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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

November 3, 2020
(3:00 p.m.)

20201022 Minutes Zoom Virtual Noticed Mtg CVP Newby RE Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Workforce Readiness & Employment Placement Initiative

Meeting Date: October 22, 2020
Location: No Location Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting Convened: 2:30 p.m.
Meeting Attendees: CVP Sam Newby, CM Brenda Priestly Jackson, Chairman Mark Griffin, Mr. James Coleman, Dr. John Avendano, Mrs. Virginia Berg and Ms. Kimberly Miller

CVP Newby called the Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Workforce Readiness Employment Placement Initiative meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. by welcoming and thanking Councilwoman Brenda Priestly-Jackson and all other attendees for agreeing to meet.

CM B. Priestly Jackson thanked CVP Newby for scheduling this meeting and for targeting an initiative that's consistent with the goals of the Social Justice and Community Investment Committee. She expressed that she was encouraged by this opportunity to further the education and career job opportunities for our neighbors...particularly those that are most vulnerable and disproportionately impacted by this COVID-19 pandemic and those who are looking at second chances perhaps because they have formally been incarcerated or face other issues. She thanked CM Newby for this work and for engaging FSCJ and others. She stated that she stands ready to listen and see how she can support.

CVP Newby stated that working citizens are less likely to be law breaking citizens. Many underserved citizens need an extra boost to get started. He explained that this funding of \$200,000 from the Social Justice Investment Committee would help citizens get working wage employment. CVP Newby introduced FSCJ's President, Dr. John Avendano to explain FSCJ's role in this initiative.

Dr. Avendano thanked CVP Newby and CM Priestly-Jackson for the opportunity. He explained that FSCJ's plans for Operation Boost are focused on three different goals: 1. provide an opportunity for those who are who are underserved in our community, 2. create an opportunity for them to have a living wage through career exploration and career opportunities at FSCJ. Thirdly, to provide for those who maybe have had a little bit of a difficult challenged past to reduce the opportunity for recidivism. He stated that FSCJ has identified at least 15 programs, if not more, that can be both short-term programs to get individuals in the workforce in to living wage type opportunities. He went on to inform the audience of the outreach opportunity, next Friday as a recruitment event to get people familiar with not only the program but what those possibilities are at FSCJ.

CVP Newby thanked Dr. Avendano for his commitment and dedication and asked if there were any questions.

CM B. Priestly Jackson's inquiry was relative to the 15 programs FSCJ stated would pay above a living wage. She asked, do those programs lead into any other programs that after successful completion that may afford them an

opportunity for an associates and thereby also facilitate perhaps a bachelors later so that not only they can gain a living wage at this time but they could overtime have access to jobs that are sustainable to take care of themselves and their families?

Dr. J. Avendano indicated that the majority of them are what we would call stackable opportunities or stacked credentials. So the original certificate plan would be to get them into the workforce. Dr. Avendano went on to say FSCJ has resources through other donors .

CVP Newby thanked Dr. Avendano for coming out and supporting along with Mrs. Virginia Berg, Kim Miller and also Tracy. CVP Newby gave Ms. Miller and Mrs. Berg an opportunity to speak. They both expressed appreciation for inclusion and commitment to be involved. CVP then recognized Chairman Mark Griffin.

Chairman Griffin apologized for being a little bit late stated that he was looking forward to what this effort will produce as we work hard to reduce crime and violence. He thanked CVP Newby for the acknowledgement.

CVP Newby introduced Dr. Nicoa Garrett, the newly hired Administrator for the Safety and Crime Reduction Administrator.

Dr. Nicoa Garrett expressed her excitement about the position and learning more about everything that Operation Boost and the Saftey and Crime Reduction Commission has put into place.

CVP Newby introduced Mr. James Coleman, CEO Workforce Industrial Training.

Mr. James Coleman expressed that this project is a long time coming but he's grateful to be a part. He explained that WIT's program is a little different from the FSCJ side. He explained the various target areas, challenges and proposed outcomes. He stated that the target population will be underemployed and unemployed areas with high crimes.

CM B. Priestly Jackson inquired regarding the specific groups WIT indicated they would be targeting. She also inquired regarding the data for the targeting. Mr. Coleman and CVP Newby explained the pilot-nature of this endeavor. CM Priestly Jackson further reiterated that her focus was to make sure the services were offered throughout the city, not just certain polarizing and stigmatizing sides of town

CVP Newby thanked Mr. Coleman for his input and asked if CM Priestly Jackson for final words.

CM Priestly Jackson thanked CVP Newby and Pastor Griffin, FSCJ and WIT she stated that she was encouraged by the possibility of supporting those who have been doing the working and helping them scale up. She stated that this is just the start of moving forward bringing about a change.

CVP Newby stated, that he sees this as a great day for Jacksonville because we're helping some of the most vulnerable citizens giving them a BOOST so they can be successful. Moving forward, the official name for this initiative is *Operation Boost*.

Yvonne Mitchell read a parting message from President Avendano.

CVP Newby thanked both Dr. Avendano and Ms. Mitchell. He then asked for any other questions or Public Comments. There was one public comment from Mr. Stanley Scott.

CVP Newby Adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes completed by Tracy McGeathey, ECA Group 5 At-Large, on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments for this meeting, please listen to the audio CD.

The following items have been submitted for public record. Please contact legislative services for these items:

Meeting Notice Meeting Minutes Meeting Link Meeting Agenda

Cc:

Council Members/Staff

Cheryl L Brown, Director/Council Secretary

Jessica Matthews, Chief, Legislative Services

Jeff Clements, Chief of Research

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