

**Northwest District 5 – Citizens Planning Advisory Committee  
September 11, 2025**

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

**Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Members:** Chair Rhonda Boyd, Timber Oaks HOA; Vice Chair Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, PEBO Corp; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association; Victor Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation; Pamela Strickland, North Jacksonville Trout River Manor; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club; Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; LeRoy Kelly, Carver International.

**Excused:** Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Council member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Council member Ju'Coby Pittman, District 10; Celestine Mills, Executive Council Assistant – District 10; Duval County Public School Board Member Reginald Blount; Helena Parola, Director, Planning and Development Department; Yuri Blackburn, JPL; Commander Harry Massey, JSO District 5; Mawiya Charles, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez, JFRD.

**Guests:** Yvonne Day; Joe Ross, Sr.; Roosevelt; Carol Gambple, Moncrief Spring Neighborhood Association; Kemba; Melinda Ross, Edgewood manor; Rochelle Gross, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Barbara and Robert Hardman; Leo and Marilyn Brown, Metro Gardens; Marsha Wellington; Jeanette Coleman, Central Fairfax; Darlene Neal, Grand Park; Gwendolyn Harris, Timber Oaks HOA; Beatrice Hall; Mildred Jennings, Sherwood Forest; Barbara Richards, Lake Forest Park; Kara Ramesar, Connect/NEFHSC; Toinette Wells, Lake Forest hills Next-Door Network; Trey Ford, Resilient Ribault.

**Zoom:** Stephen Nagbe, Planning and Development Department; Brad Straley; Samsung SM X218U; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park; Lana Suggs Champion, Carver International; Shirley Thomas, North Riverside CDC; Ernest Smith, UC CPAC; Rosalinda Harden; Just.

**Meeting Summary**

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the September 11, 2025, meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The August 14, 2025, NW CPAC Meeting Summary was approved.
3. **Presenter: The Honorable Rahman Johnson,** District 14, gave a presentation and discussion on his proposal to codify the Neighborhood Bill of Rights. CPAC members were furnished with copies of the Neighborhood Bill of Rights and the Proposal in August.

- The Neighborhood Bill of Rights was adopted in 1995 as a resolution and remains a symbolic statement with legal force. Its intent is to promote respect, transparency, and inclusion in local governance, but currently fails to empower communities adequately.
- The main goal of the proposal is to integrate the Neighborhood Bill of Rights into the Jacksonville Municipal Code. This would ensure not only recognition of community rights but also enforceable standards for engagement and transparency in local governance.
- Council member Johnson would like to see CPACs transition from advisory to structured advocacy roles, promoting community engagement.
- He would like to introduce Neighborhood Mediation protocols to provide a structured framework for conflict resolution among residents and developers.
- He would also like to establish a Neighborhood Ombudsman to serve as a dedicated resource for monitoring compliance.
- Another goal is to improve communication with a variety of ways to notify residents regarding zoning and land use decisions, with a minimum of 10 business days' notice.
- The proposed timeline for filing the draft ordinance is the end of this year, with community workshops scheduled for Summer 2026.
- The Council member is seeking input from the community on the proposal to codify the Neighborhood Bill of Rights and is starting by visiting each of the six (6) CPACs to solicit feedback.

**Council member Rahman Johnson – [Rahman@coj.net](mailto:Rahman@coj.net)**

#### **4. Elected Officials Report:**

- **The Honorable, Ju' Coby Pittman**, Council District 10, greeted those present and reported on the following:
  - She would like to see that the Strategic Plan for District 10 is continued after she leaves office in a year and a half. She stated there should be no need to reinvent the wheel or to start over, she would like to see a continuation of the work that has already begun. Let's make sure we get the job done.
  - Keep submitting your Land Use and Zoning letters to the LUZ Committee and members of the City Council. They are received, read and considered. She cautioned the CPAC to be sure to use "Competent, substantial evidence" when opposing applications. The more specific detail given, strengthens the argument and causes the Council to take closer notice.
  - Council member Pittman encouraged those present to attend council committee meetings, especially the planning commission meetings.
  - Council member Pittman would also like to encourage everyone to attend the Tuesday, September 23, 2025, City Council Meeting at 3:00 pm, for the final vote on the budget.
  - Council member Pittman announced that Mayor Deegan is holding the final community budget town hall meeting on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 6 pm at the Northside Church of Christ, 4736 Avenue B, 32209 – she further stated that it is important for the community to come out and get informed, as well as ask questions.

