

## **Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee May 6, 2024, Meeting Summary**

Hybrid Meeting: Jacksonville Main Public Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Conference Level, Multipurpose Room, and on ZOOM.

### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Members:** Bryant Shumaker, CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Becca Dingler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Marilyn McGee, First United Methodist Church; Joni Turner, Groundwork Jacksonville; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Michael Haskins, SPAR Council.

**Excused:** Juanita Senior, CPAC Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch.

**ZOOM:** Rev. Keith Davis, All things Common Ministries; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Ernest Smith, II, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Bill Hoff, SAMBA; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Jennell Milton, JEA; Chip Harper, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Ernest Smith, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Rodnae Johnson, Community Connect; R. Cargile Jamison; Dr. Justine Redling; iPad.

**Elected Officials and Staff:** The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County School Board Member; Chris Billings; M CCD; Sergeant Daniel Hughes; JSO, Jimmie Carter, Consumer Affairs; Captain James Groff, JFRD; Keli Likins, JPL; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development Department; Michael Pinckney, Public Works Department – Solid Waste.

**Guests:** Honey Holzendorf, OutEast; John "Philanthropic Resilient" Nooney; Tiffany Clark, Parents Who Lead; Latrice Carmichael, Parents Who Lead; Ariane Randolph, Historic Eastside; Paul Houchens, Parks at the Cathedral; David Johnson.

### **Meeting Summary**

**1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Edwina Henry verified a quorum was present.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** CPAC Members approved the April 1, 2024, meeting summary.

**3. Presenters:** Mr. Jimmie Carter, Manager of Regulatory Compliance – Consumer Affairs Office, City of Jacksonville, and Ms. Kristin Keen, Founder and CEO, Rethreaded. The discussion topic is human trafficking in the Jacksonville area.

Mr. Jimmie Carter's presentation focused on human trafficking awareness, and a brief outline of other duties of the Consumer Affairs Office, such as landlord/tenant rights/disputes, food truck permits, ice cream truck permits, permits to feed the homeless, etc.

- A working definition of human trafficking is that it is a form of modern-day slavery, and it is happening every day, all around the world.
- City of Jacksonville Ordinance Code Chapter 250 was amended to create subsection 250.125 -Public Lodging, Gas Station, and Convenience Store Establishment Human Trafficking Public Awareness.
- In accordance with 250.125, the Office of Consumer Affairs is required to inspect all convenience stores and gas stations. Ensuring all stores are registered in the data base, employees have completed the proscribed training for human trafficking awareness and human trafficking signs have been posted.
- JSO is the primary enforcement agency for compliance with the ordinance, JFRD and the Office of Consumer Affairs will provide secondary support in reporting violations to JSO. The Office of Consumer Affairs has implemented a Public Awareness Outreach Program, explaining the requirements of the ordinance.
- Mr. Carter and his investigator are required to visit every convenience store and gas station in Jacksonville every six weeks. They try to cover 25-30 locations a day, working six days a week.
- Penalties for violations of the ordinance include written warnings, \$500 fine for Class "F" violations (nude establishments and public lodging), and \$125 fine for Class "C" violations (gas stations and convenience stores).
- According to the Office for Victims of Crime: there has been 3,788 arrests (1,949 charges filed) for sex trafficking, 31 arrests for labor trafficking and 164 arrests for sex and labor trafficking – for the State of Florida.
- Boys represent the fastest growing segment of identified human trafficking victims.
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP to 23373.
- Please contact JSO to report any suspicious activity at (904) 630-0500 for non-emergencies or 911 for emergencies.

**Jimmie Carter** – (904) 630-CITY or (904)255-7198 – [JimCarter@coj.net](mailto:JimCarter@coj.net)

Ms. Kristin Keen, Founder and CEO of Rethreaded, an organization which works with victims and survivors of human trafficking. Ms. Keen began her talk with a discussion of how one of her clients had been "cultivated" and trafficked at the age of 24, after her husband left her with small children to care for on her own.

- Ms. Keen provided a working definition of "human trafficking" as the use of force, and/or broader coercion to perform a sex act for profit.
- Ms. Keen shared the experience of a former Rethreaded client. This particular client had been trafficked for 10 years, and the FBI had been tracking her for four years. During the four years, the FBI were able to learn that her trafficker was controlling the lives of 36 other women. The trafficker was operating out of a hotel on the corner of I-95 and Southside Boulevard.
- The client faced many obstacles after getting out of "the life." Her children were taken away from her, she did not have proper identification, no drivers' license. She was ostracized and was unable to secure employment. Eventually, the FBI directed the client to Rethreaded.
- Rethreaded was able to provide long-term employment, career training, mental health services and other supports to assist her in rebuilding her life.

