

## **Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee May 8, 2025**

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; Victor Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, Vice Chair; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Jaqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Marie Bernie Boston Scholarship Foundation; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Pamela Strickland, North Jacksonville Trout River Manor; Lana Suggs Champion, Carver International; Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Rhonda Hart-Sparks, North Jacksonville Trout River Manor; Leroy Kelly, Carver International.

**Excused:** Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Duval County Public Schools Representative; Lieutenant Clarence Hodge, JFRD; Lisa Buggs, JPL; Lieutenant John Gay, JSO; Stephen Nagbe, Planning and Development; Chris LeDew, Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division.

**Guests:** Jeanette Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Ernest J. Smith, III, Woodlawn Presbyterian Church; Ameena Shareef, Metro Gardens Neighborhood Association; Katrina Spencer, Metro Gardens Neighborhood Association; Robert Stafford; Chanelle Trotter; Antonia Bryant, Lake Park; Kemba Kayichagulia.

**ZOOM:** Doretha Thompkins, Riverview; Heather Brady; Keba Roberson; Tiffany Morales, Military and Veterans Affairs; Rosalinda Harden; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Martha Jackson; Brad Straley, Rolling Hills Neighborhood; Carol; Professor Nmezi; Samsung.

### **Meeting Summary**

1. **Call to Order/ Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Vice Chair Vanessa Cullins Hopkins called the May 8, 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** – Will be tabled until the June 12, 2025, meeting.
3. **Presentation:** None.
4. **Elected Officials Report:** None.
5. **Chair's Report:**

## 6. Staff Reports:

- **Jennell Milton, JEA Government Relations**, gave the following updates:
  - Septic Tank Phase Out (STOP) Update: Christobel Neighborhood is at 77.8% participation in the STPO Program and Engineering of the project is 75% complete. Project construction should go out to bid later this summer with actual shovels in the ground by Fall 2025 to Winter 2026. The Riverview Neighborhood is currently at 56% participation. A threshold of 70% participation is needed to move forward.

A question for Ms. Milton on areas not yet participating in the STPO program. Ms. Milton replied that JEA is managing the project, but it is a City of Jacksonville program. The Jacksonville City Council created a matrix and legislation on process and procedures for how neighborhoods are identified.

Every year the Duval County Health Department does water testing, and whichever levels have higher contamination, will get moved up on the priority list. Each project takes four (4) to six (6) years or longer, depending on how many homes are in the neighborhood.

- Please note that JEA will never solicit personal information. JEA will not call and ask for your full social security number over the phone, unless you initiated contact. JEA will not send emails threatening to close your account if you do not take immediate action.
- CPAC Member Rounselle commented on a question sent to Ms. Milton via email through the Neighborhood Coordinator regarding a light pole that had been leaning for many, many months. She thanked Ms. Milton for having it repaired but wondered about the normal timeline for those types of replacements/repairs.

Ms. Milton response was that JEA has a backlog of repairs. If it is something simple, it gets taken care of right away. If parts need to be ordered, it could take longer.

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

- **Michael Pearson, Municipal Code Compliance, Supervisor**, reported the following:
  - One thousand, five hundred fifty-six inspections were completed since the April CPAC Meeting.
  - The state of emergency for tarps being on the tops of buildings, residential homes, commercial buildings expired last month (April). Any tarps remaining are subject to enforcement through a warning citation to a paying citation to possibly a court appearance before a special magistrate.
  - In response to numerous calls about commercial vehicles in residential, MCCD officers have to see the vehicles. He noted that they are working on the complaints and asked for patience.
  - 630-CITY is still the best way to open a case. State Bill 60 requires that the caller provides their name and contact information when filing a complaint, especially if an inspection is needed. The callers' personal information will

not be shared and MCCD Officers will contact you after the inspection is completed to provide an update on what was done.

- A CPAC Member commented that tractor trailer cabs are still being parked at 8374 New Kings Road. MCCD is continuing enforcement efforts and issuing citations. If the violations do not cease, they may be required to go before a special magistrate. It is hoped that they will voluntarily comply before it gets escalated to a court appearance.
- In response to a question about overgrowth in the Gateway shopping center property, MCCD recommends putting in a ticket in 630-CITY and noted that Gateway is part of the Urban Core, Zone 1, but that he would look into it. Mr. Pearson stated that contacting the Gateway Ownership Team is a good way to go. If MCCD finds a violation, they will reach out on behalf of citizens with a notice of violation.

