

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Workforce Training Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**May 29, 2019**

**1:00 pm**

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Tom Geismar

Ricky Brown

Marian Hannah

Carolyn Herman

Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg

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:** 1:06 pm

This was the eleventh meeting for the Workforce Training Subcommittee. Chairperson Tom Geismar welcomed the group and called for introductions from the members in attendance. The subcommittee reviewed the minutes from the previous two meeting and approved them as presented.

The group discussed Ms. Herman’s idea about a workforce training ‘hub’, to be managed either by a City department or private entity. In Ms. Herman’s proposed hub: all workforce training activities within the city would be coordinated, workforce programs would be vetted and included in a publically accessible database, and regular workforce events and workshops would be held to promote awareness. At the next meeting, the members will further discuss the hub concept, without identifying specific vendors. Ms. Herman also discussed her expungement idea she mentioned at the last meeting, wherein attorneys would help facilitate the expungement process in order to remove barriers to employment caused by criminal records.

The subcommittee members talked about CareerSource, a state and federally funded resource for connecting workers and employers. The members said that CareerSource is underutilized but it could play more of a role in workforce training if it were easier to navigate than it is now. One member suggested that it would be beneficial if CareerSource had outreach facilities throughout the city to provide training in technology and other work skills. The group discussed additional barriers to employment, specifically lacking proper identification documents, lack of bank accounts, literacy and math skills, and frustration/impatience with having to earn seniority in the workplace over time.

The subcommittee talked about possible guest speakers for future meetings, such as someone from the Office of Economic Development, Public Defender’s Office, CareerSource, and the Department of Corrections. Mrs. Schellenberg expressed frustration with the pace of the Task Force’s actions, noting the sense of urgency due to violent crimes particularly in the summer months. The group also talked about a recommendation regarding City grant guidelines, where the parameters might be changed to prioritize programs which reach high school dropouts and assist with workforce training for low income individuals.

Public comment: One attendee spoke about digital literacy and how some job seekers may struggle with online applications. Another attendee spoke about the unfair long term barriers created by criminal records when applying for jobs and housing.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair announced that the next Workforce Training Subcommittee meeting will be June 6, 2019 at 10:30 am.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:16 pm

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 6.3.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Workforce Training Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 5.29.19