

**Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
March 12, 2026**

Hybrid Meeting: Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, 32208 and via ZOOM Webinar.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Sallie Barnes, Robinson’s Addition Neighborhood Association; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association, Inc.; Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, CPAC Vice Chair & Pebo Crop.; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Victor Coleman; Central Fairfax Community Association; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club; Pamela Strickland, North Jax Trout River Manor; Rhonda Boyd, NW CPAC Chair & Timber Oaks HOA; Cynthia Brown, Robinson’s Addition Neighborhood Association; Leroy Kelly, Carver International.

Excused: Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park.

Staff and Elected Officials: Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez, JFRD; Sergeant Jody Kirkland, JSO; Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Tyrone Dantzler, Parks, Recreation, and Community Service; Eugene Ford, Duval Soil and Water Conservation District; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Supervisor; Vanessa Jefferson, Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

Guests: Rochelle Gross, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Joy Burgess, Edgewater at Sunbeam HOA; Leola Williams, Sherwood Forest; Marsha Jackson, Council of Elder Affairs; Russell Jackson, LaShaundra S., Lincoln Villa; Nancy Murray, Boha Arts District; Carol Gamble, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Marsha Jackson, COEA; Jeanette Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Amaris Fuller-Avellan, Woodlawn; Yvonne Day, Riverside Collective Community Organization (RCCO); Terrence McGee, St. Paul Catholic School and Church; Nancy Wood, Leo Brown, Marilyn Brown, Metro Gardens; Melinda Ross, Edgewood Manor; Solomon L., Lincoln Estate; James Matchett.

ZOOM: Chip Harper, Military and Veterans Affairs; Doretha Tompkins, Riverview; Ernest Smith, Northside Pride; Brad Straley, Rolling Hills Neighborhood; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC; Lana Champion, Carver International; Dr. Brenda Boston-Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the March meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Vanesa Jefferson verified that a quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence**

- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** February 12, 2026, NW CPAC meeting summary was approved with noted corrections: Correcting the spelling of Dr. Washington’s name

from Stuart to Steward. Also noted that Velma Rousville was excused however, not noted as such on minutes.

- 3. Presentation:** There is no scheduled presenter on the agenda however, Chair Rhonda Boyd granted Nancy Murrey-Settle and James Matchett the opportunity to briefly speak about the upcoming Town Hall on the Neighborhood Bill of Rights.

 - Ms. Murrey and Mr. Matchett represent the Interrupt Redlining Coalition; an organization focused on land use and zoning. The coalition is currently working to update the 1995 Neighborhood Bill of Rights to strengthen its effectiveness.
 - Their objective is to provide residents with a platform to express concerns regarding their neighborhoods and to offer guidance on how to effectively communicate those concerns to City Council in efforts to promote geographic equity across the city.
 - During the presentation, Ms. Murrey referenced 2 examples as to why knowing Bill of Rights is vital: the construction of the morgue in the Brentwood neighborhood without prior notification, as well as ongoing discussions about identifying locations for new jail and detention facilities.
 - Both Ms. Murrey and Mr. Matchett emphasized that the upcoming town hall will be an important opportunity for residents to stay informed and expand their understanding of issues affecting their community.
 - They extended an invitation to attend the Town Hall, which will take place on March 23, 2026, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the IBEW Hall, located at 966 N. Liberty Street.
- 4. Elected Official Report:** None – Chair Rhonda Boyd made an appeal to the group to invite any elected official they interact with to attend the CPAC meetings.
- 5. Chair’s Report:** Announced and welcomed new Neighborhood Coordinator, Vanessa Jefferson and congratulated former Neighborhood Coordinator, Edwina Henry, on her promotion to supervisor. Reviewed list of those who volunteered to be on the Block Party Steering Committee: Members, Velma Rounsville, Elaine Billups, Constance DeVaughn, Dr. Brenda Boston-Hudson and Community Volunteers Marsha Rae Wellington, Chandra Miller and Carol Gamble.

