

City of Jacksonville

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



Meeting Minutes Member to Member Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2020

8:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Meeting Convened: 8:31 am Meeting Adjourned: 9:58 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

I. Call to Order – Chairman

II. Opening Remarks & Greetings

Chairman Griffin asked Julie Davis, OGC, to explain the meeting format. Since the Governor's executive order has expired, a physical quorum is required under Sunshine Law to take any action as a body. This meeting is technically a workshop member to member meeting, where things may be discussed but not voted upon.

III. Review of Minutes – 10.23.20 Safety and Crime Reduction Commission Meeting

The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of physical quorum.

IV. Administrator's Report

Dr. Garrett provided an update on her progress in her new position thus far. She said has met with Sheriff Williams and talked about the impact of trauma, attended a notification with Garland Scott/JSO, talked with various folks with DCPS, talked with an organization that does cyber training and job placement and other non profits, has plans to attend a CPAC meeting, attended various trainings, and has been assisting in getting CM Newby's Boost program up and running.

Commissioner Geismar spoke about grassroots organizations that work with families after trauma (like Families of Slain Children), trust issues with those in the community who receive services, and the budget recommendation process. Chairman Griffin noted that there are additional funds in the current FY budget that could be directed toward trauma services.

Commissioner Joseph made an analogy between a football team and the commission, saying that the research has been done and it is time to make a play, so to speak, for example if Garland Scott's model works, then let's replicate/expand his program.

Commissioner Waytowich talked about capitalizing on work already done by the commission/task force, as well as other entities who are already working in the trauma sphere. She recommended connecting with a consultant (Kirsten Murray) who has surveyed service providers, and also the behavior health consortium. Garland Scott told the task force last year about all the other family members in the homes he visits who need help; and his model could be expanded with more funds. Katoia Wilkens, KHA, said she has sent the reports (from the consultant and JJAC) to Dr. Garrett.

Commissioner Denton spoke about trauma and structural racism, and PTSD effects on children. Chairman Griffin mentioned the importance of matching resources with critical needs in the city.

Commissioner Sloan talked about Families of Slain Children, and how they support families after homicides (they presented to the task force last year and were in need of basic funding), and the urgency to work with the schools.

Chairman Griffin spoke briefly about the Boost program that will offer workforce training scholarships. CM Newby said the program will be getting additional funds through the Social Justice committee.

Commissioner Geismar talked about early childhood education programs and the importance of early intervention, he also asked about opportunity zones and how they impact communities.

Commissioner Sloan said his subcommittee has not had a chance to meet yet but plans to in January.

V. KHA Funding Update

Ms. Wilkins talked about a DJJ grant they just were awarded that will help provide more services to families; UNF capacity analysis of juvenile justice services; FSCJ program for youth impacted by justice system that offers job certification and GED prep.

Chairman Griffin talked about a meeting he had with KHA regarding funding, and the commission's role in guiding the funds.

VI. Mental Health Funding Update

The subcommittee has not met yet, but Commissioner Waytowich said that she is coordinating with Baptist Health and the Mayor's Office on the issue (there is an awareness campaign in the works already, so duplication seems unnecessary). Chairman Griffin spoke about how to make the awareness campaign reach the people who actually need it.

VII. Public Comments – 3 Minutes Each

Commissioner Gentry talked about the pandemic and rules regarding physical presence for a quorum, and the need to get the courts involved rather than depending on a politician's whim to decide how/when/where to safely operate. Mr. Sloan expressed his support.

Chairman Griffin said that the pandemic has slowed everything down but the work still needs to be done - safely.

Commissioner Denton said he will ask the first amendment foundation to see if they are doing work on the quorum rule.

Commissioner Baker Wright asked about the grant Ms. Wilkins mentioned about funds for Garland Scott's program. Ms. Wilkins said that the funds will cover social services to family members in the homes of those Mr. Scott is working with. There was not a specific service cap (how many families, how many children) detailed in the grant.

Stanley Scott provided public comment and a critique of the commission and City leadership.

VIII. Wrap-Up and Adjournment

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