

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Business Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**April 19, 2019**

**11:00 am**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Michael Munz

Ricky Brown

Josh Cockrell

Richard Danford-Excused

Ben Frazier-Excused

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; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 11:00 am

Chairperson Munz convened the meeting and called for introductions. This was the second meeting of the Business Partnerships Subcommittee. Mr. Munz updated the group on the details from his joint subcommittee meeting with the workforce training and community engagement chairs. In that joint meeting, Mr. Sloan spoke about a film from his youth, Scared Straight, in which a group of juvenile delinquents interact with actual convicts in an attempt to "scare them straight" so that those teenagers will avoid prison life. Mr. Sloan suggested a deviation from that theme (Business Straight Talk), wherein local business owners regularly visit schools to present information about what qualities it takes to get hired and keep a job, as well as pass along knowledge about business in whatever their specialized field may be.

The members in attendance supported the Business Straight Talk idea. Mr. Cockrell added that the children should also have the opportunity for field trips to the businesses themselves, building connections to what the children’s interests may be and exposure to new experiences. He also mentioned incorporating a mentoring component as well. Mr. Brown spoke about the importance of using community connections for outreach, like the Cure the Violence model, to build trust.

Mr. Cockrell talked about not just focusing on youth and renewing the “Ban the box” campaign to open opportunities for employment for those previously incarcerated who are often eliminated from applicant pools based on answering to the affirmative about criminal history. Mr. Sloan said that employers have the right to know as much as possible about new employees. Mr. Cockrell explained that banning the box gives the applicant a chance to reach the interview stage and then explain the circumstances in person, rather than being dismissed prior to interviewing.

Mr. Sloan spoke about the need for business partnerships in some of the city’s underserved schools which lack PTAs or other funding support systems. Mr. Cockrell suggested a program where employers can contribute a portion of their pre-tax income to these schools, possibly with an employer match (like United Way). Such a program would require an oversight committee to allocate funds appropriately.

With no further business, Chairperson Munz adjourned the meeting. The next Business Partnerships Subcommittee meeting has yet to be scheduled but Mr. Munz may invite Dawn Lockhart to attend to speak about the Mayor’s Trust Fund.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:00 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.24.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Business Partnerships Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 4.19.19