- After two years, the client was able to obtain a drivers' license, she was also the first woman in Northeast Florida to have her criminal record expunged. She eventually obtained a car, secured an apartment, regained custody of her kids and started college.
- After five years, the client was able to leave Rethreaded, secured a job as a paralegal and currently sits on the Rethreaded Board.
- The reason this particular client ended up at Rethreaded, is because someone saw something at a gas station and called in a tip. That tipped off the police, who then contacted the FBI. That's when the FBI started following the client.
- Ms. Keen stated that education matters. Knowing what to look for matters. Rethreaded gets to see miracle after miracle of women who have been given up on and want to reclaim their lives.
- Rethreaded is working with JSO to educate as many people as possible about human trafficking.

**Kristin Keen** – (904) 438-8109 or [info@rethreaded.com](mailto:info@rethreaded.com)

**4. Elected Officials Reports:** The Honorable Warren Jones, Schoolboard Member, Duval County Public Schools, gave the following updates:

- The Duval County Schoolboard will meet with the six semi-finalists on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 2 pm to narrow the finalists from six to three applicants. Community Engagement with the three finalists is strongly encouraged. All meetings with the applicants are open to the public. The schoolboard will vote later in May 2024 to select the next superintendent.
- In an effort to find a solution to the Duval County Public School District's financial problems, relative to the Facilities Master Plan, Dr. Kriznar asked the Enrollment Study Consultant to provide a "best case scenario," that can be used to maximize funding set aside for the Facilities Master Plan.
- Any time an elementary school has an enrollment under 800 students, or a middle school with less than 1,100, or a high school with less than 2,400 students enrolled, the Duval County Public School District must subsidize that school with additional funding.
- The consultant developed a list of school closures and consolidations to maximize savings. Schoolboard Member Jones does not feel the board will not have the appetite to close all of the schools on the list.
- Public meetings on school closures and consolidations will begin later in May 2024, to get public input and to give the Duval County Public School Board an opportunity to explain the problem. Public input will be used to make adjustments as necessary.
- For information on the schools identified for closure or consolidation, along with the Master Facilities Plan and the Enrollment Study, go to [www.duvalschools.org](http://www.duvalschools.org).

**The Honorable Warren Jones** – (904) 390-2000 or [jonesw2@duvalschools.org](mailto:jonesw2@duvalschools.org)

**5. Chair's Report:** UC CPAC Chair Shumaker began his report by reminding everyone to keep reports and questions to three minutes in order to be respectful of everyone's time.

- Chair Shumaker introduced the newest Urban Core CPAC Member, Joni Turner, Groundwork Jacksonville, and asked her to come forward to receive her new member's packet and to take her place at the table.
- The Urban Core CPAC is growing. It now has 15 member organizations. The representative from Parks at the Cathedral HOA has resigned, however, the HOA has identified a replacement, so that is a pending membership.

- The Urban Core CPAC has three members who recently graduated from CommUniverCity: Michael Haskins, SPAR; Joni Turner, Groundwork Jacksonville; and Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville. Chair Shumaker described CommUniverCity as an educational program, offered by the Neighborhood Services Office, for community leaders to learn more about city government and how city government works, and more importantly how that knowledge can be used to help benefit our various communities.

## **6. Staff Reports:**

**JEA** – Jennell Milton, Government Relations Coordinator, shared a couple of updates:

- JEA Customers are now receiving carbon-free, nuclear energy from Plant Vogel's Units 3 and 4 to help power the community. Ms. Milton stated that this marks a big step for new nuclear energy in our country and a key milestone for JEA, which is working towards clean energy goals.
- JEA will continue to diversify their portfolio to provide sustainable and reliable energy.
- JEA's residential and smaller commercial customers in Northeast Florida will have access to a comprehensive customer assistance program to provide an unbiased source of information on rooftop solar systems. In collaboration with Resource Innovations, a sustainable energy solutions provider, JEA's Solar Concierge program will help ensure informed decision-making about potential solar installations by explaining project costs, time and the potential impacts on their electric bills.
- Participating customers will be able to receive multiple solar installation project bids from verified contractors through tools on the website.
- This program will allow JEA to vet contractors verifying that they meet business licensing and insurance requirements and that they have been trained by JEA experts on proper solar to residents' interconnection procedures.
- Ms. Milton also added that JEA does not endorse, guarantee, or warranty performance. JEA aims to improve the relationship between customers and the solar contractors to help prevent grievances stemming from such things as faulty installations or misleading assertions regarding potential energy savings.
- For more information go to: [www.jea.com/SolarConcierge](http://www.jea.com/SolarConcierge) or email: [solarconcierge@JEA.com](mailto:solarconcierge@JEA.com).

