

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Workforce Training and Education-Youth Development Subcommittees**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 8, 2019**

**4:30 pm**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Tom Geismar

Ricky Brown

Marian Hannah

Carolyn Herman-Excused

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Shamika Wright

Jennifer Blalock, Subject Matter Expert- Excused

Chair: W.C. Gentry

Betty Burney- Excused

Amy Donofrio

Constance Hall

Timothy Sloan- Excused

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

Warren Jones, DCPS Subject Matter Expert- Excused

Brandon Griggs, Youth Subject Matter Expert- Excused

Denise Marzullo -Excused

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction – Workforce Training and Education-Youth Development Subcommittees

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

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 4:41 pm

Chairperson Tom Geismar welcomed the group and called for introductions

Ryan Rewey, Director of Career and Technical Education (CTE): Applied Technologies and Workforce Development for Duval County Schools, was in attendance to speak about career and technical training programs in schools. DCPS has 20,000 students enrolled in CTE courses, offers 204 programs and 43 industry certifications. From Mr. Rewey, Ms. Donofrio requested a list of schools with their workforce certification availability and completion data. There were some questions about how schools are selected for each program, which is based on enrollment, principal interest and staff/building availability. The CTE mission is to prepare employable, productive citizens who can adapt to a rapidly changing and highly technological global community. When asked what he would do if hypothetically given unlimited funding, Mr. Rewey said that he would increase his staff (which is currently small), expand as many programs as possible and include all middle schools in CTE programs.

Mr. Rewey also spoke about mutually supportive partnerships between schools and the business community. These partnerships provide students with paid internships, mentors, and exposure to different careers. It was suggested that there should be more such partnerships and that all high schools (especially those in high crime neighborhoods) should have the opportunity to benefit from partnerships with the business community. Ms. Donofrio, a high school teacher who has seen the majority of her students experience trauma from homicides and other violence, expressed a sense of urgency for the Task Force to take decisive actions to help reduce crime. She also suggested that some high poverty schools could benefit from having more CTE offerings, particularly for entrepreneurship.

Public comment: One attendee, who is a senior in high school, spoke about the connection between poverty and crime and also about how social media platforms (like Instagram and Twitter) are the best methods of communication for his peer group. Mr. Harris spoke about the need for teen summer programming, apprenticeships, career exposure camps and creating more overall awareness of existing programs and services within the city.

With no further business, the Chairs agreed that the two subcommittees will meet jointly at a later date and then they adjourned the meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:27 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

CHampsey @coj.net (904) 630-1498

Posted 5.13.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Workforce Training and Education-Youth Development Subcommittees -Legislative Services Division 5.8.19