



Duval County Legislative Delegation

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**MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
AND GENERAL PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2016
1:00 P.M.
117 W. DUVAL STREET
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Chair Mia Jones called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. followed by the invocation and pledge.

Member Present: Senators Bean and Gibson; Representatives Byrd, Daniels, Davis, Fant and Yarborough.

A quorum was present. Chair Jones moved that President Glover be added to the agenda. The amended agenda was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

Delegation members introduced themselves and their staff members.

Chair Jones opened the floor for nomination of Chair of the Delegation and recognized Senator Aaron Bean, who nominated Representative Jay Fant. There being no further nominations, Representative Fant was elected unanimously as Chair.

Representative Jones thanked the members for working with her; she then passed the gavel to the new chair, Representative Fant. Chair Fant presented Representative Jones with an award for service of chair.

Chair Fant opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Delegation and recognized Representative Yarborough, who nominated Senator Aaron Bean. There being no further nominations, Senator Bean was elected unanimously as Vice Chair.

Chair Fant made a motion to confirm the appointment of Lenae Voellmecke as the new Delegation Coordinator. The motion was confirmed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Fant recognized Senator Bean, Delegation rules Committee Chair to explain the proposed change to the Delegation Rules of Procedure, which changes Senate District 9 to Senate District 6. A motion and a second were made to accept the change to the Rules- the change passed unanimously via voice vote.

SPEAKERS:

Mayor Lenny Curry- Thanked the Delegation for all of their work last year. Introduced the proposed Hart Expressway Bridge changes to help alleviate the issue of public safety.

School Board Member Scott Shine, Duval County School Board- Spoke about 3 issues the DCSB is asking the Delegation to support: 1) Flexible millage rates 2) Separate charter school grades from public school grades 3) Support J-2, which changes voting procedure for the school board.

Mia Jones, Agape Family Health- Spoke about the mission of the organization and asked for continued support of block grant funding to federally qualified health centers.

President John Delaney, University of North Florida- Presented the 3 main issues for this upcoming year: 1) Lost funding last year to base budget, looking to get the base funding back 2) Advanced manufacturing materials advancement funding 3) Construction on campus funding.

President Nathaniel Glover, Edward Waters College – Asked for funding to: 1) Secure the campus with fences and acquisition of properties 2) Improve residence halls 3) Create a community/football field.

President Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, Florida State College at Jacksonville- Spoke about Florida's STEM job growth. Requested a new STEM center for the downtown campus to meet the needs of Florida's growing economy.

Brian Taylor, Jaxport- Discussed the financial growth from the past years. With that revenue, new cranes have been purchased and new projects have been completed on time and within budget.

Jessica Shepler, Jacksonville Transportation Authority- Overview of department's previous year. Currently working on new lines, Skyway, and possibly implementing autonomous vehicles.

Penny Thompson, UF Health Jacksonville- Introduced upcoming priorities: 1) Continuation of the LIP program 2) Change LIP funding distribution 3) \$150 Million bond ask 4) Replacement of lost LIP funds

Todd Roobin, City of Jacksonville Film and Television Office – Film Florida funding was recently taken out of the State's budget but asked to bring the program back.

Nicholas Abrahams, St Johns River Water Management District- Greetings and overview of program's recent updates.

Dr. Kelli Wells, Florida Department of Health in Duval County – Highlighted the services provided by the health department. Requested statewide epidemiology funding from the upcoming session.

Barbara Gubbin, Jacksonville Public Library – Asked for continued funding through higher state aid grants to meet the demands of the growing number of library customers.

Tim Anderson, Jacksonville Public Library- Wanted to highlight the Career Online High School. The library helps run this program and needs continued funding for the upcoming year.

Adam Miller, Jacksonville Children’s Commission- Greetings and overview of program.

James Richardson, Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board- Call attention to a few items for this upcoming year: 1) Support home rule authority 2) Oppose water withdrawals from St. Johns River 3) Support septic tank removal

Jon Tate, Bridges of America- Discussed program and asked for continued discussion about substance abuse treatments outside of correctional facilities.

