

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Jacksonville City Council

FROM: Adam Hollingsworth

DATE: October 31, 2008

Re: Monthly Report on *Jacksonville Journey* – October, 2008

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In the 30 days since the FY 2008/2009 budget took effect, we have made great strides in implementing the *Jacksonville Journey* program. As you will remember, the Council has asked for progress reports every 30 days and this memo outlines our efforts in the month of October. In short, this progress includes (1) the appointment of the Jacksonville Journey Oversight Committee, (2) the distribution of five Requests for Proposal (RFPs) by the Jacksonville Children's Commission (**available now on the front page of the City's website at [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)**) and (3) the final preparation of RFPs related to ex-offender re-entry.

In addition, we are pleased to add Debbie Verges to our team as project director for the *Jacksonville Journey*. Debbie is the former executive director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and has extensive experience in many of the programmatic areas on which the *Jacksonville Journey* is focused.

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

### ***Jacksonville Journey Oversight Committee***

Consistent with the FY 08/09 budget ordinance, Mayor John Peyton and Council President Ronnie Fussell have jointly appointed nine local citizens to serve on the *Jacksonville Journey* Oversight Committee. All appointments are subject to Council confirmation and the necessary legislation will be on the November 10 City Council agenda. Pending confirmation, Paul Perez will chair the committee which includes Edyth Abdullah, Ph.D.; Jeff Chartrand; Terrance Freeman; W.C. Gentry; Charles Griggs; Curtis Hart; Sen. Betty Holzendorf and Susie Wiles.

As outlined in the budget ordinance, the committee's responsibilities will include:

- working in concert with the city's grant making agencies to establish measurement and reporting systems;
- issuing an annual community-wide report card on the progress of the *Journey* funded programs

- making annual recommendations on programs to be funded based on the prior year's performance;
- continuing the data gathering and public policy initiated by the *Journey* for further refinement; and
- advocating for the investment of new public and private dollars as well as state and federal initiatives.

**Paul Perez**

Paul Perez, recently served as the chair of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee for *The Jacksonville Journey*. He is the chief compliance officer for Fidelity National Financial and is responsible for ensuring the company's adherence to federal, state statutes, other regulations and the company's code of conduct throughout the vast Fidelity national title insurance organization. Previously, Mr. Perez was appointed by President George W. Bush as the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District which encompasses 35 counties and is home to 8.3 million Floridians.

**Edythe Abdullah, Ph.D.**

Dr. Edythe Abdullah is the president of Florida Community College at Jacksonville Downtown Campus. During her 20+ years of service to the college she has served as the associate vice president of workforce development and adult education, an adjunct instructor in continuing education, an adviser in college admissions and in various administrative roles in instruction. Dr. Abdullah serves on the Board of Trustees for University of North Florida, is chairperson of the Duval County Job Opportunity Board, a member of the Boards for the Youth Crisis Center and Florida Construction Institute.

**Jeff Chartrand**

Jeff Chartrand is the executive director of The Chartrand Foundation, a family foundation launched in 2006 to support public education and early childhood initiatives. A Jacksonville native, Mr. Chartrand graduated magna cum laude from New York University. In 2003, he became a New York City Teaching Fellow in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn where he taught fifth-grade special education. In 2005, Mr. Chartrand moved back to Jacksonville to teach and begin work on the establishment of The Chartrand Foundation. In its first year, the Foundation created, "Inspire.Create.Achieve.," which provides grants to Duval County Public Schools and community partners in the arts, civics and sciences.

**Terrance Freeman**

Terrance Freeman is the principal and head baseball coach at Eagle's View Academy, a K5-12<sup>th</sup> grade faith-based school founded in 1995 by a group of volunteer Christian teachers who were committed to provide students with a complete educational experience. In this capacity, he is responsible for teachers in grades 7-12, has implemented a discipline plan for boys grades 6-12 and also oversees the athletic program. Previously, Mr. Freeman served as the school's athletic director and an assistant baseball coach. Freeman was a former college and professional athlete. He played professional baseball from 1995-2000 for the Oakland A's, Pittsburgh Pirates and Detroit Tigers.

