



Duval County Legislative Delegation

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MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
AND GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018
9:00 A.M.
117 W. DUVAL STREET
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Chair Aaron Bean called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. followed by the invocation and pledge.

Members present: Senators Bean and Gibson; Representatives Byrd, Daniels, Duggan, Fischer, and Yarborough. Member excused: Representative Davis

A quorum was present.

A motion was made to waive the Delegation's rules of procedure in order to have the organizational meeting on December 10. The motion was unanimously approved on a voice vote.

The agenda was adopted by voice vote.

Chair Bean then opened the floor for nominations of the Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Byrd, who nominated Representative Jason Fischer. There being no further nominations, Representative Fischer was elected unanimously as Chair. Chair Fischer then presented Senator Bean with an award for his service as Chair.

Chair Fischer then opened the floor for nominations of the Vice Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Duggan, who nominated Representative Kimberley Daniels. There being no further nominations, Representative Daniels was elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

Speakers:

1. Office of Mayor Lenny Curry- Mayor Lenny Curry thanked the Delegation for their previous support and investments. Jordan Elsbury then spoke about reaching out in the future regarding appropriations with a focus on public safety and infrastructure.

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117 W. Duval Street, Suite 480
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2. Council President Aaron Bowman, Jacksonville City Council- Discussed an overview of Jacksonville's strategic plan which has a focus on job opportunity, community engagement, mentorship and resiliency.
3. Vice Chair Warren Jones, Duval County School Board- Thanked the legislature for funds to secure the schools; they will need more money to continue increasing safety.
4. Justin Damiano, Jaxport- Thanked the Delegates for all of their support.
5. Michael Stewart, Jacksonville Aviation Authority- Had 2 requests: 1) support FDOT budget this year and 2) cautioned Delegates about reducing aviation fuel tax. Introduced new JAA CEO, Mark VanLoh
6. Interim President Kevin Hyde, Florida State College at Jacksonville- Reported that enrollment has been up for fall and spring semesters. Requested funds for a new STEM building.
7. Dr. Pam Chally, University of North Florida- Spoke on budget requests and how UNF is using their own finances to support their mission. They are in need of more advisors and more health care faculty.
8. Dr. DeShanna Brown, Edward Waters College- Thanked the Delegation for their past support; they are hoping to expand online degrees and their honor's college.
9. Dr. Pauline Rolle, Florida Department of Health in Duval County- Discussed that the Department is increasing services for STD's, new moms, and the healthy start program. They are also providing services to children in Duval schools.
10. Jennifer Greagor, Private Citizen- Discussed her son's health history and asked for consideration of a Medicaid for middle income families' waiver to help with medically complex cases.
11. Todd Roobin, Jacksonville Film & Television Office- Spoke about other states that have film and television programs, currently Florida does not provide incentives and it makes it difficult to bring productions here. Film jobs are high paying and stimulate the economy.
12. Tim Rogers, Jacksonville Public Library- Stated that the library gives millions back to the community through their GED program. They are currently increasing the total number of books and increasing the number of hours of programming.
13. Adam Miller, The Kids Hope Alliance- Shared how KHA is the city's advocate for children and thanked the Delegation for their leadership.
14. Candice Brower, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel- Discussed how Office of Criminal Conflict was created by the state as an alternative to rising private counsel costs. Asked for support for increased appropriations this year.
15. Amy Palmer, The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville- Spoke about the program and how it serves as the cultural agency for Jacksonville. Also spoke on how arts funding has decreased despite arts having a positive impact on the economy.
16. Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper- They appreciate past support and have two issues: 1) concerned with toxic green algae and 2) hoping for increased weather resiliency in NE Florida.
17. Denise Marzullo, Early Learning Coalition of Duval- There are 30 learning coalitions in the state, they are hoping to increase critical readiness and implement tools to measure students' gains.

