

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Workforce Training Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**March 28, 2019**

**10:30 am**

**Committee Room B**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Tom Geismar

Ricky Brown

Marian Hannah- Excused

Carolyn Herman

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Shamika Wright

Jennifer Blaylock, Subject Matter Expert

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

**Attendance:** Council Member JuCoby Pittman; Colleen Hampsey – Council Research; Crystal Shemwell– Legislative Services; Chiquita Moore – Mayor’s Office

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 10:42 am

This was the fourth meeting for the Workforce Training Subcommittee. Chairperson Tom Geismar welcomed the group, called for introductions and the members approved the minutes from the previous meeting. The members reviewed the mission statement and edited the language in the third bullet point from “*propose* options to fill those gaps” to “*provide* options to fill those gaps”. The subcommittee approved the revised mission statement.

Council Member Pittman was in attendance and spoke about the Clara White Mission job training programs. The Clara White Mission is a one-stop community-development center with job training, employment placement, and housing initiatives. They offer a 20-week Culinary and Janitorial curricula designed to offer students (men and women 18 years of age and older with a priority focus on veterans) an opportunity to practice their skills in an environment that will prepare them for a career in those industries.

Ms. Schellenberg spoke about CareerSource, a federal and state funded agency that provides workforce-related services to six NE Florida counties (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns) and about proposed Florida legislation (HB 661) which would alter high school graduation requirements by creating an alternative pathway to standard high school diploma through a Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathway option. Ms. Blaylock talked about identifying the gaps in access to workforce training, such as access, exposure, and technology. Ms. Blaylock also mentioned the need for an awareness campaign to increase exposure to different career fields, and the potential benefits that could come from CareerSource partnering with the housing authority to make workforce training more accessible to those living in public housing.

Ms. Herman spoke again about the New Horizons computer training classes, which offers certifications in various software programs and has a 96 percent success rate for job placements. However, the average cost for the coursework is $23,000 for three months of training and participants must have a high school diploma or GED, both of which may hinder some from accessing the program. It was said that FSCJ offers similar software certification courses at a lower cost.

Mr. Geismar reported that he had a conversation with Ryan Rewey, DCPS Director of Career & Technical Education, about the vocational programs offered in the school district. Per that conversation, Mr. Geismar said that they struggle with finding qualified instructors and with the high cost of the equipment needed for training. The mission of the Career and Technical Education Department is to prepare employable, productive citizens who can adapt to a rapidly changing and highly technological global community. These programs are varied, are housed in schools throughout the city (though there is a need for more programs in more locations) but are not accessible to students who drop out of school.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair announced that the next Workforce Training Subcommittee meeting will be on April 3, 2019 at 10:30 am.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:59 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.1.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Workforce Training Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 3.28.19