

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Mentoring Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2019**

**2:30 pm**

**Conference Room A**

**Fourth Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Dr. Sabrina Edwards

Clifton Anderson-Absent

Francois Brown

Larry Cook

Preston Harris

Rob Mason- Subject Matter Expert

Sean Mulholland

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

**Attendance:** Council Members Jim Love and Sam Newby; Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Chiquita Moore- Mayor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell and Ladayija Nichols- Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 2:32 pm

Chairperson Edwards convened the meeting and called for introductions. This was the second meeting for the mentoring subcommittee and Dr. Edwards welcomed the group. The members approved the minutes from the previous meeting and reviewed the agenda. In the first subcommittee meeting, the members discussed five objectives: implement a city-wide mentoring office; hire a mentoring director/liaison; recommend the development of a mentoring plan for children ages 10-18 in Duval County Schools and the juvenile justice system; recruit, screen and train 10,000 prospective new mentors; establish a consistent partnership with business and community volunteers. Currently, KHA serves as the umbrella organization for mentoring in the city, but there is no distinct mentoring director or responsible party coordinating city-wide efforts.

Dr. Edwards proposed the creation of a City position for a mentoring director who would act as a liaison among all mentoring entities. CM Newby noted that Task Force funding will be limited, as there is no continuous funding source, and that it may be hard to justify using a large portion of that money on salaries instead of programming. CM Newby also said that the subcommittee should draft an operational budget for the potential position and staff. Ms. Schellenberg lamented the history of City initiated and funded children’s’ programs which get started but have to end due to a lack of continuous funding. Several Florida counties have instituted a millage tax which is used to fund children’s services (Miami-Dade, Pinellas, and Hillsborough etc.). According to Florida Statute, any county whose voters agreed through referendum may create a special taxing district for children’s services with a governing board and the authority to levy ad valorem taxes. These voter-approved Children's Services Councils are authorized to levy up to 50 cents per $1,000 of property tax value utilized for children’s services. CM Newby indicated that the public and elected officials (including him) would not support such a tax.

Sara Alford, CEO of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of NE Florida, was in attendance to speak about her organization’s mentoring programs. Ms. Alford said that there are different types on mentoring (one on one, small and large groups) which are appropriate on an individualized basis. When asked what she would do with more funding, Ms. Alford said that it would be used to bolster recruitment efforts and to offset the costs of mentor training and background checks. CM Love asked about capacity and how many mentors could be provided with their existing resources. Currently Big Brothers/Big Sisters case managers oversee between 100 and 120 mentor relationships, which could be stretched to include 200. Ms. Alford also said that most organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, are hesitant to begin new programs without a sustainability plan in place.

CM Love inquired about a comprehensive mentoring resource inventory, including current and potential capacity. The Council Research Division is currently working on this request and will coordinate with KHA which is also working on a mentoring asset map. Prior to adjournment, Mr. Harris spoke about the need for enriching summer camps, youth events and elementary literacy programs. With no further business, Chairperson Edwards adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will be on April 11, 2019 at 2:30 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:12pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 3.25.19 5:00 pm

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