 - Chair Rhonda Boyd asked whether anyone who attended the Urban Core Block Party could provide a brief overview of the event. Pamela Strickland, North Jacksonville Trout River Manor reported that the event was well attended and held in conjunction with the Melanin Market, featuring numerous activities, vendor booths, live bands and more. She suggested that some of the ideas from the event might be worth exploring for the Northwest CPAC block party.
 - Mr. Ernest Smith, Chair of the Urban Core CPAC, joined via Zoom. He shared that the recent event was a tremendous success and emphasized the importance of strong coordination, noting the effective planning is paramount. He encourages the group to take full advantage of their steering committee. Mr. Smith advised being willing to share information and assist in any way needed.
 - Edwina Henry announced the tentative date for the Northwest CPAC District 5 Neighborhood block party as Saturday October 24, 2026. She encouraged the steering committee to consider partnering with organizations that may also be hosting Trunk- or - Treat activities given the event’s proximity to Halloween. She also suggested developing a

list of desired activities including types of vendors, entertainment options and potential participating city agencies.

6. Staff Reports:

JSO-Sergeant Cody Kirkland advised that he was reporting in the absence of Commander Massey and shared the following information:

- Murders are down, and kidnapping decreased from one to zero, noting these incidents are typically domestic or custody related. Forcible sex offenses and robberies were at zero. Aggravated assaults dropped from 24 to 10. Simple assaults and burglaries remained consistent, arson remained at zero, and vehicle thefts decreased by fifty percent. Narcotic charges declined from 23 to 9 and weapon violations decreased from 9 to 4. Overall crime in most categories either declined or remained stable. Robberies are down by twenty percent; aggravated assaults are down by thirty-three percent.
- He also noted that JSO has many new recruits who will begin to patrol assignments in the coming months.
- In response to the question about cause of the improvements in crime statistics, Sergeant Kirkland cited several contributing factors: increased patrol presence, specialized units targeting repeat offenders, and the expanded use of Real-time Crime Cameras (RTC), which aid in rapid response and evidence collection. He encouraged residents to install lighting, cameras and to secure vehicles and homes. He referenced the FACES program, which can identify previously arrested individuals within minutes when high quality video is available.
- Concerns were raised about portable toilets left at construction sites being used at night and construction workers working late into the evening. Sergeant Kirkland explained that unauthorized use of the portable toilets on an active construction site constitutes felony trespassing and encouraged residents to call police. Also shared that construction activity is generally limited to sunrise-to-sunset hours; he recommended contacting Code Enforcement for specific regulations.
- Question was raised about obtaining crime statics at neighborhood level rather than zone wide. He advised using the crime-mapping tool under the transparency tab on www.jaxsheriff.org which allows users to search for crime by neighborhood, crime type and timeframes. Officer Shirley Johnson is District 5's Crime Officer and is also available for assistance.
- A Community member commended JSO for reducing prostitution activity and addressing trucking related concerns. However, reported a resurgence of prostitution at 939 Garfield St. Sergeant Kirkland noted the concern and will follow-up. Regarding trucks, he shared that four truck related citations were issued the previous week.
- Concern noted and request made for assistance with excessive speeding issues on Kinlock Drive. There is concern for safety of children, elderly and disabled in the community. Sergeant Kirland advised he will have speed monitoring signs posted for couple of weeks and if speeding continues, he will involve traffic enforcement officers.

Sergeant Cody Kirkland- jsodistrict5@jaxsheriff.org

DCPS- Paula Renfro- reported March 16th-20th is Spring break and offices will be closed.

- Updates regarding facilities: Duval County School Board recently designated Hidden Oaks, George Washington Carver and R. V. Daniels as surplus schools, two additional properties were sold: Annie R. Morgan to the My Village Project for \$1.25 million, and Kings Trail Elementary to Dream Finders for \$3.75 million. The funds return to the capital budget to support major maintenance projects across the district.
- A daily dashboard is available on the DCPS website, listing the status of district properties, including schools scheduled for demolition and any maintenance projects. This tool is located on the DCPS’s main page under “Duval Re-Imagine”. Also provides information on capital allocations. See Below. [Master Facility Plan/Half-Penny | Duval County Public Schools](#)
- An update was given on the Schools of Hope legislation, which allows charter schools to co-locate within existing public-school facilities that are not operating at full capacity. In these cases, DCPS remains responsible for security, food services, utilities and other overhead expenses. It was verified that charter schools do not pay for building use and a per-student tax allocation follows enrolled students.
- Community member voiced concerns regarding preserving the historical names of schools slated for demolition and about neighborhood students being transported to other areas in the city. Ms. Renfro advised that DCPS is discussing options such as memorial gardens and generally aims to consolidate schools within the same community whenever feasible.
- Data was requested regarding the number of students that will be affected by surplus of schools in the Northwest quadrant. Ms. Renfro advised that she bring this specific information to next meeting, however, it can be found on the earlier mentioned dashboard.
- Question asked about the efforts to encourage students to return from charter schools to public schools, including how DCPS plans to better support students with special educational needs. Ms. Renfro shared that the district is investing in personnel and strategies to enhance inclusivity and has received a \$3 million dollar grant to support students with learning priorities, including training for general education teachers.
- Chair, Rhonda Boyd asked if attending the School Board meetings will give an opportunity to ask questions and get feedback. Ms. Renfro advised school board meetings are mainly for public comment rather than discussion. However, she would serve as liaison between CPAC and School Board to have questions and concerns addressed. Due to lateness of hour and remaining speaker, Chair asked anyone with additional questions to speak with Ms. Renfro outside or give questions to Neighborhood Service Coordinator so there can be follow-up.
Paula Renfro -renfro@duvalschools.org