**Mike Pearson** – [Mpearson@coj.net](mailto:Mpearson@coj.net) or (904) 627-6080

- **Lisa Buggs, Jacksonville Public Library**, made several announcements:
  - All public libraries will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025, in observance of Memorial Day.
  - Bradham and Brooks Branch, on Edgewood, will be closed May 27 through May 31, 2025, for facility improvements and reopening on Monday, June 2, 2025.
  - Summer Learning programs will be starting, and the libraries will be open and ready to welcome out-of-school children the first week of June. Dallas Graham's summer learning program opening party is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at 2:00 pm. The Highlands opening party is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 1 pm. Bradham and Brooks and Brentwood branches will have their parties on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 2 pm.
  - Program Calendars and other Public Library handouts are on the sign-in table.

**Lisa Buggs** – [Lbuggs@coj.net](mailto:Lbuggs@coj.net) or (904) 255-6469

- **Lieutenant Clarence Hodge, JFRD**, thanked the NW CPAC for allowing him to represent Fire Chief Keith Powers. Lieutenant Hodge gave a demonstration on how to provide relief to a choking infant. He provided a list of foods/snacks that present a choking hazard to little ones.
  - After a visual inspection of the baby's airway, begin applying back slaps and chest thrusts, be sure to apply some pressure to help dislodge whatever is causing the obstruction. He demonstrated how to support the baby's head/neck.
  - Lieutenant Hodge reminded the CPAC that he is retiring and that his last CPAC meeting will be in June.

**Lieutenant Clarence Hodge** – [Hodge@coj.net](mailto:Hodge@coj.net) or (904) 255-3284

- **Lieutenant John Gay, JSO**, announced that crime statistics are available anytime online at [www.JAXSheriff.org](http://www.JAXSheriff.org), and added that there is also a lot of good information listed there.
  - Several JSO Programs Lieutenant Gay discussed were:
    - Connect Duval – citizens can voluntarily register their doorbell cameras with the Sheriff’s Office, and grant access to JSO to look for footage if there is a crime in that area. There is a link on the website that will allow you to register to participate.
    - The Unsolved Crimes Link – the website contains pictures of people who have committed crimes, from thefts to robberies. Once the Sheriff’s Office has run out of leads, the photos are made available to the public, and hopefully someone will recognize that individual and contact the Sheriff’s Office. Quite a few crimes have been solved with the help of the community.
    - The website also has information on how to provide crime tips for Crime Stoppers. The Sheriff’s Office is on so many platforms: X, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, etc., to make it easier for citizens to reach out with information or to find information.
  - Crime Statistics for District 5 for the past 30 days and year-to-date:
    - Violent crimes are down 18.1%, which is exceptional.
    - However, murder or negligent manslaughter is up one more than we would normally have within a 30-day period, but we are down overall for the year.
    - There were 8,863 total calls for service so far this year, and 5,843 traffic citations have been written.
    - As a reminder, Lieutenant Gay stated that Sheriff’s Watch meets on a monthly basis, where crime statistics and other information is shared with the community.
      - Sheriff’s Watch for Zone 6 or District 6 next meeting will be May 20, 2025, at 6 pm at the Highlands Library on Dunn Avenue.
      - Zone 5 or District 5 (south of Martin Luter King Parkway), will meet May 13, 2025, at the Schell-Sweet Center at 6 pm
      - For the Tango Sector (Normandy, Marietta, Baldwin) the meeting is held at 850 Center Street in Baldwin.
  - JSO is always in need of correctional offices, emergency communication officers, police officers, etc. If you know of someone who is bright and wants to serve their community, have them goto: [www.joinjs.com](http://www.joinjs.com), and look at the open positions and see what the Sheriff’s Office has to offer.

**Lieutenant John Gay** – [JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org)

- **Chris LeDew, Public Works, Traffic Engineering Chief**, received kudos for a job well done regarding the posting of requested sign in the Pritchard Point neighborhood. Mr. LeDew gave the following report:
  - While he represents all of Public Works, he can provide the most details about traffic engineering. All other Public Works Divisions, such as mowing and landscaping, pothole patching, clearing ditches, etc., he will have to forward those concerns to the proper division.

