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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KEVIN CARRICO ANNOUNCES JEA SPECIAL INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEE FOLLOWING INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT**

**JACKSONVILLE, FL., (March 11, 2026)** - Jacksonville City Council President Kevin Carrico today announced he is forming a Special Investigatory Committee of the Jacksonville City Council following a request for assistance from the City of Jacksonville's Office of Inspector General regarding allegations involving the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA).

#### **MEDIA AVAILABILITY**

Council President Carrico will formally announce the formation of the Committee and outline its scope during a press conference:

Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
10:00 AM  
Front Steps of Jacksonville City Hall  
117 W. Duval Street  
Jacksonville, FL

In a memorandum to Council President Carrico dated March 10, 2026, Inspector General Matthew Lascell requested assistance from the City Council to help determine whether JEA has failed to adequately collect capacity fees from certain commercial customers over a period of several years and to assess the potential financial impact to the City and the JEA.

Inspector General Lascell states, "I am requesting assistance from the City Council to provide the necessary resources to ascertain the veracity of these allegations."

The Special Investigatory Committee will be tasked with the following objectives:

1. Determining, with the Council Auditor, the extent to which capacity fees may not have been collected in recent years and identifying the amount, if any, that may be owed to the City and JEA.
2. Investigating and ensuring that JEA and the City are in compliance with bond commitments and reporting requirements, including but not limited to any provision of services for free in violation of those commitments.

3. Based on recent allegations made to the JEA Board regarding racism and the toxic culture existing at JEA under the leadership of the current JEA Chief Executive Officer, conducting an independent review of recent employee allegations regarding workplace culture at JEA.
4. Evaluating JEA compliance with applicable whistleblower protection laws and policies.
5. Proposing legislation as appropriate based on the committee's findings.

Council Member Ron Salem will serve as Chair of the Committee. Council Members Rory Diamond and Ju'Coby Pittman will also serve as members.

"The situation at JEA is increasingly untenable and requires careful attention and accountability," said Council President Carrico. "The Inspector General's request underscores the seriousness of the concerns that have been raised. The people of Jacksonville and the employees at JEA deserve clear answers, full transparency, and accountability wherever it may be warranted."

Carrico said the Committee will work closely with the City Council Auditor and other relevant oversight offices to ensure a thorough review of the issues raised.

"This Special Committee will focus on the facts," Carrico said. "If capacity fees were not properly collected, taxpayers deserve to know how much is owed to them and why those fees were not collected. At the same time, we must ensure that allegations raised by employees regarding workplace culture are reviewed independently and fairly."

The Committee will begin work in the coming weeks and provide updates to the full City Council as information becomes available.

#### For media inquiries please contact Jackie Lee at [jackie@coj.net](mailto:jackie@coj.net).