

# JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2019**

**9:00 am**

**Council Chambers**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

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

**Attendance:** Council Members Newby and Love; Colleen Hampsey – Council Research; Jessica Smith, Melanie Wilkes and Carol Owens – Legislative Services

For all Task Force Members and other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 9:01 am

This was the third meeting for the Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction. The Task Force Chair, Pastor Mark Griffin, called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Kirby Oberdorfer, Deputy Director of the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight, was in attendance to speak about some Sunshine Law related questions. Ms. Oberdorfer said that: Task Force members are permitted to speak with subject matter experts outside of a noticed meeting, as long as only one Task Force member is in attendance; documents created by members pertaining to Task Force matters should not be deleted but instead should be preserved as public records; meetings held outside of City Hall are permissible if there is public access, appropriate notice and minutes taken. Ms. Oberdorfer also said that if subcommittees hold noticed meetings in conjunction with one another, both membership lists should be included on the meeting notice.

Each subcommittee chair presented updates to the full Task Force.

1. Workforce training- Chair Tom Geismar was excused and Ceil Schellenberg spoke in his place. The subcommittee met twice and agreed that the vison for the subcommittee should be to envision a workforce training ecosystem which leads to employment accessible by and available to all Jacksonville residents and provides a living wage for all families. The group will work to ensure access to workforce training and employment as well as defining barriers to employment for youth and adults.
2. Community engagement- has not met yet.
3. Mentoring- Chair Dr. Sabrina Edwards spoke about the subcommittee’s meeting and how the mission will center on inventorying existing programs to assess what exists and what works and what doesn’t. It was suggested that there may be a need for an umbrella concept (perhaps with a czar-type leadership role) for a city-wide mentoring program which would include all of the relevant service providers in collaboration. The mentoring subcommittee goals are to implement mentoring for 10,000 children in Jacksonville; screen, recruit and train 1000 new mentors; create partnerships with businesses and service clubs; create specialized mentoring programs for juvenile offenders; and identify funding sources for program permanency. Joe Peppers, CEO of the Kids Hope Alliance, mentioned that KHA allocated $2.1 million this year for mentoring programs.
4. Business partnerships- has not met yet.
5. Education and youth development- Chair W.C. Gentry updated the group on the two subcommittee meetings. Mr. Gentry emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan from the Task Force, an openness towards innovative youth programs, the use of performance metrics based on outcomes (not just number of children served), and early literacy as a means to deter future crime.
6. Re-entry and juvenile justice- Chair Frank Denton spoke about the two subcommittee’s meetings. Mr. Denton described his proposed outline of work for the subcommittee members, with the intent that each member select one to research further and report back upon to the group. Within each topic, the subcommittee members were directed to consider 3 factors: what programs are already in existence and are they adequate; are there gaps in programming options; what is the level of coordination between service providers.
7. Family engagement- Chair Ellen Glasser shared the update from the subcommittee, which will make one or two recommendations as to how to best connect children with the greatest need with available services. The group also discussed examining the role of guns, though not all members were in agreement.
8. Neighborhoods- Chair Ronnie King talked about the first subcommittee meeting in which the group decided to focus less on programs and more on comparing existing neighborhood assets, liabilities, health, infrastructure (street lights, sidewalks, and blight), services, and social capital. The subcommittee has been tasked with creating an inventory of services related to neighborhoods which will also include neighborhood associations and possibly using GIS mapping to overlay crime patterns and neighborhood assets like parks and community centers.
9. Mental health and substance abuse- Chair Shelley Grant said that the subcommittee has held one meeting and they are working on program inventories for juveniles and adults, evaluating gaps in accessible mental health care locally and examining the relationship between law enforcement/corrections and mental health/substance abuse.

Several members of the audience offered public comment and the cards are on file. The Chair determined that a meeting with the subcommittee chairs will occur on March 29 to discuss the Task Force report due to council by May 1st. The Chair requested that Legislative Services tally the hours spent by the members in subcommittee meetings and meetings of the body as a whole. With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting. The next Task Force meeting will be Friday April 5, 2019 at 9:00am.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:52 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 3.12.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction- Legislative Services Division

3.8.19