



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Jacksonville City Council

FROM: Debbie Verges

DATE: December 1, 2008

RE: Monthly Report on *Jacksonville Journey*- November 2008

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During the month of November, we continued to make strides in implementing the *Jacksonville Journey* program. The progress includes (1) Juvenile Assessment Center agreement was signed, (2) RFP's were received for Team Up, Early Literacy, and Out of School Suspension programs, (3) Ex-offender RFP's were released, bidders conferences were held and the Jacksonville Re-entry Center contract is being finalized, (4) Local Initiatives Support Corporation contract was signed, (5) The Jacksonville Commitment contract is being finalized, and (6) Community Center RFP is available.

Additional detail on our progress is below. If you have any questions about the contents of this memo, please let me know.

*Juvenile Assessment Center*-The agreement for \$328,236 was completed and signed between the City and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. The JAC is a centralized receiving, processing and intervention facility for youth who have committed or are likely to commit a crime. The facility frees up sworn officers to return to patrol.

*RFP's for Team Up, Early Literacy and Out of School Suspension*- Bids were opened on November 19 for all three programs. There were 36 proposals submitted for the 15 Team Ups which include 7 middle schools and 8 elementary schools. There was one proposal submitted for Early Literacy and Out of School Suspension. The proposals are being reviewed and will be sent to Competitive Sealed Proposal Evaluation Committee, on December 17.

*Ex-offender RFP's*-The two ex-offender RFP's were released on Wednesday, November 19. According to legislation as approved by the City Council the funding is as follows:

- Training and Re-entry for Ex-Offenders-provide job readiness training and education support to the approximately 50,000 former inmates who re-enter Jacksonville each year from federal, state and local jails. Without gainful employment, many of these individuals will return to a life of crime.
- Ex-Offender Employment Program-Provide job placement services to former inmates.

In preparing the RFP's, the Department of Criminal Justice at UNF and the Sheriff's office were consulted for deliverables and scope of service. As the Sheriff's office intends to respond to the RFP's, further involvement would preclude the Sheriff's office from applying for the money.

*Ex-Offender Re-entry Portal*-The Jacksonville Re-entry Center funding will be expanded with the additional \$600,000 being directed to the Sheriff's office. The contract is being finalized. Funding for housing will be allocated to various sub-contractor's by the JREC.

*Local Initiatives Support Corporation*-The \$500,000 contract with LISC was completed. The funding will be made available to non-profit housing providers such as Community Development Housing Organizations or Community Development Corporations.

*Community Centers*-The RFP to Repair Neglected City Assets has been approved and is being released today. The community centers are: Beachwood, Fort Caroline, Joe James, Lillian Saunders, Sunny Acres and Westbrook. The Normandy Center contract is before City Council for approval with the community partner being Community Connections. The Mayor will be hosting a meeting at Sunny Acres Community Center Tuesday, December 2 at 2:00 as an encouragement for the Faith Based community to partner in this project. An invitation to attend from the Mayor was sent to over 900 Faith Based churches and non-profits. The RFP will be open to all.