



**NEIGHBORHOODS DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

**JACKSONVILLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

9:30 am

Proceedings before the Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission taken on
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Hybrid In Person/Virtual Meeting
Downtown Main Library, Multipurpose Room, Jacksonville, FL 32202
commencing at approximately 9:31 a.m.

Commissioners

David Wakefield, Chair
Raul Arias, Vice Chair
Diana Galavis, Commissioner
David Hacker, Commissioner
Curtis Hart, Commissioner – **Excused**
Ericia Moore, Commissioner
Sharol Noblejas, Commissioner
Lauren Parsons-Langham, Secretary – **Virtual Participation**
Thomas B. Waters, Commissioner
Sol Wynter, Commissioner

City of Jacksonville Staff:

Dr. Johnny Gaffney - unexcused
Mary Staffopoulos, OGC
Thomas Daly, Chief – **Virtual Participation**
Chiquita Moore, Operations Director – **Virtual Participation**
Travis Jeffrey, Affordable Housing and Community Development Administrator
Nicole Spradley, Board Administrative Support
Barbara Florio, Board Liaison

City Council:

Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman – **Virtual Participation**

Guests Present:

Fatima Johnson, Jacksonville Housing Authority
Rhonda Lattimore, Jacksonville Housing Authority
Deweyne Robinson, Jacksonville Housing Authority
James Coggin, LISC
Angie Leatherbury
Michaele
Tylyn Dagsaan

Staff:

Benita Dawson Riesa Lowery Robert Ownby



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Call Meeting to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Chair David Wakefield called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting was made by Commissioner Diana Galavis and seconded by Commissioner Raul Arias.

Motion Passed: 9-0

I. Public Comments

No public comments.

II. Presentation

Fatima Johnson, Neighborhood Network Coordinator, provided an overview of the services offered by the Jacksonville Housing Authority's Brentwood Lake Neighborhood Networks Center. She discussed the program goals which include GED/ABE instruction, transportation for employment opportunities, tutoring and literacy for youth and adults, health and wellness, income tax return assistance and care and education assessments.

Commissioner Hacker asked how they could meet and exceed their goals.

Fatima Johnson explained that they exceeded their goals last year, but additional funding would help them serve more clients.

Council Member Pittman stressed the importance of these programs and the need for funding.

Commissioner Noblejas inquired about the pass/fail rate for the GED Program.

Fatima Johnson explained that they had two students pass the GED last year that attended college afterwards. Due to the pandemic, classes have been moved to online learning. They have found that the students perform better with in person learning. Currently there are 9 students enrolled, but they hope to have 10-15 next quarter.

Commissioner Moore asked who they partnered with.

Fatima Johnson listed a few agencies including Boys and Girls Club, Bridge the Gap and Project Restore.

III. Chief's Report

Chief Daly reported that the Universal Application cycle is underway. The Division received 40 applications – 23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), 10 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and 7 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). Threshold review was complete on Friday, January 22nd and rating and ranking began the following Monday. The Corona Relief Funds (CRF) assistance program is closed. One thousand forty-eight applications were approved and \$3,361,198.40 was expended. Additional



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funding is going through Council now. We began accepting applications for The Headstart to Homeownership program on December 14, 2020. The Division received 113 applications and encumbered \$1,422,467. The Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) public hearing will take place in February. We had a 90-day extension this year due to COVID-19. The Neighborhood Matching Grant Program received 38 grant applications on December 14, 2020 totaling \$160,944 in requests. Scoring is complete and awards are pending approval.

He announced the following staff members are retiring Rob Gillrup (part-time), Laura Stagner (part-time) and Renee Dawson.

Commissioner Hacker inquired whether the Down Payment Assistance Program always closes out.

Chief Daly explained that the funds are expended quickly, and the program closes out early in the year.

Commissioner Arias asked about the increase to the rating and funding minimum for the Universal Application program. He asked if we were helping less people.

Chief Daly explained the rating had not changed in a while. We had been funding everyone equally which was not very effective when programs were receiving approximately \$7,000. Funding less programs with more dollars allows us to have a bigger impact and serve more people.

IV. New Business

Chair Wakefield would like to move forward with in person meetings in the future.

Secretary Parsons-Langham desires to continue hybrid meetings due to COVID exposure issues.

V. Unfinished Business

VI. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.



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CERTIFICATION

Recorded and Transcribed by:

Signature on file
Nicole Spradley, Administrative Assistant
JHCDC Staff Support

Submitted by:

Signature on file
Barbara Florio, Operations Manager
JHCDC Board Liaison

Approved by:

Signature on file
Lauren Langham, Secretary
JHCDC