Jim Milligan, Treatment and Recovery- Overview of program and asked that their school be designated as a pilot program for substance abuse recovery.

Jennifer Chapman and Theresa Little, Early Learning Coalition of Duval- Legislative ask to keep Duval’s children’s coalitions rating system separate from other counties rating systems.

Jason Roth, United Way of Northeast Florida- Overview of programs and asked for appropriations support.

Jim Whittaker, The ARC Jacksonville, Inc. – Description of programs and asked for help creating jobs that can be filled by people with disabilities.

Michelle Branham, Alzheimer’s Association- Synopsis of new priorities: 1) Increase in homebased care funding 2) Increase in research funding 3) Increase community outreach

Theresa Rulien, Child Guidance Center- Reviewed funding requests and legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

Luke Layow, Feeding Northeast Florida- Spoke about Jacksonville’s food insecurity statistics.

Kenneth Scarborough, Operation New Hope, Inc – Overview of programs and thanks for funding from past year.

Dr. Christine Cauffield, LSF Health Systems- Outline of program and thanks for passing S.B. 12 last session.

Tara Wildes, Mental Health America of NE Florida- Asked for prevention and intervention policies within mental health legislation.

Dr. Pam Mullarkey Robbins and Bernabe Murguia, Project SOS- Overview of programs and statistics of the costs of incarcerating youth.

April Seliga and Beth Jensen, Tobacco Free Jacksonville- Provided tobacco statistics and program overview. Three students spoke on the impact tobacco has on their community.

Elizabeth Ross, Recess for DCPS- Asked for support of legislation that mandates daily recess. Provided statistics about daily recess effects.

Rivers Buford, Toni Richardson and Mark Landreth, American Heart Association- Outline of legislative issues: 1) Open playground use for general public 2) Healthy corner stores 3) Stroke registry

Richard Naylor, Year Up Jacksonville- Overview of programs and thanks for support.

Melissa Gilleland, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens- Thanks for appropriations funds from last year and update on zoo progress. Grant requests: 1) General operating support 2) Renovation of ape housing.

Steve Gilbert, Communities in Schools- Description of organization and thanks for past support.

Tom Majdanics, KIPP Jacksonville Schools- Overview of programs and appreciative of state funding.

Jim Jandreau, Florida Life Care Residents Association- Synopsis of organization and preview of a bill FLICRA plans to introduce this upcoming session.

Tina Morris, Florida Coalition for Spoken Language Options- Thanks to legislators for their support of spoken language grants.

Trey Csar, Jacksonville Public Education Fund- Discussed teacher retention programs and state matching grants.

Dr. Robert Lee, Fresh Ministries- Overview and results of program

Jim McCarthy, North Florida Land Trust- Overview of recent land preservation projects and purchases.

Dr. Jessica Spencer, Drug Free Florida Committee- Legislative asks: 1) Keep marijuana for really sick people 2) Ban pot candy 3) Allow local control for pot shops.

Paulette Kirkland, Keith Wingate & Wanda Simmons, Northeast Florida Fair Association- Request for funding from state to replace old buildings.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS NOT ON AGENDA:

Colonel Len Loving and Chad Childers, Five Star Veterans Center- Spoke about programs and services. Client spoke about life and time at the center.

Taylor McDonald, Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center- Thanks to delegates for the support last session. Overview of legislation passed last year and the effects it has had on the justice reform movement.

Renee McQueen, Pace Center for Girls- Testimony from one student currently enrolled in the school and the effect the school has had on her life.

Sheryl Tumey, American's for Prosperity- Discussed policies that AFP opposed last session and encouraged the delegates to vote for low tax policies.

Stephen Baker, Healthy Start Coalition- Overview of programs and hopes to meet with all delegates soon.

Dick Aquino, Florida Veterans Foundation- Overview of program.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.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.