**Council member Ju'Coby Pittman – [jpittman@coj.net](mailto:jpittman@coj.net)**

- **The Honorable Reginald Blount**, Duval County Public School Board Member, District 5, gave greetings and stated the following:
  - Mr. Blount advocates halting the sale of the School Board Building. He considers the Gateway Mall, 5002 Norwood Avenue, 32206, as a more suitable location for the School Board move, and was initially proposed by Council member Mike Gay. He also noted that major renovations would be needed.
  - School Board member Blount feels as though the Board should bring this matter back to the public for input, so that the public knows step-by-step what is being done about the sale. To date, the property is not yet sold.
  - In relation to selling school buildings, Mr. Blount stated he would like to see developer contract language revised so that the property is returned to the district if the developer fails to meet obligations, as he does not want to see school buildings neglected or demolished.
  - Mr. Blount added that he is making his rounds to all of the schools in his district and talking to the principals about the things that they need, so that he can articulate that to the superintendent and get things done.
  - Mr. Blount encouraged those present to contact him at his office with questions or concerns.
  - CPAC Chair Boyd asked Mr. Blount a question about school buses and gave the telephone number to the Transportation Office, (904) 858-6200. Ms. Boyd indicated that no one seems to answer the phone. She would like Mr. Blount to take this issue back to the school board and indicate that it is a top issue for most schools.

**The Honorable Reginald Blount** – [Blountr@duvalschools.org](mailto:Blountr@duvalschools.org)

#### 5. Chair's Report:

- CPAC Chair Boyd noted that Ms. Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools, sent a response to questions from the August 14, 2025, CPAC Meeting: The Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School (w 33<sup>RD</sup> AND Pearce Streets) was purchased by Mt. Sinai Missionary Holiness Church. She was informed but could not confirm that the City of Jacksonville maintains the school's lawn. Chair Boyd would like for the NW CPAC Blight Subcommittee to keep an eye on this.

The NW CPAC Nominations Subcommittee was selected last month: Velma Rounsville, Leroy Kelly and Jacqueline Harrington. The Subcommittee will need to meet prior to the October 9, 2025, full CPAC meeting.

The NW CPAC Blight Subcommittee has selected 3:30 pm on the day of the regularly scheduled NW CPAC Meeting as their meeting time. They will meet in the same space and prior to the NW LUZ Subcommittee meeting.

#### 6. Staff Reports: (three-minute time limit)

- **Planning and Development Department** – Helena Parola, Director, is making the rounds to all of the CPACs to introduce herself as the newly appointed director of the Planning and Development Department. She gave kudos to Stephen Nagby, Planner I, for the fine work he is doing with the NW CPAC and encouraged the CPAC

to continue being the voice of the community on the land use and zoning applications reviewed each month.

**Helena Parola** – [HParola@coj.net](mailto:HParola@coj.net)

- **Military and Veteran Affairs Department** – Tiffany Morales provided the following information:
  - Applications to participate in the Veterans Day Parade will be accepted through September 15, 2025. There is no cost to be in the parade. Applications are available on line at <https://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/military-and-veterans-affairs.aspx>
  - The National MIA/POW Recognition Day is September 20, 2025, from 11 am to 4 pm at the National POW/MIA Memorial Museum, 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Parkway, 32221)
  - Please contact Fred Berley at [Fberley@coj.net](mailto:Fberley@coj.net) with the names of living WWII Veterans who would like to be recognized by Eyes of the World on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 7 pm.

**Tiffany Morales** – [Tmorales@coj.net](mailto:Tmorales@coj.net)

- **JTA** – Cheryl Riddick – not present.
- **MCCD** – Chad Owens reported that since the CPAC Meeting in August, his Municipal Code Officers have completed 1,413 inspections in the last 30 days, bringing the total inspections, year-to-date, to 16,039 for the fiscal year.
  - MCCD is currently looking at ways to improve some of their processes
  - Mr. Owens met with the newly formed NW CPAC Blight Subcommittee and helped them develop a tracking protocol, as well as identified categories of blight for reporting. Mr. Owens also provided the subcommittee with an overview MCCCD areas of responsibility.

**Chad Owens** – [ChadO@coj.net](mailto:ChadO@coj.net)

- **Parks, Recreation and Community Services** – Mawiya Charles provided a few updates:
  - The Lonnie Miller Park mitigation is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.
  - Ms. Charles provided fliers on some upcoming events:
    - Club Rec – After School Program, August 12 through May 23, 2026, from 2:30 pm to 6 pm, for ages 6-12; Homework Assistance, Arts & Crafts, Recreational Sports and Special Events. Registration is required [www.jaxparks.coj.net](http://www.jaxparks.coj.net)
    - Teen Warehouse – August 11, 2025 through May 22, 2026, Monday through Friday from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm; for ages 13-18. Registration is required [www.jaxparks.coj.net](http://www.jaxparks.coj.net)
    - Movie Night: Friday, September 19, 2025 at 7 pm – Artist Walk, 718 Riverside Drive, 32204. Film: Lilo & Stitch
    - 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-A-Thon, Walk for Healthy Living, Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Legends Center and Gymnasium. Registration through Eventbrite.

