



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Funding Subcommittee

MINUTES

OF

FUNDING SUB-COMMITTEE

February 11, 2008

**The Jacksonville Journey –
Funding Sub-Committee**

February 11, 2008

10:30 a.m. Meeting

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Funding Sub-Committee, taken on Monday, February 11, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Funding Subcommittee

Tom Petway, Chair
John Baker, Member
Ed Burr, Member
Gary Chartrand, Member
Laurie Dubow, Member
John Falconetti, Member
Marty Fiorentino, Member
Chris Hand, Member
Mike Hightower, Member
Ashton Hudson, Member
Howard Korman, Member
Gasper Lazzara, Member
Susan Lehr, Member
Sherry Magill, member
Michael Munz, Member
John Thrasher, Member
Nina Water, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

TOM PETWAY, CHAIR
JOHN BAKER, MEMBER
GARY CHARTRAND, MEMBER
LAURIE DUBOW, MEMBER
CHRIS HAND, MEMBER
ASHTON HUDSON, MEMBER
HOWARD KORMAN, MEMBER
SUSAN LEHR, MEMBER
SHERRY MAGILL, MEMBER
MICHAEL MUNZ, MEMBER
NINA WATERS, MEMBER

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

ED BURR, MEMBER
JOHN FALCONETTI, MEMBER
MARTY FIORENTINO, MEMBER
MIKE HIGHTOWER, MEMBER
GASPER LAZARRA, MEMBER
JOHN THRASHER, MEMBER

STAFF:

Susie Wiles
Brad Thoburn
Kandi Bogue
Dan Cronrath
Alice Checorski

OTHERS PRESENT:

The Honorable Mayor John Peyton
Senator Betty Holzendorf
Sarah Balme
Anna Bradley
Mike Clark
Sonia Carroll
George Dandelake
City Council President Daniel Davis
Monique Elton
Sandy Faraldo
Marek Gootman
Adam Hollingsworth
Councilman Stephen Joost
W. Earl Kitchings
Ed Newberry
Heather Norsworthy
Steve Rohan
Cheryl Runyon
Kirk Sherman
Peggy Sidman
Bethany Vargas

PROCEEDINGS

February 11, 2008

Funding Sub-Committee

10:30 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Tom Petway, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:40 a.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative, *The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step* Funding Sub-committee.

2. Discussion Items

Chairman Petway opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the Funding sub-committee and reviewing the housekeeping notes. He reminded the group that we operate under the Sunshine Law. At this time, Susie Wiles introduced the Honorable Mayor John Peyton and Senator Betty Holzendorf along with other members of the staff. Chairman Petway welcomed members of the public before asking the Mayor to give his comments.

Mayor Peyton said how much he appreciated everyone's time, energy and resources since there is nothing more important than to change our culture from violence and bloodshed to peace and prosperity. He stated he is delighted to have Council President Daniel Davis here today and Councilman Stephen Joost. The Mayor also said he appreciates the leadership of Senator Holzendorf and that we had an exciting week last week with the Reverend Eugene Rivers' workshop. Mayor Peyton invited Senator Holzendorf to say a few words.

Senator Holzendorf said she is here to observe and that she has been attending most of the committee meetings to get a feel of

what we are going to do and how we are going to do it. She stated she hopes we can appreciate the urgency of what needs to be done for the City of Jacksonville.

At this time, Chairman Petway invited Council President Daniel Davis to make a presentation to the group. The Council President stated it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the City of Jacksonville over the past five years. This has been a difficult year, but we have great men and women in the City of Jacksonville who have stepped up to the plate to address *The Jacksonville Journey*. He stated this committee is here to determine; "How do we pay for it?" Council President Davis provided a copy of his December 11, 2007 memorandum to Councilmember Kevin Hyde, Chair, Public Health and Safety Committee on the subject of Public Safety Issues. Mr. Davis stated he looked at the Matrix audit from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and saw the demand from citizens to put more police officers in neighborhoods. That is his main area of focus. To that end, he appointed Council members Mia Jones and Kevin Hyde to a crime prevention task force. One hundred new officers on the street would cost approximately \$10 million per year. Council President Davis referred to page 3 of the handout, Sheriff's Staffing Recommendations. Council President Davis called upon Councilman Stephen Joost to speak to the committee. Councilman Joost said that earlier this year, legislation was proposed to issue citations to citizens who run red lights through the use of intersection cameras. Council Auditor Kirk Sherman explained how they came up with the dollars that could be raised through the red light camera program. In essence, a \$125 fine

with a \$15 discount if the ticket is not protested would result in \$110 per citation. An average of 75% of the citations would result in collection. The first year, 37% of the revenue would offset the cost of installation. Approximately \$150,000 per year could be collected through the use of intersection cameras. The recommendation is between 60-100 cameras. The City of Jacksonville has 1,100 intersections. The cost of adding a new officer is \$100,000 per year. The proposal is to add 20 new officers in October 2008, 40 by April 2009 and an additional 40 by October 2009.

Ashton Hudson asked how they decided upon 100 officers, to which Council President Davis replied the number was suggested by JSO. Council President Davis then reviewed the proposed legislation and the creation of a Neighborhoods Safety Trust Fund to be used solely for the training and hiring of new sworn law enforcement officers and to increase sworn law enforcement presence in Jacksonville neighborhoods. Council President Davis stated they believe additional legislation needs to be passed on the State level and he requested the committee's help to make sure legislation is introduced and passed. At this time, Council President entertained questions from the committee.

