

# JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Noticed Meeting with Council President Bowman RE:**

**Establishing Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Meeting Minutes-Amended**

**October 16, 2018**

**3:30 pm**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

**Topic:** Establishing a Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction

**Attendance:** Council President Bowman; Council Vice President Wilson; Council Members Boyer, Ferraro, Anderson, Love, Pittman, White, Gaffney, Freeman, Newby and Gulliford; Paige Johnston- Office of General Counsel; Heather Reber- Council Auditor’s Office; Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Adri Maguire Segui- Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 3:34 pm

Council President Bowman convened the meeting and called for introductions. CP Bowman reviewed what had taken place at the last meeting, which addressed the creation, scope and composition of a Task Force on Crime and Public Safety (which may alternatively be called the Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction). The goals for this meeting were to discuss drafts of Task Force legislation and the Task Force charge memo, as well as possible Task Force chair appointments and membership selection criteria.

CP Bowman said that Frank Denton, who recently retired as editor of the Florida Times-Union, was in attendance and was good candidate to be the Task Force chair. According to CP Bowman, Mr. Denton would be an appropriate choice due to his extensive knowledge of the city and vast connections with individuals and organizations. There was a lengthy discussion about the chair position, with some council members voicing concerns about whether Mr. Denton would be the best fit for the chair position as opposed to someone from “the community” most afflicted by crime. CM Gulliford noted that while there are regions of the city facing more safety issues, crime is a county-wide problem which needs county-wide solutions.

Councilman Newby suggested that the Task Force appoint two chairpersons and CM Gaffney agreed with the idea. However, the consensus from the other council members was that the Task Force would be best served with a single leader. CM Newby also said that there should be more time to select a Task Force chair, CVP Wilson concurred and added that there should be an opportunity to hear from various candidates. CM Boyer expressed her thoughts about how the chair and Task Force membership selection process should be transparent to maximize public support. It was decided that a subcommittee be created to vet Task Force chair candidates. Council Members Gaffney and Newby volunteered to participate and CM Gulliford agreed to be the chair for the subcommittee. The next step in the membership selection process will be to put out a press release announcement with applications for those who wish to be on the Task Force. The subcommittee will meet in a few weeks to review member applications, and then report back to the group at large.

The group then discussed the categories for membership qualifications, as described in the draft charge memo and legislation. CM Pittman suggested including someone from the youth population to provide perspective. CM Love said a representative from the Public Defender’s Office should be included. CM Boyer said that she doesn’t think it is necessary to have two council people as members, as there will be numerous council members in attendance regardless. According to the document drafts, Task Force membership will consist of the following categories:

• Chair

• Vice Chair, City Council Member

• Additional City Council Member

• Representatives from the Mayor’s Office

• Representatives from Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office

• Representatives from State Attorney’s Office

• Representatives from Kids Hope Alliance

• Representatives from Duval County Public Schools

• Representatives from religious institution/place of worship, non-profit, or other community organization actively engaged in crime prevention initiatives

• Representatives from business community

• Representatives from neighborhood group or association, Community Housing Development Organization, community activists

• Representatives from civic group

• Representatives from higher education institutions

Public Comment:

Several attendees took the opportunity to comment. One attendee said that she thought that the chairperson should be a leader from the black community. Some of the attendees spoke about the importance of this Task Force and the need for greater public safety in the city. CM Gulliford reminded the group that crime has been an issue of consideration for years, and also mentioned the work of the Jacksonville Journey. While some of the Jacksonville Journey programs are still in existence, the funding for these programs was temporary. Whatever results and recommendations are made by the Task Force at the end of this process will need financial sustainability and support from the business community and private organizations.

With no further business, CP Bowman adjourned the meeting at 4:51 pm

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:51 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 10.18.18 12:00 pm

Tape: Noticed Meeting with Council President Bowman RE: Establishing Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction - Legislative Services Division

10.16.18