

**PUBLIC SAFETY/PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson; Aaron Banks. Vice Chair; Ashby Foote, Brian Grizzell, Vernon Hartley, Angelique Lee, and Virgi Lindsay, Council President. Directors: Dr. Safiya Omari, Chief of Staff; Louis Wright, Chief Administrative Officer: Shanekia Jordan, Clerk of Council, and Constance White-Anderson, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council, Denise Fortner, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council, and Victor Allen, Chief Deputy Clerk of Council.

Absent: None.

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The meeting was called to order by **Chairperson Aaron Banks**.

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The invocation was offered by **Bishop Robert Nelson Fortson, Sr.**

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The following individual(s) provided public comments during the meeting:

- **Larry Nelson, Victims of Violent Crimes**, expressed personal thoughts on the stress families of violent crimes endure.
- **Felicia Boone** spoke in regards to her son being murdered on Mother’s Day.
- **Brianna Boone** spoke in regards to her family’s stress since her brother’s murder.

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Chairperson Banks requested agenda item No. 3 be moved forward on the Agenda. Hearing no objections, the Clerk read the following:

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
REQUIRING A MANDATORY PUNISHMENT AND FINE FOR PARENTS AND
OR GUARDIANS OF MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAVE
COMMITTED A CRIME WITH A HANDGUN AND OR FOUND TO HAVE
POSSESSION OF A HANDGUN.**

Council Member Lee moved adoption; **Council Member Grizzell** seconded.

Chairperson Banks recognized **Assistant Chief Joseph Wade, JPD**, who provided a brief overview of said item.

After thorough discussion, **Chairperson Banks** recognized **Council Member Lee** and **Council Member Grizzell** withdrew their motion and second.

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Chairperson Banks stated said item would remain in committee.

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DISCUSSION: PROPOSED SOLUTIONS FOR THE CRIME EPIDEMIC and STATE INVOLVEMENT: Chairperson Banks recognized Council Member Foote, who directed questions concerning to the best way to get State assistance in crime fighting to Senator Sollie Norwood. Senator Norwood stated that The City of Jackson should start early in determining priorities and asks. Senator Norwood also stated that it would be a big help for JPD to meet with the District Attorney to obtain data to analyze crime to help better determine crime fighting needs. Chairperson Banks recognized Chief James Davis, Chief of Police, who stated that technology in crime fighting is very important. JPD requested funding help from the State to help bring local office buildings up to speed with the Real Time Crime Center camera system. Chief Davis expressed a need for the State to become more involved with crime fighting in Jackson, MS. Chairperson Banks recognized John Knight who stated there is a need for Jackson Public Schools to update their truancy officer program. There were at least 15 to 20 fights at Murrah High School the last week of school. Mr. Knight also stated having a police officer at each school would help with security. Mr. Knight also spoke on the state of Mental Illness with children. Chairperson Banks recognized Judge Carolyn Hicks who stated that the biggest need for local Judges would be a crime lab. A crime lab would help evidence get processed faster which would help speed the process up for trying cases. Judge Hicks also spoke on the need for JPS to keep good records on children who are truants or dropouts. Judge Hicks also spoke on the need for more children to enter a G.E.D. program. Chairperson Banks recognized U.S. Attorney Darren LaMarca who stated that their needs to be better communication between law enforcement agencies. Attorney LaMarca also stated Jackson was one of 183 cities nationwide to receive a \$504,310 grant to hire 4 police officers for four years with the city being responsible for one year of pay. That grant has not been claimed as of this meeting. Attorney LaMarca also stated there was a litany of funds available to help with crime fighting that the City should apply for.

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DISCUSSION: COUNTY INVOLVEMENT HINDS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Chairperson Banks directed questions concerning county involvement in crime fighting to Hinds County Officials. Chairperson Banks recognized Hinds County Prosecutor Gerald Mumford who suggested that young people having a city issued ID would help in identifying those young people involved in criminal activity as well as help create a log of those young people. Chairperson Banks recognized Hinds County District Attorney Jody Owens who stated that there has been a need for more funding for the Hinds County District Attorney’s office for a long time. This year, the County was successful in obtaining more funding for crime fighting within Hinds County. Chairperson Banks recognized Hinds County Supervisor Archie stated that Hinds County is committed to helping the City of Jackson with its crime fighting efforts in every way possible.

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Chairperson Banks stated Discussion items 6, &7 would be tabled until a later meeting.

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RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION TASK FORCE WITH REPRESENTATION FROM THE FOLLOWING: THE JACKSON CITY COUNCIL (CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT AD HOC), 2 COMMUNITY MEMBERS (TO BE SELECTED AND AGREED UPON BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AD-HOC COMMITTEE), 2 LOCAL CLERGY (TO BE SELECTED AND AGREED UPON BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AD-HOC COMMITTEE), JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT RECOMMENDED BY SUPERINTENDENT, SHERIFF DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED BY SHERIFF, DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE RECOMMENDED BY D.A., COUNTY ATTORNEY OFFICE RECOMMENDED BY CA, MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DESIGNEE, MAYORS OFFICE DESIGNEE, JPD DESIGNEE; TO MEET QUARTERLY OR AS NEEDED TO DETERMINE STRATEGIES OF PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION WITH AN ALL HANDS ON DECK APPROACH.

Council Member Grizzell moved adoption; Council Member Hartley seconded.

Chairperson Banks recognized Council Member Foote, who moved; seconded by Council Member Lee, to amend said Resolution to reflect to include a representative from the U.S. Attorney's office. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes.

Chairperson Banks recognized Council Member Lee, who moved; seconded by Council Member Grizzell, to amend said Resolution to reflect to include a representative from the Capitol Police Department. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee and Lindsay.
Nays – None.
Absent – Stokes.

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Thereafter, **Chairperson Banks** called for a vote on said item as amended:

Yeas – Banks, Foote, Grizzell, Hartley, Lee, and Lindsay.

Nays – None.

Absent – Stokes.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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