

# **City of Jacksonville**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, August 10, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Safety and Crime Reduction Commission**

Meeting Convened: 9:00 am

Meeting Adjourned: 10:32 am

Attendance: Mark Griffin, Chair; CM Newby, Vice Chair; Commissioners Camille Burban, Larry Cook, Richard Danford, Frank Denton, Tom Geismar, Constance Hall, Linda Joseph, Ronnie King, Timothy Sloan, Shamika Baker Wright, Vicki Waytowich, Josh Cockrell, Ellen Glasser, and Shelley Grant

Also: Council Members Salem, Ferraro, Pittman and Freeman

**I. Call to Order – Chairman**

**II. Opening Remarks & Greetings**

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Pastor Griffin spoke to the members about the sad unexpected loss of commission liaison Rob Mason who passed away last week. Additionally, CM Newby's mother unfortunately passed this week as well, so there was a moment of silence in their honor.

Chairman Griffin said that COVID-19 has stopped or slowed down everything except crime. He also said that the intent is to return to Friday meetings, but that the council calendar is very limited right now. The Chair spoke about some of the commission priorities which were included in the Mayor's budget proposal, such as funding for the administrative position and a mental health awareness PR campaign. He noted that funds for mentoring and emergency response in crime hot spots were not in the proposed budget.

**III. Review of Minutes – 2.21.20 Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Meeting**

The minutes from the February 21, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

#### IV. Discussion about Future Meeting Dates: 9-11 AM

##### DATES TBA

There was a discussion among the group about the commission's purpose and next steps.

CM Newby talked about the current budget review process and how he is trying to get as many commission priorities included as possible. CM Ferraro thanked the group for their work, noting the large amount of shootings in the city recently. Chmn. Griffin asked about funding for mentoring, and whether it was being directed to KHA. Katoia Wilkins, KHA, did not have any specifics on mentoring but said that they are currently working on a gaps needs analysis with juvenile service providers and are about to embark on a new mini-grant program with the hope to roll it out in October.

CM Newby asked the chair if there was a budget for a emergency response plan, and if not to create one so it could be considered in the ongoing budget process. Ronnie King said that it makes more sense to bolster the budgets of existing agencies, like JSO and KHA. CM Salem said that there are funds in the proposed budget for KHA mentor programs and for the commission administrator. Mr. Griffin said that the salary should be more to get the right candidate, as they will handle many responsibilities. Vicki Waytowich asked how anyone could assign a funding allocation for mentoring when there had been no analysis as to the actual need.

Richard Danford said that the community is crying out for help under the current crime conditions, and that more measures should be used to include public input on the commission's work. Dr. Danford also mentioned the importance for JSO to be involved with the commission's work. Tim Sloan spoke about the smaller grassroots organizations doing work in the community and how they should not be left out of the grant process. Mr. Sloan also noted the importance of reporting and accountability for organizations who do receive City grants.

Ellen Glasser emphasized the need for action and the sense of urgency, mentioned the neighborhood bill of rights championed by Dr. Danford, and asked about the status of previous crime reduction programs in the City's proposed budget (like Cure Violence). CM Newby said that nothing is being defunded. CM Ferraro mentioned diverting funds from the NEFL Regional Council, which would free up more than \$300,000. Josh Cockrell asked if there were alternate funding source options, such as imposing court fees. Tom Geismar reminded the group to remember the broad range of interconnected issues related to crime reduction, such as child care, transportation, racism, guns and more. Shamika Baker Wright asked Ms. Wilkins, KHA, about what organizations were included in the gap analysis they were doing, and listed others that should be involved also.

Frank Denton suggested surveying the commissioners about their priorities. The Chair said that when possible the commission will meet to discuss strategic planning, in a workshop format. Constance Hall volunteered to review the task force final report and the meeting minutes to create a working document from which to formulate the strategic plan. There was a motion to form a subcommittee to collaborate on the document review, which was seconded and passed 16-0. Constance Hall will be the Chair, and Commissioners King, Denton, Cook and Waytowich will join her. The

subcommittee will meet August 24th and requested copies of the final report and all of the minutes.

**V. Public Comments – 3 Minutes Each**

One member of the public spoke about the need for universal basic income, and one spoke about his disappointment with City leadership.

**VI. Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

The next meeting for the full commission will be some time in September, and the document subcommittee will meet August 24, 2020.

**With no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.**

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research  
CHampsey@coj.net 904.251.5151  
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