

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Education and Youth Development Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**February 28, 2019**

**4:00 pm**

**Conference Room A**

**Fourth Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: W.C. Gentry

Betty Burney-Excused

Amy Donofrio

Constance Hall

Timothy Sloan

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Warren Jones, DCPS Subject Matter Expert- Excused

Brandon Griggs, Youth Subject Matter Expert

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction –Education and Youth Development Subcommittee

**Attendance:** Council Member Jim Love; Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Chiquita Moore- Mayor’s Office; Jessica Matthews, Crystal Shemwell and Jessica Smith- Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 4:00 pm

Chairperson Gentry convened the meeting and called for introductions. Mr. Gentry then reviewed the subcommittee mission, which focuses on making recommendations upon the coordination of youth programs. This mission would require an inventory of existing education and youth development programs, which may overlap with the inventories created by other subcommittees.

There was a discussion about the subcommittee’s plan of action, which will include following up on recommendations made in the 2006 JCCI study report “Reducing Murder” and the Jacksonville Journey. Chairperson Gentry noted that the Jacksonville Journey programs were not sufficiently supported financially in the City budget, with $50 million requested in 2013 but roughly $10 million allocated. The subcommittee members agreed that a dedicated funding source may be necessary to make programming sustainable over time and to provide the resources necessary to implement the programs. Chairperson Gentry mentioned the Children’s Trust (Miami-Dade County) which was authorized by referendum by Miami-Dade County voters in 2002 and reauthorized by voters in 2008. The Children’s Trust is one of eight independent Children's Services Councils authorized to levy up to 50 cents per $1,000 of property tax value. This voter-approved taxing authority ensures that a dedicated funding source is available to meet the specific needs of children and families living in those eight counties.

Subcommittee Member Amy Donofrio spoke about the importance of conflict resolution and de-escalation skills. Ms. Donofrio is the founder of the EVAC movement, an award winning grassroots youth advocacy movement for youth who have been impacted by violence, and a teacher at Lee High School. Ms. Donofrio said that, in her experience, most teens will not participate in after school programming but may benefit more from a jobs program which would provide them and their families with much needed additional income. It was also suggested that Ms. Donofrio partner with one of the meeting attendees, Melissa Kerce from Yoga for Change, to collaborate on programming ideas for children aged 14-18.

Chairperson Gentry commented on the impact of literacy skills on life outcomes and how third grade is a turning point where many students fall behind. Due to this timeframe, early intervention is essential. The group consensus was that children’s programming should be tailored by age group, as each segment has different needs. Brandon Griggs, the youth subject matter expert, made several comments about funding for schools, and how schools should receive more funds and that all schools (regardless of zip code) should benefit equally.

Several subcommittee members expressed interest in holding meetings outside of City Hall and in the community, preferably at a school, to include the voices of students and parents in the work of the Task Force. The technical requirements of the Sunshine Law make such meetings difficult, though not impossible. All subcommittee and Task Force meetings must have minutes recorded by staff, and be held in public buildings, such as libraries, and be publically noticed.

Kimberley Miller, Duval County Schools, mentioned inviting the PTA president to a future meeting. Chairperson Gentry also noted that he would like a DCPS representative at all meetings, as well as someone from the Early Learning Coalition. Chairperson Gentry requested a copy of the 2016 efficacy evaluation report from the Jacksonville Journey programs and asked council research to look into what has happened to those programs since the Journey ended.

With no further business, Chairperson Gentry adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will be on March 6, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 5:39 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 3.4.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Education and Youth Development Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 2.28.19