

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**April 3, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

**Don Davis Room**

**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

Stephen Siegal, Subject Matter Expert

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

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

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 5:11 pm

Chairperson Danford convened the meeting and welcomed the members. This was the third meeting for the Community Engagement Subcommittee. Chairperson Danford spoke about the need to collaborate with the Business Partnerships Subcommittee and about how it is important to create actionable subcommittee recommendations. Dr. Danford talked about the Neighborhood Bill of Rights, which outlined a structure by which the public may communicate with City government and mediate rights if violated. The City of Jacksonville Neighborhood Bill of Rights **(**Ordinance 95-247-106): *Every organized, officially-recognized neighborhood in the City of Jacksonville has the right to expect and receive the following from the officials, employees and agencies of the City of Jacksonville:*

*\*Prompt, courteous, informed responses to all questions regarding City business. Replies, if only to report that inquiries or research are underway and a full response will be forthcoming at a later time, should be made within one working day of the original neighborhood contact.*

*\*Advance notification of any City-related public works or utility project taking place within or adjacent to a neighborhood (e.g. road paving; water, sewer or drainage work; traffic signal installation or removal; park renovation or substantial maintenance; land purchases, etc.), including the day(s) and probable length of any street closures, utility interruptions, or other adverse impacts on the neighborhood, and the name and phone number of the City representative most knowledgeable and able to immediately answer questions during the course of the work.*

*\*Notification of the submission of any application for rezoning, zoning or land use variance or exception, Development of Regional Impact (DRI) or Planned Unit Development (PUD) application, or other significant land use action; a clear explanation of the date, time and place of all applicable public hearings and other opportunities for public input on the application; and a clear explanation of the type of testimony that is allowable and relevant from neighborhood organizations and residents.*

*\*Opportunity for formal input into the annual budget process, including the opportunity to express preferred city government priorities, suggested capital improvement projects and other statements that fairly represent the opinion of a majority of the neighborhood's residents.*

*\*A timely personal response of its district councilperson or that councilperson's aide to questions directed to the City Council office.*

*\*The opportunity to participate in the design of publicly-funded projects within or adjacent to the neighborhood, including the opportunity early in the planning process to express neighborhood preferences about choice of location, materials, orientation, size, land use intensity, and other features.*

Mr. Siegal spoke about community engagement as associated with the State Attorney’s Office, who employs a full time community engagement coordinator that attends various meetings throughout the city and reports back about any issues or concerns. Lakesha Burton, in attendance via telephone, spoke about JSO community engagement units (blight, Sheriff’s Watch) who have the goal to create a safer community through stronger relationships. The members discussed the possibility of a City-funded community engagement coordinator and the creation of a searchable community engagement calendar on the City website.

The subcommittee talked about the plans for the next meeting, which will be held at the Highlands Brach Library on April 10th. Dr. Danford expressed his hopes that any attendees would practice decorum at the event. Any limitations on public comment time allotment will be made as the circumstances dictate. For future meetings, it was suggested that Stephanie Burch, Director of the Neighborhoods Department, and Monica Cichowlas attend to speak about 630-City and various city policies. The members also want to know more about CPACs and how they address citizen complaints.

With no further business, Chairperson Danford adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will be April 10, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Highlands Regional Library.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:05 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.8.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Community Engagement Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 4.3.19