

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Workforce Training Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**May 17, 2019**

**10:30 am**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Tom Geismar

Ricky Brown

Marian Hannah - Excused

Carolyn Herman

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg- Excused

Shamika Wright- Excused

Jennifer Blalock, Subject Matter Expert- Excused

**Topic:** Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction – Workforce Training Subcommittee

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

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 11:05 am

This was the tenth meeting for the Workforce Training Subcommittee. Chairperson Tom Geismar welcomed the group and called for introductions from the members in attendance. Mr. Geismar said that the other members should feel free to be a part of future meeting agenda development and should submit topics to Crystal for inclusion. The chair also said that the young man who spoke at the joint workforce and education-youth development meeting will attend a meeting after the school year ends to discuss social media awareness campaigns targeting youth.

Mr. Geismar talked about workforce training as a system, characterized by a group of parts that interact to form a coherent whole. In theory, any changes in one component of a system will affect other components as well as the overall entity. Ms. Herman compared the changes in the modern technology driven workforce to the changes which occurred when society became less agrarian during the industrial revolution. The group discussed what barriers to employment may have existed at that time and what barriers still exist. The members also talked about welfare and whether it acts as a barrier to employment because people do not want to lose their benefits.

Ms. Herman spoke about the use of expungement, to clear criminal records which may impede employment. Ms. Herman described her idea for workforce training to be the focus for a new city department, specifically under the Office of Economic Development. The workforce training department “hub” would provide oversight, vet programs, promote services to the community and conduct seminars/workshops for the public. She also mentioned the need for a comprehensive listing of all workforce resources, available online and in a printed brochure.

Mr. Harris described his vision of a workforce “hub”, which would look more like a cooperative facility with places for artisans, tradesman, restaurants and places for the community to gather. Mr. Harris’ hub would most likely be located on the Northside of town, which is in need of business investment. Such a cooperative entity would create jobs, engender collaboration, and return surplus revenue to its members rather than rewarding outside investors with its profits. This hub could create economic and social benefits in the community it serves.

Public comment: Mr. Scott spoke about how, in his opinion, the same nonprofits always receive City funding; nonprofits need more accountability; the need for small business co-ops in the African American community; the lack of strong leadership ion the city; and the need for more events and activities outside of downtown.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair announced that the next Workforce Training Subcommittee meeting will be Wednesday May 29 at 1:00 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12:32 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Workforce Training Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 5.22.19