

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

**Committee Room B**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Richard Danford

E. Joyce Bolden-Absent

Francois Brown

Constance Hall

Donna Webb-Absent

Lakesha Burton, Subject Matter Expert -Absent

Stephen Siegal, Subject matter Expert

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction –Community Engagement Subcommittee

**Attendance:** Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Crystal Shemwell and Ladayija Nichols - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 5:04 pm

Chairperson Danford convened the meeting and welcomed the members. This was the second meeting for the Community Engagement Subcommittee and they reviewed the subcommittee charge, which is to: *focus on community action groups; develop ways to organize and empower community and neighborhood groups; provide avenues for education and advocacy; help neighborhood groups understand that they are the first line of defense to reducing crime and increasing community safety; inventory existing programs.*

There was a lengthy discussion about community groups and how to develop trust among residents, service providers and government agencies. Mr. Siegal, State Attorney’s Office, spoke about the listening session he has attended in various parts of the city over the last two years. In his assessment, many residents in ‘high crime’ neighborhoods feel disconnected from city leaders and service providers. The group discussed Council President Bowman’s upcoming town hall event about crime and safety at the Legends Center (March 28, 2019). It was also said that there should be more town hall events across the city to create opportunities for community engagement. Chairperson Danford spoke about four important aspects of community engagement: trust, transparency, communication and commitment.

The subcommittee members asked several questions about the methods by which the public can communicate with City leaders and departments. Ms. Moore, Mayor’s Office, explained how constituents may reach council members (phone calls, emails), the 630-city and CARE systems process, which are available for service requests (pot holes, animal control, trash issues etc.) and resident complaints.

The members talked about possible recommendations to make to the Task Force by the reporting deadline, but all agreed there should be input from community groups (CPACs, neighborhood associations) prior to deciding upon recommendations. The members also agreed that any recommendations be achievable and practical. They discussed the possibility of creating a City position of a community engagement officer to coordinate with various entities and groups throughout the city. It was mentioned that 630-city could be marketed more broadly, through mailers or public service announcements. With no further business, Chairperson Danford adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will be April 3, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:34 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 3.26.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Community Engagement Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 3.21.19