

Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

September 22, 2025, Meeting Summary

Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Meeting Attendance:

Members: Laura Backus, San Jose Neighborhood Association; Walter Bryant, St. Nicholas Area Preservation; Jonathan Burgess, Edgewater at Sunbeam Condo Association; Richard Cardell, The Lakewood Community; Carol D'Onofrio, Edison HOA; Jose Gonzalez, Mandarin Community Center; Donna Herrin, Sweetwater by Del Webb; Debbie Johnson, The Gables Homeowners Association; Jennifer Joiner, Sans Souci Neighborhood Association; Scott Koslowski, James Island Homeowners Association; Matthew Little, San Marco Preservation Society; Kathy Soares, Highland Glen HOA; Marcie Turner, Kernan Mill Community Association, Inc; Gary Weise, Secret Cove Civic Association.

Excused: Joyce Brown, Pine Forest Community Action Corp; Abby Howard Murphy, Hampton Glen at Deerwood HOA; Jon Malmind, Oak View Corner Oaks Owners Association; Shann Mills, San Jose Forest; Craig Shoup, Council At Large Group 2 Representative; Catie Wallace, Edgewater at Sunbeam Condo Association.

Visitors: K. Lucille Bennett, Mandarin Point; John Nooney; Errol White, Mayor's African American Advisory Board; Brittany Cohill, Mandarin Museum.

Staff: Rahman Johnson, City Council Member, District 4; Andrew Powers, District 14 City Council Assistant; Kaysie Cox, Planning and Development; Dereck Dixon, FDOT; Evin Herzberg, District 11 Council Assistant; Petena Tillman, JSO; Lt. Jorge Hernandez, JFRD; Rudy McClain, Municipal Code Compliance; Maddie Read, Planning Department; Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Services; Justin Davis, Neighborhood Services; Cindy Pearson, DCPS.

Call to Order/Verify Quorum:

Chair Koslowski called the SE CPAC meeting to order at 6:32 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting at the Mandarin Senior Center. Chair Koslowski verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – The August 2025 meeting summary was approved.

Presentation(s): Jacksonville City Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14, presented a PowerPoint on the Neighborhood Bill of Rights. He emphasized the crucial role of the community in this initiative, seeking to codify the NBR and embed it into Jacksonville's Municipal Code Compliance ordinance. Councilman Johnson believes there would be many benefits to codifying the NBR. He expects to file an ordinance by the third quarter of 2025, inviting the community to participate in the process.

Council Member Rahman Johnson, Ph.D., District 14 - (904) 613-6820 or Rahman@coj.net.

Mayors' Liaison – Charles Griggs: Not Present
Charles Griggs – 904-255-5000

Elected Officials Report:

Jacksonville City Council, District 11 Council Member Assistant Evin Herzberg, announced he is working with Council Member Arias, the finance committee chair, to finalize the finance budget. We have received multiple emails from citizens regarding the property tax cut, the millage rate, and the Mayor's budget. We are responding to these emails accordingly.

Council Member Raul Arias – (904)255-5211 or AriasR@coj.net.

Duval County Public Schools, District 3 – Cindy Pearson shared the following updates:

- For the 2024/2025 school year, 43 students were hit by vehicles on their way to or from school, including three fatalities. So far this year, we have had six students hit by cars and one fatality. In response, DCPS has launched the Be Safe, Be Seen campaign. We have placed banners outside our schools, and information packets are available for parents and students at each grade level. These packets include information emphasizing the importance of safety while walking or biking to and from school.
- • Career and Technical Education: There is a DCPS event scheduled for November 1, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at UNF (Herbert Center), where everyone can learn about the programs available at each school. Every high school, most middle schools, and some elementary schools in our district have CTE programs. Brochures with details about what each school offers are available.

Cindy Pearson – pearsonC1@duvalschools.org.

Staff Reports:

JSO – Commander Tillman reported:

- In the past 30 days, Zone 3 crime statistics have shown a significant 14% decrease in overall crimes. Year to date, it is down by 12.32%. Violent crimes are down by 3%. Property crimes have decreased by 17%. Although there is a slight increase in motor vehicle burglaries, the overall trend remains positive. We encourage you to continue locking your car and property doors and to use Police substations for exchanging online purchases.
- • When shopping, stay aware of your surroundings and cover valuables in your vehicle. Remind family and friends celebrating to use a rideshare or a designated driver. This can help reduce traffic crashes and fatalities.
- • Coffee with a Cop will be held on October 1, 2025, at Gregory's in the main entrance of St. John's Town Center.
- • Call 904-630-8100 to report panhandlers or homeless campsites.
- • We urge you to participate in the 9 p.m. Routine. Remember to lock your doors and keep your vehicles secured. Never store valuables, especially firearms, in your car. Your vigilance can significantly enhance our community's safety.

