

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Neighborhoods Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**May 31, 2019**

**3:00 pm**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Ronnie King

E. Joyce Bolden-Absent

Amy Donofrio-Excused

Josh Cockrell

Ben Frazier-Absent

Larry Cook

Sam Harrison

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

**Attendance:** Richard Distel- Council Research; Carol Owens - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 3:01pm

Chairperson King convened the meeting and welcomed the members. This was the fifth meeting of the Neighborhoods Subcommittee. There was a brief discussion about the upcoming preliminary Task Force report, which includes suggestions on additional funding for KHA juvenile justice and teen programming. The members also talked about their research requests which have yet to be fulfilled: the public records request from JSO was denied, more information about minority businesses and JSEB bids and the data from SAO and JTA have not been received as of yet.

The subcommittee referenced Ordinance 2019-245, recently passed by City Council, which pertains to food deserts in Northwest Jacksonville. This program will offer a new economic development incentive program focused on attracting grocery stores which will allow greater access to healthy food choices for NW residents. The group also talked about public pools and accessibility during the summer (8 of 34 pools operated by the City of Jacksonville are closed; however, the City is working to open more pools).

The subcommittee discussed the recently proposed legislation (Ordinance 2019-330) which would decriminalize marijuana possession if under 20 grams. The decriminalization of marijuana typically means there is no arrest, prison time, or criminal record for the first-time possession of a small amount of marijuana for personal consumption. Marijuana decriminalization may: allow for more resources to go towards more serious crimes; protect individuals from experiencing lifelong consequences from a marijuana criminal conviction record (they can be barred from employment, denied federal financial student aid, welfare/ food stamps and may be removed from public housing); and counteract racial disparities in marijuana arrests and sentencing.

Before adjourning the meeting, the members agreed that they need access to more information and data in order to make solid recommendations to the Task Force. They also agreed to not meet again until after the next full Task Force meeting. With no further business, Chairperson King adjourned the meeting. The next Neighborhoods Subcommittee meeting has yet to be scheduled.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:43 pm

Minutes: Richard Distel and Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 6.6.19 5:10 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Neighborhoods Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 5.31.19