

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Community Engagement Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**April 24, 2019**

**11:00 am**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Richard Danford

E. Joyce Bolden-Absent

Francois Brown-Absent

Constance Hall-EXCUSED

Donna Webb

Lakesha Burton, Subject Matter Expert-EXCUSED

Stephen Siegal, Subject Matter Expert

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

**Attendance:** Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Carol Owens- Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 11:01 am

Chairperson Danford convened the meeting and welcomed the members. This was the fifth meeting for the Community Engagement Subcommittee. The group reviewed the minutes from all of the previous meetings. Ms. Webb indicated that there is one error on the March 21 minutes, in which she was marked absent but she was actually in attendance.

There was a discussion about the Neighborhood Bill of Rights, as written in Ordinance 95-247-106. Mr. Siegal said that even though the ordinance was not codified, there is not enforcement mechanism in place and the document only is as strong as the city’s support allows. The Consolidation Task Force (2014) recommended giving the Bill of Rights “teeth” to make it more effective.

Dr. Danford spoke about how can citizens give input on big projects or the City’s budget, and the need for clear and obvious pathways to communicate with the City which are procedural not philosophical. The group talked about an ombudsman, which the City already has, as a mediator between the public and the City for the redress of grievances. The subcommittee mentioned CPACs as a method for members of the community to have a voice in City project decisions and connect with City department directors. The group agreed that CPAC meetings need more publicity (PSAs or mailers) to get more residents involved.

The subcommittee discussed the following possible recommendations to make to the Task Force: create a searchable community event calendar; a neighborhood coordinator position in the City to oversee community engagement; regularly scheduled and well publicized town hall type meetings throughout the city with council members; re-write, update, reaffirm and publish the bill of rights with community and CPAC input as to what to include.

Public comment: Mr. Kuzel spoke about the most frequent priorities he has heard from members of the community who want open communication, access and recourse from City officials.

Mr. Siegal will draft a version of the Bill of Rights revision recommendation and distribute it to the members. With no further business, Chairperson Danford adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting has yet to be scheduled.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:53 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 4.25.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Community Engagement Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 4.24.19