



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
JOHN PEYTON
MAYOR

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RONNIE FUSSELL
PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SIGNIFIGANT PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
JACKSONVILLE JOURNEY PROGRAM**
*Oversight Committee members appointed while city solicits
prevention and intervention partner agencies*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. Nov. 5, 2008 — Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton and City Council President Ronnie Fussell today discussed the continued progress being made toward implementation of *The Jacksonville Journey* program, a historic investment in public safety approved by the City Council as part of the fiscal year 2008-2009 budget. The most comprehensive public safety program in the city's history, *The Jacksonville Journey* focuses on three areas key to improving public safety in Jacksonville: prevention, intervention and enforcement.

Mayor Peyton and Council President Fussell announced the appointment of nine members to *The Jacksonville Journey* Oversight Committee and said that *The Jacksonville Journey* grant request for proposal (RFP) process is now underway.

Pending Jacksonville City Council confirmation, Paul Perez will chair the oversight committee which will include Edythe Abdullah, Ph.D.; Jeff Chartrand; Terrance Freeman; W.C. Gentry; Charles Griggs; Curtis Hart; Sen. Betty Holzendorf and Susie Wiles. The committee members will serve staggered four-year terms and may serve a maximum of two terms.

"Improving public safety and setting our city on a course for greatness continues to be the most immediate priority of this government," said Mayor Peyton. "I am very proud of the team we have assembled to begin the next leg of this journey—matching funding to strong, effective programs that demonstrate success. *The Jacksonville Journey* members spent months creating an action plan for results and this team has the skills and knowledge to help implement measurements and an oversight system to ensure a safer community."

Council President Fussell said, "I am very proud of the partnership between the administration and my fellow City Council members to support *The Jacksonville Journey*. I am extremely encouraged by the framework that has been created to turn the tide of violence in Jacksonville. The oversight committee will be essential to ensuring that city investments are being administered in a responsible way and that the programs are accountable for results."

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The committee will oversee and evaluate the effectiveness of funds expended for *The Jacksonville Journey* programs. 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 discussions initiated by the Journey committees, and
- advocating for the investment of new public and private dollars as well as state and federal initiatives.

"Solving the crime problem in this city is not something government can do alone," said Perez. "I look forward to working closely with this diverse group of community-minded individuals to ensure that we are getting the highest and best use of every dollar. I look forward to helping implement the *Journey* strategies and making every neighborhood in Jacksonville safer."

In addition, city agencies have worked diligently during the last 30 days to develop and approve requests for proposals to begin soliciting partner agencies to implement prevention and intervention programs.

Programs currently soliciting partner applications include the TEAM UP afterschool programs, out of school suspension programs, early learning programs, juvenile crime intervention and prevention programs and summer camps.

Additional RFPs for ex-offender re-entry programs will be released in November.

For complete bid package information, interested parties should visit <http://www.coj.net/Mayor/Jacksonville+Journey/Funding+Solicitations.htm> or call Mike Clapsaddle, Procurement Division Chief, at (904) 630-3682.

Bidder's conferences for the respective grant programs began earlier this week and are as follows***:

- TEAM UP afterschool program
 - o Nov. 3, 9-11 a.m. and Nov. 4, 1-3 p.m.
- Out of School Suspension Program
 - o Nov. 4, 9-11 a.m.

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- Early Literacy Program:
 - o No bidder's conference is scheduled. Applications are due Nov. 19 by 2 p.m. to the Procurement Division.
- Juvenile Crime Prevention/Intervention Program:
 - o Nov. 17, 9-11 a.m. and Nov. 18, 2-4 p.m.
- Summer Camp:
 - o Dec. 2, 9-11 a.m. and Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m.

*** Dates are subject to change

Following a thorough review process, it is anticipated that awards will be made for many of the programs in December and contracts will be fully executed by late 2008.

Also today, Peyton announced that Debbie Verges, former president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, has agreed to serve as the *Jacksonville Journey's* program director, working with the oversight committee and assisting in the development of program criteria, measurements and implementation.

"Debbie has a tremendous record of serving families in this community," said Peyton. "She has extensive experience in program management and is well-known for her tremendous success. The *Journey* and residents of Jacksonville will be well-served by her involvement."

To maintain the transparent, community-minded nature of *The Jacksonville Journey* Program, Mayor Peyton has also asked Kandi Begue to continue her involvement with the initiative. In addition to her current responsibilities, she will direct the internal administration of the program overseeing such tasks as procurement and contract development.

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