

Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 10, 2025, 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; Len Burroughs, MHPA.; Bernice Gremer, Fishweir Sheriff Watch; Jenny Watson, CHAPS; Nora Marcantel, CHAPS; Shirley Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace Neighborhood Watch; David Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace Neighborhood Watch; Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries.

CPAC Members Via Zoom: Chris Ramseyer, Watermill HOA; Ernest Surmons, Glenda Meadows HOA; Angelia Dickerson-Wallace, Glenda Meadows HOA; Sandy Simpson, Chimney Lakes HOA; Sandra Simmons, Blue Lake Estates HOA; Jason Roberts, Jacksonville Sheriff's Watch District 4; Tamika Wolfe-McKenzie, Tamika's School of Epicure

Visitors: Harold Smith, Harold Fitz, LLC; Rae Walker, Sheriff Watch; Anissa Pearson, Jacksonville Democratic Society of America.

Visitors via Zoom: Darrell and Linda Barrow; Jalen Nixon, FSCJ L.E.A.P.; Rhonda Kenyon; Jaja; Joe Solomons.

Staff and Elected Officials: Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Dennis Garrett, Commissions Liaison & Mayors Representative for CPAC; Clarence Hodge, JFRD; Commander, Eric Redgate, JSO; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Andy Hetzel, Planning and Development; Tracy Pierce, DCPS; Derrek Dixon, FDOT; Jared Chemay, MCCD; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office; Kat Wright, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville; Adrienne Chambers, JFRD Emergency Preparedness.

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Purdy called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The January 13, 2025, summary was approved by the CPAC.
3. **Mayor's Staff Reports:**

- Garrett Dennis, Director of Board and Commissions, introduced himself to the CPAC and announced that moving forward, someone from the executive team will attend the CPAC meetings. He will attend the Southwest CPAC meetings as a representative of Mayor Deegan. He stated that Mayor Deegan is in the middle of building her budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and would like to get input from the CPAC.

Garrett Dennis – (904) 255-5028 or DGarrett@coj.net.

4. **Presentation:**

- **Adrienne Chamber, JFRD Emergency Preparedness**, provided a presentation on the updated City of Jacksonville Emergency Preparedness Division's Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). Mitigation is implemented to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Every county in Florida develops an LMS and identifies existing policies in the ordinances, comprehensive plans, preparedness plans, and administrative codes. Duval County's LMS plan expires on August 18, 2025. A draft version of the updated plan is available for public comment at JaxReady.com/mitigation. Adrienne Chamber – (904) 255-3153 or AdrienneC@coj.net.
- **Kat Wright, Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Public Art Director**, provided a presentation on the Citizen Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) Public Art Initiative. The initiative is a companion to the Artist Grant initiative introduced by the Council President at the request of Mayor Donna Deegan and confirmed by the City Council. It stems from recommendations made by the Mayor's Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Transition Subcommittee and is funded through the General Fund Mayor's Task Force Contingency Account. The grant is for \$25k of public art to be placed strategically in each of the six CPACs. An Art in Public Places Staff member will work with each CPAC to determine the location and potential art forms that can be accomplished with the budget from a curated list of places and platforms. Three proposed locations are Normandy Park/Center, Lane Wiley Park, and Maxville Park. The proposed focused art form is street furnishings like benches, planters, sculptural

bike racks, exterior/interior murals, and other functional public art like decorative handrails, fencing tree guards, and privacy screens. CPAC members were given a link to the survey and a paper survey to complete in person.

Kat Wright – (904) 944-3606 or Kwright@culturalcouncil.org

5. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Commander Eric Redgate reported:

- Crime is up in three categories: kidnapping/abductions, which are primarily domestic incidents, is up 16%, simple assault is up by 2%, and burglary is up 1.4%.
- Overall, crime was down, with the most significant decrease in murder, which declined 50%; forcible sex offenses were down 70%; aggravated assaults were down 24.7%; arson was down 50%. Theft is down 13.6%, theft from motor vehicles is down 30.7%, and motor vehicle theft is down 44%. An increase in crime can be seen when the weather begins to warm up.
- A total of 9,706 calls for service from citizens in District 4 have been generated so far this year. This includes non-emergency and 9-1-1 calls. One hundred and sixteen officers handled these incidents.
- To date, District 4 is the third highest in crashes, totaling 372. Crashes citywide total 2,327 to date.
- Please remind your friends and neighbors to lock their vehicle doors. A total of 42 firearms have been taken from unlocked cars around Jacksonville; five of those are from District 4.
- The first murder took place in District 4 on January 23rd. The suspects are in custody. There was a shooting near West Side High School. The juvenile suspect shot the victim and then ran out of his house with a large bag of cannabis. He was caught a short time later in the neighborhood.
- A carjacking on 103rd Street led to a motorcyclist losing his life on I-295. The gentleman responsible for the death was caught the next day and is now in custody.
- The Dollar General stores in District 4 along the Blanding Boulevard and 103rd Street corridor have been experiencing a string of burglaries. A deployment was set up to catch the thief.

