

# JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Subcommittee Chairs Meeting Minutes**

**March 29, 2019**

**9:00 am**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Subcommittee Chairs meeting

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

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 9:01 am

This was a meeting of the subcommittee chairpersons to discuss progress and future planning. Each subcommittee chairperson in attendance provided an update on their work so far. Ronnie King, Neighborhoods Subcommittee, reported that they have had two meetings in which they discussed asset mapping and blight and met with staff from Public Works, Solid Waste and the Neighborhoods Department. Ms. Glasser suggested that the Neighborhoods Subcommittee consider recommending that community centers extend their hours.

Shelley Grant, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee, reported that they have met three times, invited guest speakers who spoke about developing a trauma response plan, and are focusing on reducing mental heal stigma through education and building trusting relationships. Michael Munz, Business Partnerships Subcommittee, reported that that group has not had the opportunity to meet yet due to a medical emergency. The Business Partnerships Subcommittee will meet after the chair’s meeting and will discuss tactical strategies to bring the business community into the fold to reduce crime in the city. Mr. Munz spoke about public-private partnerships which may be facilitated by creating a trust fund for funding (similar to that of the recently created Opioid Trust Fund).

Tom Geismar, Workforce Training Subcommittee provided an update about the four meetings that have taken place. Mr. Geismar reported that the group has approved a vision and mission statement, discussed barriers to workforce training and areas of the city which have high rates of unemployment (in several zip codes the rate is 2 times higher or more than in the city as a whole).

Linda Joseph, filling in for Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee Chair Frank Denton, updated the group about their progress. Mr. Denton assigned a series of eight subtopics for each member to research and discuss at the next meeting. Ellen Glasser, Family Engagement Subcommittee, spoke about the four meetings they have had so far. Ms. Glasser mentioned the need to build trust to bridge the relationship between communities and governmental agencies and the need for more input from the public. Ms. Glasser also talked about the responsibility to make guns a part of the Task Force analysis. Several other members in attendance expressed reluctance to examine the gun issue because it is too controversial and/or politically divisive. Task Force Chair Griffin said he would reflect on the issue and bring it up at the next full meeting.

Richard Danford, Community Engagement Subcommittee, said that they have held two meetings but are anxious to include the public in a forum outside of City Hall. Dr. Danford mentioned the Blueprint for Consolidation report written by the Consolidation Task Force a few years ago and how it contains pertinent information for the subcommittees. It was requested that the report be posted to the Task Force webpage for easy accessibility to those interested in reading it. It was also said that the Task Force should have more involvement with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office. Charles Moreland and Chiquita Moore, Mayor’s Office, spoke about a JSO intervention initiative to deter criminal activity. The “hammer and hope” approach extends assistance to those who want to go on a different non-criminal path or punishment for those who do not. Ronnie King suggested that the Task Force investigate the circumstances of those listed on the JSO website as suspects arrested for homicides, in order to identify root causes for the crimes (lack of access to services or mentoring, mental health issues etc.).

Dr. Sabrina Edwards, Mentoring Subcommittee, presented an update on the two meetings they have had. The Mentoring Subcommittee has a clear list of goals to increase the amount of mentors throughout the city. Mr. Munz suggested that Dr. Edwards attend the Business Partnerships meeting to possibly collaborate to include the business community in the city-wide mentoring plan.

With no further business, Task Force Chair Griffin adjourned the meeting. The next Task Force meeting will be Friday April 5, 2019 at 9:00am.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:42 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.8.19 5:00 pm

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

3.29.19