

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee on Document Compilation

Thursday, September 3, 2020

1:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Meeting Convened: 1:30 pm Meeting Adjourned: 2:28 pm

Attendance:

Chair Mark Griffin; Commissioners Hall, Denton, Cook, King and Waytowich

Also: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research; Carol Owens, Council Staff; David Migut, Office of General Counsel

I. Greetings and Opening Remarks – Chair

Commissioner Hall welcomed the group and called for introductions. All members were present, as well as Commission Chair Griffin.

The members unanimously approved the minutes from the August 24, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Hall thanked Mr. Denton for his stellar work in compiling and summarizing the task force subcommittee reports.

II. Overview/Comments – Subcommittee Members

Commissioner Denton commented on the subcommittee report document, noting that the report from the community engagement subcommittee has yet to be retrieved. It was also mentioned that the subcommittee reports were not voted upon by the task force members.

Commissioner Waytowich said that she was confused because the funding recommendations in the task force final report were never voted on or specified by the subcommittees. She also talked about the budget bills currently before council, and asked if the purpose of the commission is to make budget recommendations for next year since this budget process has already begun.

Chairman Griffin said that it is positive that some of the task force priorities were included in the budget proposal, and that next year should be even better with a full time commission administrator. He also explained the charge of the document compilation subcommittee, which is to create a reference document of past work for the commission to use going forward, not to focus on specific policy or budget recommendations.

Commissioner King asked about the purpose of the commission, and whether it is a valuable use of time to make annual funding recommendations for agencies who are already funded (KHA, JSO).

III. Summary/Discussion – Chair

The group discussed the task force subcommittee report document and Mr. Denton reviewed the gist of the work from each subcommittee:

Workforce training- identified multiple barriers that keep people from being able to get training/employment; develop a city-wide strategic plan with short- and long-term goals and measurable objectives to drastically reduce unemployment in the areas where unemployment is the highest, improve the standard of living for residents of those communities and reduce crime and violence; City agency to coordinate all efforts.

Community engagement- focused upon reinvigorating the neighborhood bill of rights

Mentoring- developed a detailed plan for city-wide mentoring organized by a City administrator and case managers

Commissioner Waytowich asked about the funding for mentoring that is included in this years budget proposal for KHA and whether they used the task force recommendations in their allocation of funds. Katoia Wilkins, KHA, explained that their funds go into 5 essential services "buckets" (early learning, juvenile justice, out of school time, preteen and teen programs and special needs). The mentoring money included in this years budget proposal would go into preteen/teen category because that's where the mentoring services are housed. The juvenile justice category has a mentoring program component already. Ms. Wilkins said she would review the task force recommendations for mentoring.

Education and youth development- focused on early learning/literacy, the need for teen job programs, and the importance of a continuous funding source for children's services

Reentry and juvenile justice- focused on the need for more vocational training in prisons, support for reentry services like JREC, and a continuous funding source for children's services (Children's Council or a special taxing district)

Business partnerships- focused on utilizing the mayor's trust fund to allow for private donations from local companies to aid under-funded schools and help with outreach

Family engagement- focused on methods to build community trust, PR campaign to create awareness of existing services

Neighborhoods- focused on physical environment in relation to crime (lighting, sidewalks, blight, transportation, food deserts, parks/libraries) and developing small businesses to revitalize neighborhoods

Mental health and substance abuse- focused on reducing stigma, strengthening trauma response training, mental health workers with JSO for mental health related calls, creation of a 24 hour crisis center

IV. Next Steps/Future Meeting Dates

Commissioner King reminded the group that there was also a data and research subcommittee in the early days of the commission which met in December 2019 and January 2020. Staff will distribute the minutes from those meetings to the members to review. This subcommittee could then report to the full body regarding all of the past documents at the meeting on 9.11.2020.

Mr. King also spoke about how the numbers of those who actually commit violent crimes is very small percentage wise, and he spoke about how neither the commission, nor society, should presume to know the root causes of criminal behavior without more research/data.

V. Public Comment

There were no members from the public who wished to comment.

With no further business, Commissioner Hall adjourned the meeting.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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