

# City of Jacksonville

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



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 23, 2020

8:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

## Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Meeting Convened: 8:31 am Meeting Adjourned: 9:57 am

Attendance:

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

**Also: Council Members Morgan, White and Freeman**

**I. Call to Order – Chairman**

**Chairman Griffin convened the meeting and called for introductions.**

**II. Opening Remarks & Greetings**

**Chairman Griffin reviewed the agenda.**

**III. Review of Minutes – 10.9.20 Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Meeting**

**The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with a 17-0 vote.**

#### **IV. Introduction of New Administrator**

There was some confusion as to whether or not the commission must vote to approve the selected administrator or if the Chair's approval is the only requirement. On the side of caution, the members voted unanimously to approve the new administrator.

Chairman Griffin spoke briefly about the search for a full time commission administrator, which involved vetting by Employee Services and then candidate interviews. The administrator will technically work under the Neighborhoods Department, but will be responsible to the commission.

Pastor Griffin indicated that one applicant really stood out and was selected, he then introduced Dr. Nicoa Garrett to the members.

Dr. Garrett took a few minutes to list her credentials and education, as well as her vision for working with the commission. She emphasized the need for listening and learning from the members as related to work already completed and fields of expertise.

Several members welcomed Dr. Garrett, talked about their fields of interest and expressed how they looked forward to working with her.

Commissioner Geismar asked about communication between members and Dr. Garrett, which it was said should be anytime as needed and through email for recording purposes.

Commissioner Sloan spoke about his interest in education, reaching out to youth at risk before it is too late, and specific zip codes which have faced challenges both historically and currently.

Commissioner Danford talked about the need for community engagement.

Commissioner Gentry spoke about the correlation between literacy and crime.

Pastor Griffin reminded the group about the commission goal to reduce crime and cautioned the group to not grow weary in the face of what can seem like a daunting task.

#### **V. KHA Funding Subcommittee**

This subcommittee will coordinate with KHA to guide/direct funding towards commission priorities. Mr. Sloan will be the chair, and Commissioners Grant, Geismar and Gentry will be members.

## **VI. Mental Health Funding Subcommittee**

Commissioner Waytowich will chair this subcommittee and Commissioner Joseph and Vice Chair Hall will be members.

CM Freeman talked about funds in the City budget for an awareness campaign to decrease the stigma around mental health, and said he will work with the commission on this issue.

CM Morgan spoke about a pattern of violent crime/shootings which occurred in her district in the last week. She has a press conference scheduled for Friday afternoon and Pastor Griffin said he will attend as well. They discussed neighborhood walks in Arlington, in coordination with JSO and other community groups.

Commissioner Glasser said that the commission should have a community engagement subcommittee, like the task force did.

CM Newby talked about his workforce training program, BOOST, as a method to reduce crime by providing well paying job skills. The program will provide scholarship and assistance to students in need at FSCJ and Workforce Industrial Training. CM Newby also spoke about a recent shooting at a football game, where his family had been just minutes prior.

## **VII. Update on Meetings – Attorney David Migut (Office of General Counsel)**

Julia Davis, OGC, explained that the November meetings may be in City Hall, as the Governor's Executive Order waiving quorum requirements for public meeting expires at the end of October. Commissioner Gentry asked questions related to public health risks. Various safety measures are and will be taken for public meetings, including distancing, masks and plexi-glass shields. Chair Griffin said that if forced to move to in person meetings only with quorum requirements, any members who are health compromised/vulnerable should alert staff so they may possibly participate remotely. All of the future meeting details are still being ironed out.

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

There were no members of the public who wished to provide comment.

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

With no further business, Chairman Griffin adjourned the meeting.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research  
CHampsey@coj.net 904.255.5151  
Posted: 10.29.2020 2:00 pm