehicles had been identified as commonly stolen and that steering-wheel locks were available at a Sheriff's Office substation. An update was also provided on the relocation of the Police Memorial Building. Residents were reminded to lock their vehicles at night.

14. Adjourn: Chair Purdy adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: October 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., Jacksonville FL 32210, and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Next Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee Meeting: October 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., Jacksonville FL 32210, and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Summary prepared by Necole Jenkins, Neighborhood Coordinator, (904)255-8261 or FJenkins@coj.net.

A copy of the audio recording of this Southwest 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](#).

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days for the notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at VM-(904)255-5466, TTY-(904)255-5475, or email your request to ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net.