Cmdr. Eric Redgate – (904) 573-3165

6. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue (JFRD) – Lt. Clarence Hodge provided the CPAC with fire and home safety information:

- Kitchen fires are the leading cause of home fires and are the first location in your home where a fire can occur.
- Never leave food cooking on a stove unattended.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything flammable.
- Place space heaters on a level floor and never leave them unattended.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet and unplug them when unused.
- Inspect heaters regularly for damaged cords before use.
- Keep kids and pets away from space heaters.

He also recommended:

- Have several fire exit routes planned around your home so everyone knows what to do.
- Place fire extinguishers in the kitchen and throughout the house. Small kitchen extinguishers can be purchased at Walmart, Home Depot, and Lowes.
- Smoke detectors should be tested monthly and replaced every 10 years. Discolored or yellowing smoke detectors indicate that it is time to replace them.

Lt. Clarence Hodge - (904) 255-3284 or Hodge@coj.net.

7. Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee: Chair Purdy announced that the Southwest CPAC LUZ Subcommittee did not meet because there was only one application to review, Ordinance 2025-0092. The application was reviewed and discussed by the full CPAC. A motion was made to approve the application. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed by the CPAC.

- **Ordinance 2025-0092 – Rezoning to Conventional Zoning District – 8110 and 8134 103rd St.:** The applicant seeks to unify the property under a single zoning district that permits the existing service garage use by right. A motion was made and seconded to table a recommendation until further information is provided. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.
- **Andy Hetzel** announced that Ordinances 2024-0868 and 2024-0869 were introduced by Council Member Rory Diamond and are pending. The request is to update a portion of the comprehensive plan within the Low-Density Residential (LDR) land use category. The low-density residential is primarily for the urban priority area in the urban areas of Duval County. The ordinances seek to update the density limitations within the urban priority area and urban area from seven units per acre to 20 or 25

units per acre and then update the Zoning Code to allow for duplexes, triplexes, and quadruplexes within the Residential Low Density (RLD) zoning districts.
Andy Hetzel (904) 255-7821 or AHetzel@coj.net.

- **Elected Officials Report:**

- **Council Member Rahman Johnson. Council District 14** provided updates regarding the garbage fee increase; Council Member Johnson assured the CPAC that their Land Use and Zoning letters of recommendation are received, recorded, and reviewed by him and several other council members. He advised that competent substantial evidence only means that if you want the letter to make an impact, you cannot just indicate that you don't like something or that it is terrible for the neighborhood. You must provide data on why the project is bad for the neighborhood. Such as sitting at an intersection to record or track the number of cars going over the speed limit. He advised that CPAC members write to the City Council Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee and their council person to tell them the Zoning Code needs to be changed to increase the number of parking spaces for apartments, townhomes, and condos.
- He is working with The Ortega Hill community to find ingress and egress for the community. They have had problems exiting their community for years if a train comes along the tracks or stops. Council Member Johnson stated that he had secured \$4 million to start an egress and ingress project by the end of the year that will provide an alternate exit and entrance for the community. The developer of the Golden Wings Court wants to place a development on the back side of this community and has agreed to provide financial support for the Ortega Hill egress and ingress project. While researching the neighborhood, it was discovered that a burial ground from a plantation across the street had been left for ruin. The developer has also agreed to place some form of historic marker in the area.
- Council Member Nick Howland, at Large Group 3, and Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14, partnered to draft legislation to install a memorial plaque at Flicker Avenue and New Kings Road recounting the life and death of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Chappell, who was killed in a 1964 race-related shooting.

Council Member Rahman Johnson – (904) 255-5214 or Rahman@coj.net

8. Staff Reports:

- **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS)** - Tracy Pierce, Chief of Marketing and Public Relations, reported that Chaffee Trails Middle School opened this year. DCPS anticipated 1,000 students would attend, but the student population swelled to 1,194. DCPS is in the process of a boundary change as it is projected that the numbers will grow over the years, and by 2027, a total of 1,500 students will be attending the school. Boundary changes will potentially impact Baldwin Middle, Westside Middle, Lakeshore Middle, and Westview k-8. A community meeting will be held to discuss the possibility of rezoning to relieve the overcrowding at Chaffee Trails Middle School.
- DCPS is implementing legislation passed by the State of Florida a few years ago that requires middle schools to start no earlier than 8 a.m. and high schools to begin no earlier than 8 3:30 a.m. Currently, High school starts at 7:30 a.m., and middle school at 9:30 a.m. Several start times have been presented because only one set of buses serves each grade. The number of buses would have to be doubled to run two grades together, which is expensive. A survey is available to allow parents in the community to express their opinions. Legislation has been introduced for this legislative session to repeal this decision to change the start times.
- Based on projections for the next two years, DCPS could reach the budget Reserves minimum level required by the State of Florida. DCPS is in the process of reducing its budget by roughly 100 million dollars. A few ideas to assist with the budget is to move the secondary schools from an eight-period day to a seven-period day. This will put Duval Schools in line with every other school district in the area and throughout the State that runs a seven-period day. Another idea on the table is to eliminate magnet school transportation potentially. Magnet school transportation costs close to \$16 million, and Duval is one of the last school districts anywhere that pays for transportation for students who attend a school outside of their neighborhood.

