

# **City of Jacksonville**

*1st Floor - Council Chamber  
117 W. Duval Street*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, February 21, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Council Chambers 1st Floor, City Hall**

### **Safety and Crime Reduction Commission**

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

*Crystal Shemwell, Legislative Services Supervisor  
Carol Owens, City Council Staff  
Colleen Hampsey, Research Assistant*

Attendance: Mark Griffin, Chair; CM Newby, Vice Chair; Commissioners Camille Burban, Larry Cook, Richard Danford, Frank Denton, Tom Geismar, William (W.C.) Gentry, Linda Joseph, Ronnie King, Timothy Sloan, Shamika Baker Wright

Also: Colleen Hampsey - Council Research; Carol Owens, Melanie Wilkes, and Steve Cassada - Council Staff

Meeting Convened: 9:03 am Meeting Adjourned: 10:28 am

**I. Call to Order – Chairman**

**Chairman Griffin convened the meeting and welcomed the group.**

**II. Opening Remarks & Greetings**

**Chairman Griffin reviewed the agenda and said that, due to the lack of quorum, the commissioners would first hear the report from the data and research subcommittee.**

**III. Review of Minutes – 12.6.19 Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Meeting**

**Towards the end of the meeting, there was a quorum present and the commissioners unanimously approved the minutes from the December 6th meeting.**

#### **IV. Update from Data and Research Subcommittee**

Ronnie King spoke briefly about the subcommittee on data and research, which has been working to create a list of data points to gather from those who perpetrate violent crimes in order to identify root causes and trends. Commissioner Joseph said that she likes the data point list thus far. Mr. King said that such data would be de-identified for confidentiality and that there should be another subcommittee to specifically look at the quality and quantity of crime reduction/youth programming.

Frank Denton spoke about including academic criminological research and inviting experts to present to the commission. The Chair reminded the members that the commission's purpose is not to be a study group, but to make recommendations based upon current conditions and past research. Ms. Burban agreed and noted the vast expertise of the commission members. Mr. King noted that many of the studies referenced in past meetings are out of date and were conducted in a time before Facebook and I-phones etc.

Mr. Sloan said that there is enough existing data already and that the circumstances in the city, especially in certain zip codes, are the same as they were years ago. Mr. Sloan also questioned the purpose and mission of the commission. Dr. Danford spoke about the need for a commission strategic plan, the neighborhood bill of rights and methods for citizen input. Chairman Griffin said that at the March meeting, the members would hold a workshop to draft a strategic plan and that all council members should be invited to attend.

CM Newby was asked about funding for the commission and several commissioners indicated that they would resign from the body if funds are not allocated in this fiscal year. CM Newby said that the Finance Committee just submitted the council budget priority requests to the administration. Included in the budget request were: funds for mental health initiatives and PR campaign designed to reduce mental health stigma; funds for KHA mentoring programs and staff; teen out of school programs; funds for a trauma response plan; some discretionary funds for existing agencies and departments to be used for emergency response in areas experiencing spikes in crime; a full time Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Administrator for management and oversight of commission; and funds for office supplies, equipment, and resources to support the Commission Administrator.

## **V. Full Time Administrator Consideration**

The members discussed the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Administrator position and job description. The Chair distributed a draft of possible job duties, which may include: program reviews, crime reduction program inventory, measuring efficacy of programs, development of new programs as needed, public relations, creation of brochures etc., presentations for community events, review of relevant City ordinances, and maintaining the statistical database. Chairman Griffin asked Ms. Owens to circulate the job description draft to all commission members for feedback.

There were questions about the salary, \$75,000/year including benefits, and concerns that it is not enough for the breadth of job responsibilities. Dr. Danford asked to whom the administrator would report. CM Newby said the administrator would report to the mayor's office, perhaps to Dr. Moreland, Director of Community Affairs. Commissioner Gentry expressed a sense of urgency to begin the applicant search and hiring process. Any funding for the position, if approved, will not be available until October 2020. The consensus was that October is too long to wait and that council should try to find the funds sooner.

## **VI. Discussion about Future Meeting Dates**

Friday, 3/27 9am (Workshop)

Friday, 4/24 9am

Friday, 5/22 9am

The Chair talked about future meeting topics and dates. There will be workshop meeting on March 27, 2020 possibly with a facilitator, and regular meetings on April 24, 2020 and May 22, 2020. Subcommittees will be discussed at the March meeting. Commissioner Gentry spoke about the Jax Journey and how programs were evaluated, and the interrelation between literacy and criminal behavior. Mr. Gentry noted that the City should prioritize quality over quantity when it comes to programming. Chairman Griffin said that the city needs both and that all are underfunded.

## **VII. Public Comments – 3 Minutes Each**

Stanley Scott shared his frustration with City and commission leadership.

Ms. McGeathey spoke about crime reduction initiatives which focus on neighborhood clusters within the city.

Comment cards are on file.

## **VIII. Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

With no further business, Chairman Griffin adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Posted 2.26.20 5:00 pm