

**JACKSONVILLE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

**Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction**

**Mentoring Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**June 21, 2019**

**10:00 am**

**Don Davis Room**

**First Floor, City Hall**

**117 W. Duval Street**

Chair: Dr. Sabrina Edwards

Clifton Anderson

Francois Brown-Excused

Larry Cook

Preston Harris

Rob Mason- Subject Matter Expert-Excused

Sean Mulholland

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

**Attendance:** Council Member Jim Love; Colleen Hampsey- Council Research; Crystal Shemwell - Legislative Services

For all other attendees please see the sign in sheet

**Meeting Convened:** 10:01 am

Chairperson Edwards convened the meeting and called for introductions. This was the fifth meeting for the mentoring subcommittee and Dr. Edwards welcomed the group. The members approved the minutes from the previous meeting and reviewed the agenda.

The group discussed the preliminary Task Force report as submitted to the Council President last month. The report included recommendations for more funding for mentoring programs. Mr. Anderson, who was at the June 20th Re-entry and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee meeting, shared that Mr. Wright from JREC identified a need for mentors for those who are incarcerated, prior to and after release. Mr. Harris talked about the possibility of recurring mentoring events in different locations throughout the city, corporate sponsorships for school based mentors, and group mentoring. Mr. Harris suggested reaching out to local businesses to ask about their interest in sponsorships, but the group was unsure if they had the authority to do so until after the Task Force becomes a permanent body July 1st. CM Love recommended getting advice from the Office of General Counsel, so at the next meeting there will someone from OGC in attendance. The group will also invite Dr. Blalock from KHA to discuss existing mentoring programs.

The subcommittee talked about creating a city-wide mentoring department within City government, led by a director who would coordinate all mentoring efforts in Jacksonville and strive to increase mentor recruitment and manage a staff of four case managers to oversee four quadrants of the city. The members debated whether, if this department were created, it would be under the umbrella of the Kids Hope Alliance or an independent agency. The group decided that the mentoring office should be autonomous and work in coordination with KHA.

Public comment: Ms. Darius, from the Donovin Darius Foundation, spoke about the importance of sustained mentoring and about how the foundation seeks to help at-risk youth and underserved communities with Life Skills Workshops and Family Celebration Expos. Ms. Darius also mentioned the challenges associated with getting grants from the City and other organizations.

With no further business, Chairperson Edwards adjourned the meeting. The next subcommittee meeting has yet to be scheduled but may be held some time in July.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:26 am

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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Posted 6.25.19 5:00 pm

Tape: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction Mentoring Subcommittee -Legislative Services Division 6.21.19