Tracy Pierce – PierceT@duvalschools.org

- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Derek Dixon, Transportation System Manager District 2 Urban Planning Office, provided feedback on a CPAC member's question regarding the status of the crossing aids for the visually impaired at Blanding Boulevard and Du-Clay Road. He advised that the manufacturer is customizing the signs and audio. The signs are estimated to be shipped out between the end of March and the beginning of April. Coordination for the installation will be determined once the shipping date is received from the manufacturer. That can take six to eight weeks.
Derek Dixon - (904) 360-5653 or Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us.
 - **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Lynne Baldwin, Executive Assistant Library Services I, reported:
 - The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) offers free tax preparation at 10 library locations throughout the county. Tax assistance will run through April 15, 2025. The Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Library will provide service on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. An appointment is required to have your taxes prepared. Please register for an appointment. For more information and a list of the participating libraries, please visit the Jacksonville Public Library website at www.jpl.com.
 - Celebrate Reading Week is March 2, 2025, through March 8, 2025. During the celebration, many programs and events are scheduled throughout the week. The theme is "Jacksonville, Bananas About Books." There will be a big family Reading Day celebration on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at the Main Library from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - Free public events will be held to celebrate the 125th anniversary of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," written by Jacksonville's own James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson. Each of the 21 library locations will offer Lift Every Voice and sing-related school-age programs for all ages. The Main Library will hold events in the Conference Center from February 12, 2025, through February 16, 2025. Attendance is limited, and seating is first come, first served.
 - Mayor Deegan's River City Readers Bookmobile will be at the Highlands Branch Library on Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. as part of the "Preschool Palooza." This is a free event for preschool and Pre-kindergarten-aged children and their parents.
 - The library will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025, in observance of Presidents Day.
Lynne Baldwin - (904) 338-4383 or LBaldwin@coj.net.
 - **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** - Jared Chemay, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported:
 - To date, 786 inspections have been completed, resulting in 4,178 inspections for the year.
 - A proactive enforcement project was completed for the Valencia Way apartments in the Hillcrest neighborhood on January 28, 2025. The inspection resulted in identifying 887 violations. The property owners have been informed of the violations and given 30 days to respond and correct them.
 - It is illegal to place signage, or litter signs, on public rights-of-way. Fines start at \$50 per day for the first five signs found posted. The fine increases to \$150 for more than five signs. Once the violator has been adjudicated guilty, and if he commits the violation again, the fine increases to \$300 per sign and counts as the third violation. Fines can be as high as \$500 per sign. Signs attached to a public utility pole higher than five feet can result in a \$350 fine for the first offense. Officers are proactively removing the illegal signs.
 - The Municipal Code Compliance Department also enforces the minimum housing standards in Chapter 518 of the City's Ordinance code. This code is set in place to ensure that landlords cover the minimum housing requirements for renters.
Jared Chemay - (904) 626-0736 or JChemay@coj.net.
9. **Chairs Report/Capital Improvement Recommendations:** The Chair reviewed the 2025 CIP recommendations submitted by the community with the full CPAC. After some discussion, CPAC members voted to submit the following recommendation.
- Traffic speed bumps between Plymouth, Post, and Hamilton streets, a 5- Way Stop or traffic signal at the intersection of Hamilton, Kingsbury, and Antisdale streets, as well as the installation of a 5-way stop or traffic circle at the intersection of Hamilton Street, Edgewood Avenue S., and Quincy Street. The proposed traffic calming measures, including speed bumps, traffic circles, and a 5-way stop, are crucial to addressing the pressing traffic safety issues in the Murray Hill neighborhood.

10. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – No Report
- **Parks Safety Council (PSC)** – No Report

11. Unfinished Business – None

12. New Business – None

13. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report: Michelle Godwin-Ware announced that registration for the Neighborhood, USA (NUSA) conference will open on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. Please visit the NUSA website at <https://www.nusa.org/conferences> to register and for more information. Michelle Godwin-Ware - 904-255-8236 or Michellegw@coj.net.

14. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements: None

15. Adjourn: Chair Purdy adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: **March 10, 2025, 6:30 p.m.** In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., 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: **March 10, 2025, 5:30 p.m.** In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Summary prepared by Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8236 or michellegw@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 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.