

JU'COBY PITTMAN
CANDIDATE
CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE GROUP 5

1. Interlocal Agreement:

a. In your opinion, do you think the Beaches are receiving their fair share of county services as stated in the interlocal agreement? If not, what would you propose be done to resolve any issues?

Recently an Ordinance 2015-72 was created to assist in resolving the dispute by amending the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and the City of Atlantic Beach.

I would be in support of fair share county services that are stated in the interlocal agreement (tipping fees, water quality credits, etc.) and work toward being responsive, trusting and transparent. On-going dialogue will be essential to building consensus, while championing a visible and stronger Beach community, together which benefits us all. It's imperative to address the issues that are critical to residents as it pertains to residential services, while together, we promote Jacksonville Beach as a premier destination to work, play and live.

2. Jacksonville Beach Fireworks: Would you vote for or against the City of Jacksonville contributing \$25,000 (half the cost) for July 4th Fireworks at Jacksonville Beach? If you answer no please explain your reason.

Yes, I would vote for the City of Jacksonville to contribute resources to support the Jacksonville Beach Fireworks. The Beach Fireworks has become a signature attraction that enhance the economic impact for beach business, residents and tourism.

3. Human Rights Ordinance: Would you vote for or against including the categories of gender identity and gender expression with the other categories of persons protected by law from discrimination?

Legislation should be about inclusion and not exclusion; everyone deserves equality and protection under the law, while building bridges of diversity.

I support amending those ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on sexual and gender identity and expression. I believe that every person has a right to enjoy the freedoms of life.

4. Consolidation Task Force Recommendations: Which consolidation task force recommendations would you support implementing if elected?

When elected to City Council, I will support and address concerns of communication, continuity in government and retention of retaining institutional employees. Much of the employee institutional knowledge has been lost with the downsizing of city government. Institutional knowledge is important to the continuity of our government, to continue working as we have been with the financial issues facing this government we have to find a way to get it all back together.

5. Police and Fire Pension: What is your opinion of the current proposal regarding the police and fire pension? What, if anything, would you recommend be done differently?

Pension reform has several moving parts. This issue is complex for both sides. The City must carefully understand how this problem developed and make sure history doesn't repeat itself. The biggest hurdle is the fund's determination to have a ten year agreement, while City Council wants a three year arrangement. That is not a world apart and there is room for more compromise. Perhaps a five year agreement would allow us to meet in the middle. We can no longer delay this very important piece of our budget, the city's future depends on a sustainable outcome. We must have strong leadership to get this done to ensure that we won't bankrupt our city. Time and money is of the essence.

6. Library: The Beaches Branch Library was threatened to be closed due to lack of funding for the library system. Do you support continued funding for the Beaches Branch Library? Please explain your answer.

I support funding for all libraries.

The Beaches Branch Library is fortunate to have had an extremely active and highly motivated group (Friends of the Beaches Library) that has been awesome in supporting branch needs; hosting booksales, supporting youth programs, and purchasing special equipment for the branch. However, sustainable funding is certainly major concern for many libraries.

7. St. Johns River:

a. Do you support the proposed dredging of the St. Johns River to 47 feet to accommodate Panamax-ready ships? If so, how do you propose the dredging be funded?

Dredging the St. Johns is complex, with a is a huge undertaking and a large price tag; however based on my understanding of the conditions and the negative affect, it appears that the dam should be removed and the Ocklawaha restored. I would like the opportunity to review more detailed information, so I can make an informed decision on what's best for the river and the citizens of the Beaches and Jacksonville. This is an unfinished project, that is not an asset to our river and community.

b. Do you support the removal of the Rodman Dam

The life and health of the St. Johns River is very important. I've found major concerns relating to the Rodman Dam as it relates to the natural habitation of the River.

8. Communication: What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities?

I believe that it is important to have open dialogue, transparency, trust and follow-up to develop effective communications, which helps us all to work together, to make the "Beaches" and Jacksonville a stronger viable community, which benefits us all.

9. Mayport:

a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport? What factors are essential for realizing your vision? To explore long term funding to support and promote the assets of Mayport, while continuing the long term economic impact.

b. In your opinion, is future funding of the Ferry secure? I'm uncertain, but I'm willing to work to find a solution to identify future funding to keep the historical cornerstone viable.(Federal, local, private, etc.) What changes would you advocate? I would depend on the residents and business, civic groups and churches to share the experience of advocacy, to keep me abreast and informed. The beaches advocacy are the heart and soul of future growth.

Please explain your answer.

I am committed to addressing your concerns and being your voice on City Council. Your continued involved will enhance the cause.