

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

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**TASK FORCE ON SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION CHAIRMAN GRIFFIN AND COUNCIL MEMBER BOYER NOTICED MEETING MINUTES**

**Lynwood Roberts Room, 1st floor, City Hall**

**February 15, 2019**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Lynwood Roberts Room, City Hall – St. James Building; 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Task Force Chair Rev. Mark Griffin, Council Member Lori Boyer

**Also**: Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Carol Owens, Crystal Shemwell and Jessica Smith – Legislative Services Division; Chiquita Moore – Mayor’s Office

**Meeting Convened**: 10:26 a.m. (following the conclusion of a 9:00 a.m. meeting of the Task Force’s subcommittee chairs)

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order and Council Member Boyer asked how the City Council could support the organization and work of the Task Force. She has experience in shepherding large groups (Task Force on Consolidated Government, Special Committee on the Capital Improvement Program) through long and involved processes and can offer her perspective on making it work.

Ms. Boyer said that she had asked staff to send out two emails – one to the task force group as a whole sending the link to the task force data page and another to each individual member sending the same link and asking the members to respond about whether they had received the earlier group email. Sometimes spam filters will filter out emails sent to groups so some members may not be getting the group email. That will tell staff how they need to communicate with the members to ensure delivery to everyone.

Ms. Boyer has talked with City Council staff about posting all available resources to the Task Force web site. There is a lot of information already available at that site. The original Jacksonville Journey report was a wealth of information and included numerous recommendations beyond funding recommendations. She recommends distributing those recommendation lists to the subcommittees to inform their work. She requested the Council Research staff to pull those recommendation pages and sort them into lists by topics to be provided to the appropriate committee.

Ms. Boyer has talked with Council staff about the ongoing inventory of existing crime programs and the fact that several individual council members and the United Way are already doing work in that area. Mr. Griffin suggested compiling a “list of lists” of what already exists as the product of many agencies’ work. Ms. Boyer recommended that the Research Division staff distribute 1) the list of recommendations from previous studies of what needs to be done to deal with crime, and 2) the list of programs that already exist to deal with many of those recommendations. Ellen Glasser referenced the JSO’s Group Violence Intervention Strategy and asked for information about what JSO is currently doing to attack crime problems via concentrated efforts in specific areas. Chiquita Moore of the Mayor’s Office said that she is familiar with that program but cautioned that the JSO is reluctant to talk in too much detail in public forums about their plans and tactics. JSO Assistant Chief Thomas Waters can provide more information in a one-on-one setting and may be willing to speak in limited detail to the full task force. She recommended that task force members participate in a ride-along with JSO.

Ms. Boyer has talked to Council Research and the Legislative Services Division about staffing needs to handle the Task Force’s work. She has talked to Council Secretary/Director Cheryl Brown about the possibility of allocating part-time hours and hiring temporary employees to handle the workload of the subcommittees and their multiple meetings. She recommended that one or two people with experience in handling noticed Sunshine meetings and producing minutes be hired to provide the needed coverage. Chairman Griffin authorized Ms. Boyer to work with Ms. Brown to procure the needed help.

Ms. Boyer said that from her perspective in leading other long-term studies, it is important for the Chair to have certain specific timelines and deadlines for the subcommittees to submit specific deliverables throughout the process. There need to be specific expectations for reports on specific topics on specific dates so that the work can progress in an orderly fashion and reach the end of the process successfully. She suggested having the chair develop position papers to be distributed to get conversation started on issues rather than raising a topic and throwing the meeting open to wide-ranging discussion that may be lengthy and sometimes not efficient.

In response to a question from Mr. Griffin, Ms. Boyer said that the task force is not mandated to have public comment at each meeting (particularly if the task force is hearing from subject matter experts in a learning mode) but should hear from the public before votes are taken. She recommended that comment among task force members during its meetings be managed so that the work of the group can progress in a timely manner. Individual task force member issues like problems opening emails and finding documents on the task force web site should be dealt with outside of the full meeting context. Ms. Boyer said that there is no expectation of or right to public participation in a noticed meeting between two task force members such as this meeting, despite the fact that it must be noticed and the public may attend. The fact that a meeting is noticed and open for public observation does not necessarily entail a right for the public to participate.

Mr. Griffin said that the subcommittees have been asked to meet and to report back at the March 8 Task Force meeting on their initial discussions about their policy areas.

Public comment

John Nooney hoped that the task force and its subcommittees would offer opportunities for public comment at all meetings. He cautioned against allowing some people to speak but not others. He offered his services to assist the work of the task force.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:00 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

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Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction subcommittee chairs meeting 2.15.19 – LSD