Commander Tillman – 904-630-8100 or JSODistrict3@jaxsheriff.org.

JFRD – Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez reported:

- To reduce the risk of accidental fires, clear at least 5 ft. of dead vegetation and maintain a 30 ft. clearance around your home. Properly store flammable liquids to help lower the risk as well. Bonfires are allowed with a permit and must follow safety requirements.
- JFRD reports 9,449 total calls, 7,870 from EMS (1,134 fire-related, 444 assisted public calls)

Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez – JorgeH@coj.net.

JPL – Eric Soriano shared the following updates:

- September is designated as the month of Library Card Sign Up to remind everyone of the value of having a library card. Sign up via jaxlibrary.org.
- September is the month of Library Card Sign-Up.
- The Mandarin Branch Library will host a history chat with Tim Gilmore on October 13, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. about Stetson Kennedy's life and legacy. More information is available on the library's website.
- At the same branch on October 14, 2025, we will celebrate the end of Hispanic Heritage Month with fun and a family-friendly Latin dance demo.
- Mandarin Library book sale will be on October 17 and 18, 2025.
- For a complete list of information, please visit www.JaxPublicLibrary.org.

Eric Soriano – ESoriano@coj.net.

Florida Department of Transportation – Derek Dixon shared the following updates:

To answer the question about the 103rd St. and Old Middleburg Road widening project, Brie Isom, whose phone number is 904-360-5457, is the contact person. The project is scheduled to be finished by late 2025.

Derek Dixon – Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us.

Municipal Code Compliance Division – Rudy McClain reported that citizens can report vagrants through the MyJax app or by calling the customer service department at (904) 630-CITY (2489). MCCD is partnering with the Blight Initiative Department to investigate blighted issues. We are starting a new project behind Walmart on Phillips Highway.

Rudy McClain – 904-255-7000

Planning & Development Department – Erin Abney facilitated the LUZ Subcommittee. Five land use and zoning applications were discussed.

Kaysie Cox – 904-255-7853

LUZ Subcommittee Chair– Jose Gonzalez – Nothing to report.

Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (3-minute time limit):

North Florida TPO – Jim Hill – Not present.

Park Safety Council – Walter Bryant – No Report.

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Ramon Day – Not Present

Neighborhoods Department – Justin Davis & Michelle Godwin-Ware – No updates.

Michelle Godwin - 904-255-8250 or michellegw@coj.net

Chair's Report - Chair Koslowski announced it is time to select the Chair and Vice Chair Nomination Subcommittee. Carol D'Onofrio, Debbie Johnson, and Donna Herrin volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Chair Koslowski and Vice Chair Gonzalez stated they would be willing to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 CPAC term. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during November's election if others are interested in running for Chair and Vice Chair. Chair Koslowski also announced that the CPAC Chairs met with the mayor, and many discussed items related to Land Use and Zoning. The mayor mentioned they are working to recruit more people for the Planning Commission and emphasized the importance of citizen attendance at the various City Council and committee meetings. She also said a zoning overhaul is underway, but it will take some time.

CPAC Member Comments: None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business:

A suggestion for a presentation on how the city determines when roads need to be repaved. Are there any metrics or protocols used to help decide when a road should be repaved?

Public Comment:

John Nooney stated he was seeking a resolution from the SE CPAC recognizing his efforts in advancing the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Ordinance 2025-0019 for potential land acquisition projects 158833-0000 (Boyland), 134059-0000 (Amaro), and 137044-0000 (Carrico) that would benefit all the citizens of Duval County, Jacksonville. He would like to restore public trust in the waterways.

Errol White, a member of the Mayor's African American Advisory Board (MAAAB), extended an invitation to everyone to attend the next MAAAB meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan St., Room 1002. Mr. White, who is the Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee for MAAAB, also invited the CPAC to attend its next meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the Jacksonville Public Library, 303 N. Laura St., Room 8. He stated that the MAAAB has five different subcommittees that follow the mayor's priorities, and these meetings are open to the public and welcome community input.

Motion to Adjourn – There was a motion to adjourn and a second. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

The next meeting of the District 3 CPAC will be held on **Monday, October 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** and will be hybrid. Join us in person at the **Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, 32257**, or virtually on a Zoom webinar.

Summary prepared by Schnell Chin, Neighborhoods Department, (904) 255-8250 or Neighborhoodservices@coj.net.

A copy of the audio recording of this Southeast CPAC meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records are on the City's Website: [COJ Public Records Request](#).