

# City of Jacksonville

1st Floor - Council Chamber  
117 W. Duval Street



## Meeting Minutes Organizational Meeting

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

9:00 AM

Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall

## Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

*Mark Griffin, Chair*  
*Sam Newby, Vice Chair*  
*Matt Carlucci - Excused*  
*Camille Burban*  
*Josh Cockrell*  
*Larry Cook*  
*Richard Danford*  
*Frank Denton*  
*Sabrina Edwards*  
*Tom Geismar*  
*Brandon Griggs - Excused*  
*William (W.C.) Gentry - Excused*  
*Ellen Glasser*  
*Shelley Grant*  
*Constance Hall - Excused*  
*Linda Joseph - Excused*  
*Ronnie King*  
*Timothy Sloan*  
*Vicki Waytowich*  
*Shamika Baker Wright*

*Crystal Shemwell, Legislative Services Supervisor*  
*Carol Owens, City Council Staff*

Meeting convened: 9:07 am

Meeting adjourned: 10:07 am

Attendance

**Mark Griffin, Chair**

**Members: CM Newby, Camile Burban, Larry Cook, Richard Danford, Frank Denton, Tom Geismar, Ellen Glasser (late arrival), Shelley Grant, Ronnie King, Timothy Sloan, Vicki Waytowich, Shamika Baker Wright.**

**Also: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research; Carol Owens, Melanie Wilkes, and Will Coffee, Council Staff.**

- 1. Call to Order - Chairman**
- 2. Opening Remarks & Greetings**

**Chairman Griffin welcomed the group and explained some of the changes associated with the transition from task force to commission, particularly the varying terms of service. Some commission members were appointed to one year terms, which will end in June of 2020 with the option for reappointment for another two years, and some members were appointed to two year terms ending in June of 2021. The Chair also informed the members that there are currently no funds available for the commission's use.**

**a. Chairman Griffin/Vice Chairman Newby**

**Councilman Newby expressed thanks to the commission members for their time and dedication. CM Newby also explained the legislative process by which the commission may vote on recommendations which will then go to City Council to be voted upon. CM Newby explained that the reason there are no funds available, despite the assumption of a million dollars, is because such funds were not designated in the Mayor's annual budget. CM Newby said that council will find available funding for commission recommendations, if approved. According to CM Newby, the City's 2019-20 budget did incorporate some of the Task Force's highlighted priorities, such as additional funds for Kids Hope Alliance mentoring programs. Donnie Horner, KHA's Acting Chief Executive Officer, was in attendance and spoke about the new KHA position charged with community outreach and how the agency is examining how to best utilize the additional mentoring dollars.**

### 3. Commission Member Introductions

Chairman Griffin called for the members to re-introduce themselves and then reviewed the commission's purpose, which is to study existing programs and make recommendations on funding and implementation. Part of the process may include presentations from various agencies and nonprofits to speak about their programs, resources and needs. Chairman Griffin suggested that there be fewer than nine subcommittees for the commission. CM Newby will coordinate with the Chair to decide about the subcommittee structures. It was agreed that the full commission continue to meet on Fridays, November 15 and either December 6th or 13th were mentioned as possibilities for the next two meetings if those dates are amenable to members' schedules. Council Legislative Services staff will poll the members for the best meeting dates.

### 4. Review of Commission Goals

Dr. Danford emphasized the need for community engagement in the effort to reduce crime. Mr. Geismar said that he found in the Task Force's previous work that transportation is an obstacle to many trying to receive services and also that the commission should have a strong grasp of existing services before making suggestions for new programs. Ms. Baker Wright noted that the youth involved in criminal activities are most likely not participating in programming and that there needs to be some mechanism by which to reach that population. Mr. Sloan said that the commission needs to focus on adult crime as well as youth crime. Mr. Sloan also highlighted the root causes of crime, the importance of working with the school system, and the influence of small organizations working in the community which sometimes are omitted from public funding.

Dr. Danford commented on the myriad obstacles faced by those re-entering society after incarceration and how the commission might advocate for the full restoration of their rights. Ms. Burban said that the recently released Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee report could prove useful for the commission's work and that perhaps the full body should receive a presentation from the State Attorney's Office. Ms. Waytowich said that the best contact for that presentation would be Laura Lambert, SAO's Director of the Juvenile Division.

### 5. Public Comments

There were no attendees interested in public comment.

### 6. Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Chairman Griffin said that the group will have to create and approve a set of specific commission policies and procedures. There was some discussion about meeting attendance and the requirements for a quorum (which must be 11 for a body of 20 members). CM Newby announced that, according to recent legislation, the Council President will now select the commission's vice-chairperson and at the next meeting CM Newby will not be a voting member and will no longer fill the role of vice-chair. With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

**Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research**  
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**Posted 10.29.19 5:00 pm**