- Trunk or Treat; Friday, October 24, 2025, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Legends Center Parking Lot. A community event for the entire family: costume contest, games, Candy and Prizes. Presented by jaxparks. Please contact Ms. Charles at the Legends Center if anyone is interested in volunteering. All are welcome to attend and participate.
- The Recreation Department is making upgrades to the Legends Center: fresh paint, new lights, updating the AC equipment throughout the building and several A/V additions: a live feed outside the building, etc.
- In response to a question, yes the Recreation Department utilizes a PR person to update webpages, Jaxparks.com and the monthly newsletter, to help get the word out about events and activities, as well as social media posts.
- Ms. Charles noted that the Legends Center offers Adult Fitness Classes on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 am to 1 pm; and a host of other classes and activities, she also listed the amenities and the various Legends Center Memberships that are available:

**Amenities:** Indoor gymnasium, computer lab, auditorium/community room, restrooms/locker rooms, fitness center, elevated walking track, fully equipped kitchen.

**Gymnasium:** Indoor official-size court; elevated running/walking track.

**Gym Hours:** Monday - Saturday - 9:00AM - 6:00PM      Sunday – Closed

**Fees:** Annual membership fees apply for this facility:

Yearly: \$120 individual; \$90 senior, \$150 family total of 4

Monthly: \$10 per person

Daily Use: \$2 per person

**NOTE:** This 35,000-square-foot facility also serves as a shelter during emergency situations; hosts early voting and community meetings.

**Mawiya Charles – [Cmawiya@coj.net](mailto:Cmawiya@coj.net)**

- **JSO** - Commander Harry Massey reported the following:
  - The Commander noted that the Crime Statistics for District 5 are available online at <https://www.jaxsheriff.org> – transparency portal
  - Total calls for service over the past 30 days was 9,104 and year-to-date is 12,284.
  - The district is doing a lot of traffic enforcement.
  - Crimes against persons statistics, year-to-date is near 11%, with no change over the past 30 days.
  - Robberies have gone up 6% over the past 30 days, and two arrests were made. Commander Massey
  - Crimes against property are down almost 16%,
  - Burglaries are up 11% over the past 30 days, with five arrests.
  - Upcoming Sheriff Watch Meetings:
    - Baldwin – 850 Center St. on October 13, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm
    - Schell Sweet Center on October 14, 2025, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

- Complaints investigated:
  - 16 Long Creek Road - Officers made several arrests
  - Speeding on Rowe Avenue – Officers issued a total of 148 citations
- Commander Massey also addressed Florida’s new Open Carry Law - which makes it legal to openly carry firearms in most places in Florida.
  - Private property owners are still able to prohibit firearms on their property, which can include homes and businesses (banks, public buildings).
  - Other locations which prohibits open carry include schools, colleges, universities or professional athletic events, career centers, and any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.
- Trunk or Treat Event on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, at 1767 Kings Road. The Police Athletic League will be there with a gaming trailer for the youth, a jumping house, lots of candy and maybe even a haunted house. Commander Massey encouraged those present to please stop by and bring their children.

**Commander Harry Massey** – [JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org)

- **JFRD** – Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez discussed Open Burning:
  - September is a “dry” month (not much rain fall) and its important to remember that open burning is banned, especially the burning of leaves.
  - Please call 630-CITY to report nuisance fires; after hours please call the JFRD Non-Emergency number 630-0529 to report “non-emergency fires.”
  - Lieutenant Hernandez urged everyone to be mindful of where flammable liquids are being stored.
  - Lieutenant Hernandez noted that “burn barrels” are considered “recreational fires” and are permissible, so long as they are being monitored. Bonfires require a permit from the Fire Marshal’s Office. They must be 50 feet away from any occupied building and continuously monitored.

**Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez** – (904) 763-0480 or [JorgeH@coj.net](mailto:JorgeH@coj.net)

- **Neighborhood Services Office** – No new updates.

**7. Old Business** – None.

**8. New Business** – None.

**9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:**

- **Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee** – Chaired by Roxsan Currier, Seven LUZ Applications were reviewed: five were denied and two were approved.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Chaired by Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson. This was the Subcommittee's second meeting and their first meeting with MCCD Senior Supervisor for District 5, Chad Owens. The subcommittee established reporting protocols.
- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.)** - No Report.

**10. Public Comments and Announcements:**

- None.

**11. Meeting Adjourned.**

The next Northwest CPAC Meeting will be Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the Legends Center.  
The Blight Subcommittee meets at 3:30 pm Followed by the LUZ Subcommittee at 5:00 pm.