

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Family Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**April 17, 2019**

**9:00 am**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Ellen Glasser

Tom Geismar

Phyllis Hall

Timothy Sloan

Alicia Sitren-Excused

Shamika Wright

Mia Allen, Subject matter expert-Absent

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

**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

Chairperson Glasser convened the meeting and welcomed the members. This was the fifth meeting for the Family Engagement Subcommittee and the group approved the minutes from the previous meeting. The group discussed the ranked priority list from the last meeting. The items on the list selected most by the members at the last meeting were: engage with community to listen to voices and build grassroots involvement; survey community on top ten funded organizations; focus on youth not in school; partner with DCPS, churches and courts. To encourage open communication, it may be recommended by the subcommittee that council members hold regular town hall events to hear from constituents.

The subcommittee talked about the effect of mass incarceration on the family, particularly as it impacts the presence of male role models. As families come in all sorts of configurations, there was a brief conversation about what a family looks like. The group requested data about single parent family status by zip code to be provided by council research. The subcommittee talked about the role of churches in family engagement. Mr. Brown noted that while pastors have the ear of the people, they are not necessarily the leaders in the community. Mr. Sloan spoke about the importance of personal initiative and accountability, as opposed to self-victimization or blaming the unfairness of the ‘system’.

The subcommittee discussed methods by which to create awareness of available services. Ms. Moore, Mayor’s Office, explained that various city departments have community engagement components, though they are not coordinated. Ms. Moore was also asked to describe the Cure Violence program, which began at the University of Illinois/Chicago School of Public Health and was recently funded by the administration and city council. The Cure Violence Health Model uses the same components that are used to reverse epidemic disease outbreaks, utilizes trained violence interrupters and local outreach workers prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community, and following up to ensure that the conflict does not reignite. The subcommittee requested that a representative from Cure Violence attend a future meeting.

The group asked Ms. Moore about the JSO gang reduction strategy, Hammer and Hope. The Hammer and Hope intervention strategy includes social media monitoring of certain individuals whose behavior indicates they may commit a crime (shooting). Those individuals are then offered an opportunity to choose a different non-criminal pathway and, if they choose to participate, they connected with various support services. Ms. Moore said she will report back about the acceptance rate of those who have been offered this option.

Ms. Glasser asked about the offender database comparison mentioned in the last Task Force meeting and whether it is underway. There was a discussion about the prospect of holding a focus group with community members, possibly from the nonprofit Families of Slain Children. Ms. Wright said she will reach out to the founder, Beverly McClain to make those arrangements.

Public comment

One attendee spoke about the need to hold meetings in the community instead of expecting people to attend meetings downtown. Another spoke about family mentoring for a more holistic approach.

With no further business, Chairperson Glasser adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for some time in May, possibly May 22nd.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:36 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.18.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Family Engagement Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 4.17.19