**Jennelle Milton** - (904) 665-5102 or [miltjl@jea.com](mailto:miltjl@jea.com)

**JPL** – Keli Likins, Executive Assistant II, Library Services, announced the Main Public Library's next "Lit Chat" will feature Jeff Goodell, author of "The Heat Will Kill You First," and other environmental nonfiction.

- The date of the Lit Chat is Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 2:00 pm. The program is in partnership with the St. John's River Keepers and the Jacksonville Climate Coalition.
- The format will be an interview of the author, followed by audience Question and Answer, and a book signing following the interview. Books will also be available for purchase.
- For more information and to reserve a seat, go to: [www.jaxpubliclibrary.org](http://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org).

**Keli Likins** – (904) 255-6090 or [Klikins@coj.net](mailto:Klikins@coj.net)

**MCCD** – Chris Billings, Code Compliance Supervisor stated that since April 1, 2024:

- Municipal Code Compliance Officers conducted 1,397 inspections within the Urban Core CPAC, which resulted in:

- Identifying 656 nuisance properties; 91 abandoned properties, and 175 unsafe structures.
- On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, MCCD began a project on Eighth Street, resulting in 29 properties cited and several other interdepartmental issues reported.
- MCCD is focused on commercial properties and businesses, looking for abandoned and unmaintained properties and lots to help promote proper maintenance and to ensure uniform compliance.
- Due to several complaints of garbage in the right of way, excessive garbage on properties, major automobile repairs and residential properties, commercial vehicles, and abandoned properties, MCCD will conduct a systematic review of the Moncrief neighborhood. The project is scheduled to start May 28, 2024. Chris Billings stated that he anticipates that between 100 and 150 properties will be cited during that project.
- Municipal Code Ordinance Chapter 518 requires that all properties are maintained free of overgrowth, weeds, and other nuisance vegetation; and that exterior properties must be kept free of trash and debris.
- As a reminder, the Atlantic Hurricane season begins June 1, and everyone is urged to begin preparations for preventative maintenance around their homes and yards. Key areas to focus on include trees on your property or neighboring properties which may need trimming. Look for dead, dying, or damaged trees and feel free to report these to 630-CITY.
- MCCD also recommends checking the exterior of your homes looking for possible signs of deterioration to the roof, exterior walls, and making sure that windows and doors are properly sealed.
- MCCD appreciates and encourages the reporting of issues to help notify his division of potential issues by calling the City's Customer Service Center at (904) 630-CITY or by visiting Jacksonville.gov to access the myjax reporting application, or go to: [www.myjax.custhelp.com](http://www.myjax.custhelp.com). Citizens can always visit the MCCD Office in the Ed Ball building at 214 N. Hogan Street on the Seventh Floor.

**Chris Billings** – (904) 497-9543 or [CBliings@coj.net](mailto:CBliings@coj.net)

**JSO** - Sergeant Daniel Hughes is from the JSO Bicycle (Bike) Unit.

- The Bike Unit has four squads that work in the Urban Core, and functions as a "directed patrol." Meaning that they are assigned where needed: sporting events, special events, assisting with crowd control, etc.
- The biggest area of concern for the bike unit right now are the homeless getting into vacant houses. The bike unit works with Municipal Code Compliance to keep vacant houses secured.
- If there is a concern in the area, or if there's an event coming up, Sergeant Hughes suggests calling and requesting a bike unit "ride through."

**Sergeant Daniel Hughes** – (904) 630-8144 or [JSODistrict1@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:JSODistrict1@jaxsheriff.org)

**Public Works Department** - Michael Pinckney, Solid Waste Superintendent stated that this time of year is the busy season for Public Works.

- May 10 and 11, 2024, are the dates for the JaxReady Fest, organized by the Emergency Preparedness Division. The entire Public Works Division will be there, along with other city agencies and JTA. Mr. Pinckney encouraged everyone to attend.

**Michael Pinckney** – (904) 255-7500 or [MPinckne@coj.net](mailto:MPinckne@coj.net)

**JFRD** - Captain James Groff announced a new city resource received through a tri-county grant:

- The trailer's cost was \$180,000 and is to be shared with Baker and Clay Counties.
- A fire and rescue trailer for public education use, equipped with a generator and solar power, and it even has a storm simulator.
- The trailer also has regular kitchen safety simulations and fire simulations for the home.
- The safety trailer will be at JaxReady Fest May 10 and 11, 2024 and will also be available for other events.

