

# JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Workforce Training/Business Partnerships/Community Engagement Chairs**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 19, 2019**

**10:00 am**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

**Topic:** Workforce Training/Business Partnerships/Community Engagement Chairs Meeting

**Attendance:** Michael Munz – Business Partnerships; Tom Geismar – Workforce Training; Colleen Hampsey – Council Research; Crystal Shemwell – Legislative Services; Task Force members Tim Sloan and Ricky Brown

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 10:13 am

This was a meeting of the chairpersons from the Workforce Training/Business Partnerships/Community Engagement subcommittees to discuss collaboration as there is significant crossover in the missions of both groups. Community Engagement Chair Danford was not able to attend. Mr. Munz said that through his conversations in the community he has gathered that he has the support from the JAXChamber and the Administration for whatever action steps the subcommittees agree upon. Mr. Munz also referenced the Mayors Trust Fund as a possible funding source for public private partnerships.

Mr. Geismar talked about barriers to employment, specifically a lack of high school diploma or GED. He indicated that the workforce training subcommittee is studying possible alternative pathways for those lacking diplomas. Mr. Geismar also spoke about the Cure the Violence and Hammer and Hope models of outreach, in that they utilize community members to connect and communicate. Mr. Geismar mentioned the need to assess trends in future employment sectors. Mr. Munz said that healthcare and logistics are growing fields locally.

Mr. Sloan talked about employability skills and how some applicants do not have them. Interview skills, interpersonal connections, cultural differences were all talked about with the group. Mr. Munz recounted a story he had heard from a large local employer who recently hired 70 new staff members. Of the 70, only 20 ended up being retained due to the inability to pass a second drug test.

Mr. Sloan spoke about a film from his youth, Scared Straight. In the documentary, 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. Mr. Munz agreed with the idea and thought it was a good way to involve the business community in schools, particularly those schools who do not get a lot of community support. Mr. Sloan will draft a proposal and distribute it to the participating subcommittee members through council staff.

Public Comment: James Coleman, Workforce Industrial Training, was in attendance to speak about his programs. Mr. Coleman serves young adults ages 16-24 and offers certification trainings for workforce skills, as well as soft skills for long term employability. Mr. Coleman is applying for a federal grant, which requires a letter of support that he would like from the Task Force. Mr. Munz said that while the members in attendance support Mr. Coleman’s work it might be more advisable to connect with the Task Force Chair, Mark Griffin, or Council President Bowman, as the subcommittee members do not have the authority to sign off on such a letter independently.

With no further business, Mr. Munz adjourned the meeting. The next collaborative subcommittee meeting scheduled as needed.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:01 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.24.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Workforce Training/Business Partnerships/Community Engagement Chairs

Meeting - Legislative Services Division

4.19.19