- Mr. LeDew announced that the Traffic Engineering Division is hiring for several vacant positions: traffic signal repairers. This position would be good for someone who is good with computers and has an electrical background or experience in the telecommunications industry. Goto: [www.Jacksonville.gov](http://www.Jacksonville.gov) and go to the jobs board to view the vacant positions.
- Mr. LeDew gave updates on two projects:
  - McDuff is scheduled to be resurfaced before October 2025.
  - All of the rapid, rectangular, flashing beacons (RRFBs) along Soutel will be upgraded.
  - Mr. LeDew took several requests for service that he will have to check into before giving a response. He will research and report back.

**Chris LeDew** – [CLEdew@coj.net](mailto:CLEdew@coj.net) or (904) 255-7528

- **Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office**, thanked everyone who has already responded to the invitation to participate in Neighborhoods' Day on May 21, 2025, during the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference being held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The largest response has come from the Northwest CPAC.
  - The City of Jacksonville, through the Neighborhoods Department, is hosting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference.
  - An interesting fact is that the second ever NUSA Conference took place in Jacksonville. One of the founders of NUSA is one of our own, Mr. Gilmore and he will give a talk on the importance of neighborhood leaders and neighbors who make things happen, as well as how NUSA came to be created.
  - Some of CPAC members are registered to attend NUSA through another organization, however, due to the generosity of a sponsor who feels strongly about having grassroots, neighborhood folk participate in the conference, the Neighborhoods Department to create "Neighborhoods Day" and invite all who are interested to attend. The invitation can be found on event Brite and the Neighborhood Services Office has sent the link in an email to those in our Neighborhood Organizations database. In attention to attending the Wednesday Workshops, you would also be invited to all of the evening events.
  - Ms. Henry noted that any suggestions or requests for speakers at the NW CPAC meetings must go through the CPAC Chair, as Ms. Henry works with the Chair to develop the meeting agenda.

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

#### **7. Old Business – None.**

- Question from the audience regarding JTA bus stops and the limited number of benches at the bus stops. Chair Boyd made a note of the concern and stated that the question will be forwarded to JTA, which is on the NW CPAC Schedule for September.

#### **8. New Business – None.**

## 9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee:** Roxsan Currier, Subcommittee Chair reported that two applications were reviewed, and no actions were taken.
- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission:** Velma Rounsville, representative, gave her report on the April 2025 T.R.U.E. Commission meeting. The May T.R.U.E. Commission meeting was held earlier today (5/8/2025), so typically when the commission meets on the same day at the CPAC, she reports out on the following month.
  - Michael Fackler, General Counsel, spoke on the challenges associated with the Office of the General Counsel relevant to staffing, compensation, etc. He stated over the past two city administrations, there are two contributing factors: 1) the elimination of pensions for new hires and 2) pay disparities, as the office is struggling to compete with the private sector. He also stated that Mayor Deegan has agreed to have discussions on compensation in the upcoming budget process. Classification and limited promotional pathways and salary increases for attorneys cannot be addressed without budget increases.
  - The changes to the contract management process continue to be problematic. Utilizing the newly adopted DocuSign has slowed up the processing of contracts, but progress is being made.
  - There is a desire to change the functioning of the T.R.U.E. Commission from retrospective audit reviews to more timely financial oversight in order to have an impact on potential budget issues in advance.
- **Blight Subcommittee:** There are several members who have signed up to serve on this subcommittee, but they have yet to call a meeting. Chair Boyd asked Ms. Henry to work with her to set up a ZOOM meeting to get the subcommittee organized. Ms. Henry reminded the membership that voting on issues cannot be done over ZOOM, as per the Executive Order and the CPAC Model Bylaws, voting must be done in person.

## 10. Public Comments and Announcements (three-minute time limit)

- **CPAC Member Victor Coleman** announced the Central Fairfax Community Association will hold its annual Health, Wellness and Resource Fair, Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 11 am to 3 pm., to be held in the James Weldon Johnson Gym, located at 1840 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. 32209. The Health, Wellness and Resource Fair is free and open to the public.
- **Katrina Spencer**, Metro Gardens – Brentwood 300, announced a town hall meeting on May 22, 2025, at 6 pm, to be held at the Legend Center, 5130 Soutel, 32208.
- **CPAC Member Roxie McLeod** stated that the Panama Park Neighborhood Association will hold a workshop on creating a pollinator friendly garden on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 10 to 11 am. There is an invitation on the Eventbrite website. She also stated that there are fliers about their community garden on the table and encouraged everyone to pick one up.

## 11. Adjournment:

It was properly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The next NW CPAC meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6 pm at the Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, 32208.