JTA- Cheryl Reddick- provided information regarding current scheduled meetings to discuss the future of the Skyway Project. She has flyers and advised there are two remaining meeting dates: March 24th and 26th with sessions from 11am-1pm and 5pm-7pm. Residents can view scenarios, watch an informational video, ask

questions and vote on their preferred option. Additionally, details are available at JTAFL.com

- Shared that new bus fares took effect on February 1, 2026, as part of a six-month pilot program. Single trips are now \$1 and other fare information is listed on the flyers. Riders 65 and older continue to ride for free. Also, flyers are available for those who need information about the paratransit eligibility and application process.
- Door-to-Store Program continues to offer free transportation to grocery stores in designated services zones. This individualized service requires only that residents call to make a reservation.

Cheryl Riddick - CRiccick@jtafla.com

Military and Veterans Affairs- Chip Harper (via zoom) reported.

- The 9th Annual Military Spouses Night Out will be held June 4, 2026 from 5pm-8pm at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena. The event is free for spouses of U.S. and Allied Military active duty, guard, reserve and retired service members. Activities include hair styling, wine, food and various vendors. Event is free of charge.
- Legal services are offered twice monthly at the Military Affairs and Veterans' Office: 2nd Tuesday from 9am-12 pm, and 3rd Thursday 9am-12pm monthly with five appointment slots per session.
- Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are also available at local libraries: Charles Webb Regional Library on the second Tuesday 10am-2pm and Pablo Creek Regional Library on the third Wednesday 10am-2pm.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services -Tyrone Dantzler announced the launch of a new teen pilot program HOOP2NITE+ This Friday Nite series is designed to provide safe and engaging recreational activities for teens. The first event will take place this Friday from 6pm to 9pm. Flyers are available, listing locations and additional information.

- Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is actively preparing for Summer Camps. Multiple pools across the city are scheduled to open in June. and the department is currently hiring lifeguards, tennis instructors and camp counselors.
- Regarding a status update on the redevelopment project for Lonnie Miller Park, Mr. Dantzler shared that the project is approximately two years from completion. Plans features include expanded green space, sports complex and sport facilities for tennis, football, soccer and basketball plus a variety of activities for youth.
- In response to question regarding pickle ball activities, Mr. Da shared that currently these activities are being offered at both the Legends and Cuba Hunter Centers in the am hours.

Tyrone Dantzler- TDantzler@coj.net

MCCD- Chad Owens-

- Reported significant progress over the last thirty days in reducing the backlog cases and addressing the incoming complaints. More than 1,450 inspections were completed during this reporting period and staff continues to process over 90 new complaints daily to stay ahead of increased activities expected during the summer months.
- Mr. Owens shared that he met with two neighborhood associations to share information about Code Enforcement services and plans to visit additional groups to strengthen communication and collaboration.
- Question asked if there were any resources for the elderly and disabled to assist with upkeep and repairs to their properties. Mr. Owens advised regarding upkeep such as mowing the lawn or trash removal the Jacksonville Assistance Relief (JAR) Program provides support for yard upkeep and Code Enforcement related needs. Residents would need to complete an application with is located on the Code Enforcement website. He will follow up with the Housing Department and bring back the information regarding the housing repair program.
- Question and concern were made regarding tractor trailers parked in residential neighborhoods. Mr. Owens confirmed that this is not permitted and made note of the violation reported at 6644 Thurgood Drive. He advised that he would conduct an inspection.

