

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Business Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**March 29, 2019**

**1:00 pm**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Michael Munz

Ricky Brown

Josh Cockrell

Richard Danford

Ben Frazier

Alicia Sitren-Excused

Timothy Sloan

Shamika Wright-Excused

Charles Moreland, Subject Matter Expert-Excused

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

**Attendance:** Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Dawn Lockhart and Chiquita Moore- Mayor’s Office; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 1:06 pm

Chairperson Munz convened the meeting and called for introductions. This was the first meeting of the Business Partnerships Subcommittee. Dr. Sabrina Edwards, Chair of the Mentoring Subcommittee, was in attendance to talk about coordination with the business community in a city-wide mentoring plan. It was mentioned that it may be helpful for there to also be adult mentorship programs to assist with various skills in setting up and maintaining a business (there are some existing programs which do help with this through UNF and the Chamber). Dawn Lockhart, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Mayor’s Office, presented information about the Mayor’s Youth at Work Partnership. The goal of the youth work program is to: *build the talent pipeline for our local economy by connecting young adults with education and employment career pathways that prepare them to meet the skill demands of employers while leading them to workforce success.* This youth work program used to be a summer jobs program but is evolving into a year-round career pathway strategy which could potentially earn school credit through participation.

Josh Cockrell noted that the subcommittee’s focus should not be exclusively on youth, as there are numerous adults in need of employment. Mr. Cockrell also spoke about a 2016 JAXChamber initiative to “ban the box”. At the time, Jacksonville’s largest corporations and dozens of small to midsized companies committed to wait to ask about a job applicant’s arrest history until the job interview process. If this initiative were reactivated and promoted city-wide, it would be beneficial to many jobseekers that are often immediately rejected based upon an application response without a chance to explain the circumstances of the arrest.

Tim Sloan talked about the need to build more business partnerships with schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods, many of which have no PTAs, and are lacking in community support. Ben Frazier spoke about the need for economic redevelopment in certain parts of the city by supporting minority owned businesses and the urgency to take active measures. It was suggested that there could be more economic incentives offered to companies that locate in the north and west sides of the city. Chairperson Munz emphasized the tactical strategy required to get the business community involved with steps that will help to reduce crime in the city. Mr. Munz would like to have a “package” to take to local businesses to garner support which will stress the importance of civic engagement and the benefits of a well-qualified talent pipeline for the future of the city.

With no further business, Chairperson Munz adjourned the meeting. The next Business Partnerships Subcommittee meeting has yet to be scheduled.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:56 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.3.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Business Partnerships Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 3.29.19