Gary Chartrand asked about the number of officers Jacksonville has per capita as compared to other cities such as New York and Chicago. Council President Davis stated he would send some of the news reports and numbers from different municipalities studied during their research. Councilman Joost stated red light cameras are used in over 250 cities throughout the United States. Seattle

uses the same model we are looking at. Every study reviewed showed a 40-50% drop in violations where the cameras are in use. Council President Davis stated with the implementation of the red light cameras, we could also reduce violent crimes. Laurie Dubow asked if Jacksonville has 60 intersections that could generate the income needed to fund \$10 million. John Baker commented that he would encourage installation of cameras wherever there is a pay back and what is the most useful way to spend the money. Would the Council consider another program as well?

Council President Davis replied that if we find funding for 100 officers, we hope that other funding will become available.

Chairman Petway said this committee is considering funding sources and how to spend it in the Mayor's *Jacksonville Journey*.

Chris Hand raised a question regarding the funding sources. The goal of the red light program is to have a positive impact on public safety. Councilman Joost stated that in the first year, Washington, D.C. realized 14,000 fewer citations, which resulted in improved public safety. Mr. Hand asked if there were any legal challenges to the system. Councilman Joost stated Florida law might need to be "tweaked" so we are in sync with other states where the law has been challenged and stood up.

Howard Korman asked if these bills weren't introduced in previous years and failed. Councilman Joost is working with Representative Ron Reagan, Chairman of the Transportation Committee and he is confident once Jacksonville passes the law, other Florida cities will follow.

At this time, Steve Rohan, Deputy General Counsel, presented an

overview of the Sunshine Laws and Parliamentary Procedures (Robert's Rules of Order). Chairman Petway asked Mr. Rohan to provide his telephone number in the event questions arise from the committee on this issue. Mr. Rohan can be reached at 630-1672.

Senator Holzendorf expressed she understands what the City Council is trying to do and that it takes 11 months to train police officers. What can we do in the short term as we want to keep the focus on what the committees are trying to accomplish.

Chairman Petway stated that Mayor Peyton has written to President George W. Bush to raise awareness of Jacksonville's problems and funding needs. At this time, he introduced Ed Newberry and Marek Gootman, attorneys with Patton Boggs LLP, who were present to address federal funding options. Mr. Newberry began by congratulating the committee in taking a systematic approach to the problem. He provided a handout entitled "*Jacksonville Journey Federal Funding Opportunities*". Mr. Newberry asked the committee to look at the following:

1. Understand what it is we are trying to fund.

The various committees are coming up with ideas which will provide a better sense of the full range of demand for our funding needs.

2. Consider potential sources of funding

- Local: government and private funding

- State: bulk of federal dollars

flows through the State first

- Private sector and philanthropic funding

Mr. Newberry said that on the federal level, there are competitive grant programs where discretionary funds are available; formula funds which sometimes flow directly to the community and earmarks, which require making a compelling case to our senators.

It is important to convince policy makers of the challenges faced in Jacksonville. Mr. Newberry would like to work together as partners from the federal sector to help solve and eliminate the problem.

Mr. Newberry referred to the Matrix Report, which summarized federal funding sources agency by agency and their relevancy to specific topics.

Marek Gootman stated that most programs requiring funding are tied to the Department of Justice. The timeline for application is critical. He recommends that the committee address its priorities and targeted funding needs. On the federal level, the dollars are also taking a hit, especially the Justice Assistance grants.

Susan Lehr asked if the change of personnel due to the elections would impact the budget cycle and the dollars left in the budget.

Mr. Gootman said that some of the dollars turn over after the election. Earmarking is probably the best source of funding in the short term.

Laurie Dubow asked if we were to provide matching funds, how much credibility does that provide to the funding requests. Mr. Gootman replied it cannot be understated as to the importance of bringing non-federal resources. Chris Hand asked to what extent do these grant programs require annual renewal and can funds be applied over a multi-year period. Mr. Gootman said that earmark

appropriation funds like seed dollars are used to enhance core programs and generally have multi-year funding. Mr. Hand asked if the City has had some involvement with elected representatives in Washington regarding the crime initiative. Mr. Gootman said that they have been informed that Juvenile Justice programs are a priority for the City and we will be coming forward with project recommendations.

Mr. Petway stated in summary, five committees are working on what the needs are, to reduce violent crime in the City of Jacksonville. We will continue to meet and bring people to the table to come up with concepts on how to raise money.

Senator Holzendorf said the Mayor's staff is looking at the current budget to determine if there are dollars that can be redirected.

Michael Munz said that in light of the post-Amendment One passage; what is our challenge now.

Susie Wiles responded that the impact of Amendment One means an additional \$30 million cut above and beyond the \$65 million cut last year. We are looking at "out of the box" thinking.

At this time, Chairman Petway asked if there were any requests from the public to speak, to which there were none.

He will set the next meeting in early March and continue working with the staff of the other subcommittees. The deadline is April 1st. At the next meeting, we will have a similar presentation from our State lobbyists. The committee decided Monday morning was the best time to meet.

Before adjourning, Nina Waters asked to what extent we are going

to measure private dollars coming into the community for at-risk youth or drop-out Programs?

Susie Wiles said we have a baseline funded by new dollars, but we have to build on private, state and federal money.

Senator Holzendorf said the other committees have been charged with looking at ongoing programs to see if they need to be enhanced or are not working. They will provide this information.

Gary Chartrand asked if we have engaged the Chamber (4,500 members) in the business community. He thinks they should be part of our plan. Susie Wiles replied they are already involved in the anti-gun program. Chairman Petway said that the Chamber Chair is on the *Jacksonville Journey* Steering Committee.

Chairman Petway adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

3. Action Items

Council President Davis will provide the committee with data from other cities using the red light camera system and including the per capita number of officers.

Steve Rohan can be reached at 630-1672 to answer questions regarding the Sunshine Laws and Parliamentary Procedure.

Invite State lobbyists to next meeting in early **March**. (Monday morning meeting time is preferable).

Adjournment The meeting ended at 12:25 p.m.