**Captain James Groff** – (904) 255-8320 or [JGroff@coj.net](mailto:JGroff@coj.net)

**Neighborhood Services Office** – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, gave the following reminders:

- Please read through the agenda packets carefully, as it contains lots of important and useful information.
- The Neighborhood Awards Program is accepting applications through May 23, 2024. This is the time for those community and neighborhood organizations to do a little bit of bragging about the wonderful things you are doing in your communities. There is a Neighborhood Awards flier in your agenda packet.

**Edwina Henry** – (904) 255-8260 or [EHenry@coj.net](mailto:EHenry@coj.net)

**7. Old Business:** None.

**8. New Business:** None.

**9. Subcommittees and Liaison Reports:**

- **Governmental Affairs/LUZ Subcommittee** – Dimitri Demopoulos: The subcommittee took no action, but wanted to be sure that Planning and Development would bring up any discussions that the developers need to take into consideration for how PUD 2024-0274 made at the Armory, is going to interact with the Emerald Trail (meaning: consulting with JTA, GroundWork Jacksonville, etc.). The subcommittee also had a public comment about preserving public access to Hogans Creek.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Ernest Smith: (Chaired the subcommittee on behalf of Ms. Juanita Senior) The Blight Subcommittee met on April 20, 2024.
  - Subcommittee member Kim Pryor is to follow up with Hank Rogers, Jacksonville Housing Authority (JHA), to obtain the list of 27 JHA-owned, vacant properties.
  - The subcommittee also learned that there is a "disconnect" between MCCD and City owned properties cited for blight (PIC Cases) – the normal process is not followed, and City agencies are left on an "honor system" to address the blight concerns.
  - The subcommittee is recommending to the full CPAC that a list of blight cases opened on property owned by the City of Jacksonville within the last year, be requested from MCCD.
  - Mr. Smith made a motion to request a list of PIC Cases opened on city-owned blighted properties within the last year. The purpose of requesting the PIC List is to understand how many city-owned properties have been cited for blight and so the Blight Subcommittee can do follow-ups. The Motion passed.
  - Mr. Smith reminded the CPAC to bring all blight issues/concerns to the Blight Subcommittee.

- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Cory Haynes: The Homelessness Subcommittee met on April 29, 2024. The subcommittee discussed homelessness and how the UC CPAC may be able to have an impact.
  - JASMYN has some funds available to assist homeless individuals between the ages of 18 to 29. Mr. Haynes distributed cards to be used during outreach to direct individuals to JASMYN for assistance.
  - Other issues discussed by the subcommittee were: research a proven model of homelessness remediation that can be discussed by the subcommittee for future recommendations/action items; the subcommittee also wanted to look at a "point in time" to have a better understanding of the scope of homelessness in Jacksonville. (refer to Changing Homelessness website); next recommendation was to look at what programs or services the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services offers to see if there is anything that could be of benefit to this population; the subcommittee is also interested in finding out if there are any resources committed to Homelessness in the FY 25 budget for the City.
- **Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures, T.R.U.E., Commission** – Kim Pryor reported that the commission discussed contracts, property given to nonprofits and monitoring deed restrictions. The next T.R.U.E. Commission meeting agenda will include review of the City's Procurement manual. The Commission meets the first Thursday of each month at 4 pm, 117 W. Duval Street, City Hall in the Don Davis Room.

**10. Public Comments:**

- Chip Harper, Military Affairs and Veterans (MAVD) Department announced upcoming events.
  - May 9, 2024 – a Food Farmacy from 10 am to 1 pm.
  - May 14, 2024 - Free legal services from Three Rivers, 117 W. Duval St., Ste 175
  - May 16, 2024 – Free legal services from JAX Legal Aid, 117 W. Duval St., Ste 175
  - May 27, 2024 – Annual Memorial Day Observance, beginning at 8:30 am
  - June 20, 2024 – Military Spouses' Night Out
 For more information, please contact Chip Harper at (904) 255-5537 or [ClarenceH@coj.net](mailto:ClarenceH@coj.net)
- John Nooney, Planning District 3, shared his concerns regarding "Resilient Jacksonville", and advocated for public access to the Jacksonville waterways.
- Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville, announced a public review of plans for the Shipyards Park and the John Weldon Johnson Park on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the Main Public Library and again at the Downtown Development Review Board.

**11. Adjourn:** The UC CPAC Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.