18. Jim Whittaker, The Arc Jacksonville, Inc- Spoke about the Arc's mission and issues they are facing which includes maintaining direct care staff. Introduced two residents who live at The Arc.
19. Theresa Rulien and Larry Celzo, Child Guidance Center- Asked for support of legislative priorities which are continued mental health and substance abuse programs, support of SB 12, and Baker Act support.
20. Tobacco Free Jacksonville- Talked about the organization and how they locally support the reduction in youth smoking rates. Also, discussed the rise in vaping in 17-20 year olds.
21. Jim McCarthy, North Florida Land Trust- Discussed the Trust's role in conservation and their recent purchase of buffer lands for Camp Blanding. He also spoke about their mission to reduce flooding, provide sustainability, and clean water.
22. Linda Joseph, Operation New Hope- Asked for continued funding from the state. They hope to replicate their re-entry program across the state.
23. Dr. Jennifer Brown, KIPP Jacksonville Schools- Thanked the Delegates for their support. Spoke about the support that they provide to students by tending to the needs of the whole children.
24. Laura Oldt, Alzheimer's Association Central and North Florida – Spoke about Alzheimer's and its role in Florida. Asked for increased support for caregivers, research, and early detection.
25. Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III, Fresh Ministries, Inc. – Elaborated on the organization and how they tutor and mentor students. They also work to provide jobs and support pursuing technical careers.
26. Amanda and Oscar Pardon, Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options- Thanked the Delegation for their support of children with auditory and hearing loss.
27. Faye Johnson, Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition- Thanked the Delegation for their continued support. Spoke about the Coalition's mission to fight for moms and babies and how they work with other agencies to avoid duplicative care.
28. Diana Galavis, Watson Realty Corp- Spoke about affordable housing and asked for support to protect the state's affordable housing trust fund from having the funds transferred to the general revenue fund every year.
29. L. Rachel Valentine, Homeless Veteran Women; The Professional- Spoke about the gap of organizations and funding for female veterans. Asked for more awareness and support for female veterans.
30. Dan Renaud, Florida Recovery Schools- Explained the mission of their schools and how they help students struggling with substance abuse. Asked for financial support for two more buildings which will serve 50 students per year.
31. Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness, Inc. - Communicated the role of the organization and how they work to prevent homelessness. Asked for help and support to combat rising youth homelessness.
32. Rachel Tutwiler Fortune, Jacksonville Public Education Fund- Offered their office as a resource and thanked the Delegation for their support of teachers and leaders.
33. Kimberly Simon and Rosemary McCoy, ACLU of Florida- Spoke about criminal justice reform and their priorities to reduce recidivism and mass incarceration.

34. Louis William Rose, Greater Arlington Republican Club- Discussed access to military grade weapons and a well-regulated militia.
35. Jimmy Midyette, Jacksonville Coalition for Equality- Encouraged the delegation to vote on a ban of conversion therapy. Additionally, encouraged a ban on workplace discrimination.
36. Jim Jandreau, Florida Life Care Residents Association (FLICRA) - Thanked the Delegation for their support. Spoke about the role of FLICRA in helping to protect residents from corrupt owners.
37. Linda Levin, ElderSource- Asked for increased funding to help build the workforce of caregivers, increased funding for Alzheimer's patients, and increased funding for local aging agencies.
38. Janet Stanko, Sierra Club Northeast Florida- Spoke about awareness for clean water and climate change. Also, spoke against pre-emption laws.
39. Tyler Stubbs, FAU Alumni Association- Discussed FAU's plans to put state funds to a positive use. Elaborated how they plan to become a top 100 research university and focus on diversity.
40. Demetrius Minor, Americans for Prosperity- Communicated the mission of the organization which is to remove governmental barriers to assist individuals and ensure the justice system promotes equal rights.
41. Kimberly Reed, PACE Center for Girls-Jacksonville- Spoke on how PACE was created to help girls in the system and create an alternative to incarceration of females. Introduced a current student in the program.
42. John Wyche and Sandra Morene, Jacksonville Gullah Geechee Nation C.D.C. - Discussed the history of the Nation and what it represents. They also asked for funds to further support their mission and build a museum that would advance the culture.
43. Eunice Barnum, King Soutel CRA- Spoke about CRAs and how money needs to stay within each zone and not be distributed to other parts of the city.
44. Paul Martinez, Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida- Explained the role of the organization and the support that they provide to kids in Northeast Florida. Also spoke about the campground they just purchased where kids can relax and experience nature.

A. ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS NOT ON AGENDA

1. Cindy Funkhouser, Sulzbacher Center- Thanked the Delegation for their past support and asked for their support of ACORN, which helps UF students and safety net clinics throughout North Florida.
2. Shellie Thies, A1A Solar Contracting- Concerned with unlicensed solar panel contractors and lack of consumer protections.
3. Dianne Larson, Equal Rights Amendment Alliance- Asked for hearings for the Equal Rights Amendment, which places the equal treatment of men and women in the US Constitution.
4. Judy Thompson, Forgotten Majority, Inc. - Spoke on Florida's incarceration rates and how they are higher than the national rates. Asked for the implementation of the 65% gain time standard for inmates.

5. Marissa Alexander, M.A.J.P. - Requested that discretion be given to judges during sentencing instead of minimum mandatory sentencing. Also discussed bail bond reform.
6. Mary Graham, Inmate Lives Matter Too- Explained that bringing inmates closer to home will benefit the families, help with reentry to society, and create a reduction of reoffenders.
7. Gale Williams, Ms. in the Gap- Told the story of her daughter's experience with the criminal justice system.
8. Deloris Quaranta, NE FL Women Veterans- Elaborated on the needs of female veterans and asked for financial support to continue running their female veteran 6 week program.
9. Leola Williams, Private Citizen- Shared her concerns with the irregularities that happened in the past election and asked for clearer instructions for absentee ballots.
10. Cardono Antenor, Private Citizen- Spoke about his hope to continue learning English and earn a degree. Asked the legislature to fund ESL classes.
11. Feda Alwazani, World Relief- Discussed her background and hopes to have her degree certified in the U.S. Asked the legislature for immigrant and refugee protections.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

This is not a verbatim transcript but a summary of the proceedings. A recording is on file in the Delegation office and posted online on the Delegation website.