Chad Owens- ChadO@coj.net

Public Library- Not present advised will email information.

JFRD-Lieutenant Hernandez

- Provided safety tips and recommendations regarding smoke alarms. He reminded residents to replace smoke alarm batteries when the time changes each year. He emphasized that smoke could incapacitate individuals within two to three minutes, making early detection critical. Adults over 65 are twice as likely to die in a house fire and those over 75 and older are three times as likely to die, stressing the importance of timely alerts.
- JFRD offers installation and battery replacement services for smoke alarms. Requests can be submitted at JFRD.com or by calling (904) 630-2489. Also informed that JFRD has a fire safety simulator trailer utilized for public education. It can be requested for events by going to their website under public education.
- In response to question regarding hard wired alarms, he notes that the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) does recommend hard wire alarms as well as having smoke alarms both in and outside of every bedroom. In addition, it's also recommended to replace smoke alarms every ten years.

Jorge Hernandez- JorgeH@coj.net

Neighborhood Services Office- Vanessa Jefferson provided a brief statement expressing being excited about being able to work together addressing needs and issues in the community.

Vanasa Jefferson - Vjefferson@coj.net

7. **Old Business** – None.

8. **New Business** –None.

9. **Subcommittee and Liaisons Reports:**

- **Land Use and Zoning-** Ginny Winters, on behalf Chair, Roxanne Currier reported that two properties for rezoning changes were discussed: 2026-0167 and 2026-169. After discussion the committee voted, and no action was taken on either property.
- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission:** Velma Rounsville- Advised this report summarizes the January and February meetings of the T.R.U.E. Commission. Key items discussed included the Council Auditor’s Report No. 899, which reviewed the quarterly summary for the 12-month period ending September 30 2025. The report noted unfavorable variances of approximately \$1.3 million for Fire and rescue and \$65,000 for the Executive Office of the Mayor, largely due to overtime and part-time salary costs. JTA also reported an unfavorable variance.
- The Commission introduced a new Income and Spending Committee, formed last month to review all City expenditures prior to the budget cycle. JSO staffing study will be updated to assess JSO staffing needs, including the appropriate number of officers and support personnel
- Additionally, discussion covered the City’s reconciliation timeline, the annual closing of financial books on the ongoing implementation of the Cloud Accounting System. The subcommittee plans to invite a representative in April to provide status for the accounting system.
- **Blight Subcommittee:** Vanessa Cullins Hopkins reported meeting was very productive as Supervisor Owens from MCCD shared department will shift its focus towards outreach, education and increased face-to-face engagement.
- Aim to assist property owners seeking compliance by collaborating with them before case escalates. He plans to meet with neighborhood associations to explain municipal code policies. This will allow the community members to ask questions and receive proper guidance.
- Most cases have been resolved except for a couple cases. Noted were long-standing Fernandina Avenue case, which is moving to the magistrate and Ken Knight Drive case, which is pending and awaiting scheduling for the waste haulers and one additional case.
- The Northside Pride Organization were guests at the meeting. They shared information about the upcoming Blight Clean up and Celebration Event, being held on April 25, 2026, at 10am at Simon Johnson Park and invited the

community to attend. A planning meeting for the event is being held at the Bradham and Brooks Library on March 30, 2026, at 6pm and everyone is invited to attend.

10. Public Comments and Announcements-

- Office of Councilwoman Jacoby Pitman announced having a State of Fair Housing Event being held o Saturday, April 11, 2026, for 10am to 2pm at the Jacksonville Main Public Library, 303 North Laura Street. Event is free but must register.
- Roxie McLeod shared Panama Park Neighborhood Association will unveil its new mural on April 25th, 2026, in their “Common Ground” community garden.
- Trey Ford from St. John Riverkeeper invited everyone to a boat ride scheduled for March 16 at 9am leaving form Bert Maxwell Park. Also mentioned there will be an Oyster Festo April 18, 2026, 11am-5pm at Riverview Park
- Russel Jackson shared details about a community event providing melas for senior 55 and up, first come, first serve on March 23,206at 12pm located at 211 University Boulevard.

- 11. Adjourn:** It was properly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:42pm.

Next meeting, Thursday April 9, 2026, at 6pm at the Legends Center located at 5130 Soutel Drive.