

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 11, 2020

8:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Meeting Convened: 8:30 am Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 am

Chairman Mark Griffin; 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, and Shelley Grant

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

I. Call to Order – Chairman

II. Opening Remarks & Greetings

Chairman Griffin welcomed the group and asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

III. Review of Minutes – 8.10.20 Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Meeting

The members unanimously approved the meeting agenda, and the minutes from the 8.10.2020 meeting.

IV. Update from Document Compilation Subcommittee

Commissioner Hall updated the group regarding the work of the document compilation subcommittee. The subcommittee gathered all minutes and reports from the task force and early commission meetings and summarized it into a distinct document from which the commission can guide its work. Mr. Denton noted that the summary is missing the submission from the community engagement subcommittee.

Commissioner Waytowich asked about the current budget process, funding recommendations made for crime reduction priorities, and the commission's role in funding allocations. CM Newby said that the budget funds roughly half of the task force priorities, somewhere around \$800,000. Katioia Wilkins, KHA, explained that any funds they receive must be earmarked for a specific essential service (early learning, juvenile justice, out of school time, preteen and teen programs and special needs).

Commissioner Danford spoke about the amount of crime and the need for the community to engage with the commission in order to be effective.

V. Crime Statistics Update (9:00am) – Catherine Clark, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Catherine Clark, JSO Crime Analysis Administrator, gave a presentation on crime in the city. As of 9.10.2020, there have been 132 homicides, of which 107 have been categorized as murders. This represents a 15 percent and 14 percent increase from 2019 respectively. Commissioner Sloan asked for a breakdown by zip code. Ms. Clark indicated that they track data by patrol zone, but she will provide it by zip code if requested.

2020 year to date violent crime (includes murder, aggravated battery, home invasion, robbery, sexual battery, car jacking) incidents as compared to 2019:

Patrol Zone 1: increased 4%

Patrol Zone 2: increased 27%

Patrol Zone 3: decreased by 14%

Patrol Zone 4: decreased by 3.7%

Patrol Zone 5: increased 16%

Patrol Zone 6: decreased by .9%

It was decided that Commissioner King will coordinate with Ms. Clark to get regular data reports on crime statistics and trends. Commissioner Joseph asked for a report of bullets to bodies to be included as well. Ms. Clark said that JSO tracks "non-domestic bullet to bone incidents with one victim or more" and that it is 47% higher this year than last year. That data will be included in the regular commission update. Commissioner Hall suggested including a three year data comparison, to identify trends and geographic movement, if any. Dr. Hall also mentioned that the JSO website does not have a posted crime reduction plan.

Commissioner Geismar asked about the success rates for Cure Violence. Dr. Moreland, Mayor's Office, said he will provide a report at the next meeting.

Lakesha Burton, JSO Patrol Zone 2 Commander, talked about the correlation between offenders and victims between zones 2 and 5, and said that she will bring someone from the Sheriff's Office to present on what crime reduction strategies they are using.

VI. Administrator Position Update

The members discussed the full time administrator position. The job description was just made available and it was said that if any commissioner knows a qualified candidate they should encourage them to apply. CM Newby said that the position was approved in the budget and that the hope is to have the position filled by the end of October. This position reports to the Manager of the Neighborhood Services Office, Neighborhoods Department, and is responsible for providing administrative support to the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission.

Primary responsibilities include the following, as directed by the Chairperson of the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission:

- Develops a comprehensive inventory of crime reduction and safety programs that are currently being implemented in the City.

- Develops efficacy measurements to determine the success of existing programming.

- May research and recommend crime prevention, safety, and community relations programs.

- Interfaces with the media, law enforcement, city council, city administration, and others

regarding these programs and other city crime-related issues.

- Serves as an information resource to citizens and the general public.

- Researches and responds to constituents' issues and concerns as requested.

- Designs, writes, and produces brochures, visual aids, and other documents.

- Performs research, provides input, and reviews proposed City ordinances related to crime

prevention as assigned.

- Prepares and delivers presentations in front of public groups.

- Maintains statistics and prepares reports on crime data designed to inform future decisions.

- Performs other duties as directed by the Chairperson of the Commission.

Position Requirements: Six years of education and/or professional experience in criminal

justice or a related field. A Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Public Administration, or

Public Relations is preferred. Experience in progressively responsible public relations and

public contact work, and public speaking is preferred.

Salary range is \$60,000-\$65,000 plus benefits.

There was a brief discussion about CM Newby's role as vice chair. David Migut, OGC, said that a new vice chair would have to be selected by the council president.

VII. Future Meetings Update

Upcoming 2020 commission meetings will be: 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20, and 12/4

VIII. Public Comments – 3 Minutes Each

Tracy McGeathey, CM Newby's ECA, provided public comment. Ms. McGeathey spoke about how to connect with neighborhoods and the residents, and suggested that council ECAs could work together with CRAs to target resources (including code enforcement to combat blight) to where they are needed. Commissioner Baker Wright supported this idea, especially as a mechanism by which the more unreachable members of the population may be reached.

Commissioner Waytowich asked for a report from KHA at the next meeting regarding the community needs assessments and focus groups they have conducted.

Officer Burton offered public comment, saying that there are consistent crime hot spots in the city and an evaluation should be done as to what resources in those areas are lacking. Ms. Wilkins said, if provided, she will compare a crime hot spot map with one of KHA services to identify any gaps or needs.

IX. Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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