### **W.C. Gentry**

W.C. Gentry recently served as *The Jacksonville Journey* Education Subcommittee chair. Before entering law school, Mr. Gentry taught and coached high school in Jacksonville. Mr. Gentry has practiced law in Jacksonville for more than 30 years and has handled trials and appeals in complex litigation, including constitutional issues. He presently devotes much of his time to public interest matters, principally involving education. He currently on the Board of the Early Learning Coalition of Duval and is a founding director and chair of the Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership

### **Charles Griggs**

A Jacksonville native, Charles Griggs serves as the Communications Director for the Duval County Health Department, managing the internal and external marketing and communications. He currently gives back to the community through mentoring with Take Stock In Children and service to the Jacksonville Urban League. He is also the current president of the Jacksonville Association of Black Journalists, Inc. and an executive committee member of the 100 Black Men of Jacksonville, Inc. Mr. Griggs has contributed as an editorial writer through his column titled *BlackKoffee*, syndicated and published in the Jacksonville Free Press. He previously hosted and produced *The Next Page* and *First Coast Focus*, radio talk shows that focused on community and social issues. Griggs also has contributed, as a regular panelist, to WJCT's *Week In Review* broadcast, which aired weekly on Channel 7 and 89.9 FM.

### **Curtis Hart**

Curtis Hart is the vice president of The Collins Group, Inc. where, since 2000, he has retained the position as one of the largest lot developers in Northeast Florida. Previously he was the president of Hart Resources, LLC focusing on development and lobbying. Mr. Hart is a past president of the Northeast Florida Builder's Association, past chairman of the city's Planning Commission, past member of the Mayor's Growth Management Task Force and served on the city's 2010 Comprehensive Plan Committee.

### **Sen. Betty Holzendorf**

Sen. Betty Holzendorf recently served as a co-chair of The Jacksonville Journey Steering Committee. A long-time public servant, Sen. Holzendorf's legislative tenure includes 10 years as State Senator and four years as a member of the Florida House of Representatives representing constituents of five Northeast Florida counties--Alachua, Clay, Duval, Putnam and St. Johns. During this time she served as the Democratic Leader Pro-Tempore; chairperson, Florida Conference of Black State Legislators; and chairperson, Duval Legislative Delegation. Sen. Holzendorf is currently active in numerous business, community and philanthropic organizations. An educator, Sen. Holzendorf taught in the Duval County Public School system and Edward Waters College before serving in includes roles in the Department of Transportation, the Office of the Mayor and the City of Jacksonville.

### **Susie Wiles**

Susie Wiles is a seasoned communications, government relations and special initiatives profession with more than 20 years of experience in government and public affairs. Ms. Wiles served at the highest levels of local government as a senior appointee of three mayors as chief of staff and communications chief. In addition to media relations, she oversaw significant initiatives including *The Better Jacksonville Plan*, *Preservation Project Jacksonville*, *RALLY Jacksonville!*, *The River Accord* and *The Jacksonville Journey*. Her political experience spans three Presidential campaigns, White House service in the Executive Office of the President, many local and statewide political campaigns and most recently, the Transition Team of Florida Gov. Charlie Crist. Ms. Wiles also serves on the boards of St. Johns Forever board, FreshMinistries, Preservation North Florida, Republicans for Environmental Protection and is a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network.

### ***Distribution of RFPs***

Earlier this month, the Jacksonville Children's Commission moved five RFPs through the purchasing process and is now soliciting applications for service providers for the following areas:

- TEAM UP after school programs
- Out of School Suspension Centers
- Early Learning
- Juvenile Crime Prevention/Intervention Programs
- Summer Camps

A link to the RFPs can be found online on the front page of the City of Jacksonville's website – [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net). Please let your constituents know that these solicitations are now available for competitive award.

We expect awards to be made and contracts to be executed prior to December 31, 2008 – consistent with our program timeline.

RFPs related to ex-offender re-entry will be considered by the procurement department next week. We also expect these awards to be made and contracts executed prior to the end of the year.

cc: Kirk Sherman  
Janice Billy  
Kerri Stewart  
Sherry Hall  
Lisa Rinaman  
Debbie Verges  
✓Kandi Begue