

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**ZOOM VIRTUAL MEMBER TO MEMBER MEETING**

**(NO PHYSICAL LOCATION)**

**CM JOYCE MORGAN CP HAZOURI CM BOYLAN RE SAFER TOGETHER WORKSHOP MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 9, 2020**

**2:00 pm**

Meeting Convened: 2:00 pm Meeting Adjourned: 2:55 pm

Attendance: CMs Morgan, Hazouri, Boylan and Carlucci

Also: Peggy Sidman, Office of General Counsel; Richard Distel, Council Research

Discussion: Council Member Boylan convened the meeting and welcomed the group. Council Member Morgan spoke briefly about the purpose of the workshop sessions and called for introductions. Representatives from the Jacksonville Urban League, NAACP, JSO, Fraternal Order of Police President Steve Zona and members of the public were in present for the workshop.

CP Hazouri thanked CMs Boylan and Morgan for facilitating the workshops, and emphasized that the mission is not to defund the police but to repurpose resources and make sure that the council knows what is going on in the community. CP Hazouri said that listening and learning are essential in order to make a difference and impact public policy regarding safety and also that transparency is key. CP Hazouri noted that community policing, sustainability, knowing what policies are going on in the sheriff’s office and what the community needs are very important issues. CP Hazouri reviewed the workshop charge, which is to provide a venue for experts to share their knowledge with council members and the general public, and an opportunity for individuals to share the experiences which shaped their attitude regarding policing. These workshops will be fact finding in nature with the goal of fostering constructive dialogue about the challenges, successes, and opportunities available to make this a safer community. Subjects will include but not be limited to: Community Policing, Policies, Procedures and Budgeting; JSO’s Policies and Programs; Mental Health Co-Responder Program; Comparative analysis of the JSO budget; Diversionary Programs; JSO Hiring and Recruitment.

CM Morgan talked about the importance of communication, accountability and transparency regarding policing. Peggy Sidman, OGC, talked about the structure of the workshops - this isn’t a regular committee or special committee but a workshop. At the conclusion of these workshops (by June 30th 2021) a final report will be filed on July 27, 2021, but it does not have to be in the form of legislation.

CM Boylan said his role is to shepherd the process with good conversation and to find policies to focus on at the end of this workshop in June. CM Boylan said those interested in being a part of the workshop conversations should email his ECA Sonia and called for anyone with suggestions for subject matter expert presentations to share those recommendations. CM Carlucci spoke briefly about the tough issues when talking about policing policy for all parts of Jacksonville, cultural/social/regional norms, and about learning what works for other cities and sheriffs. CM Carlucci also said that getting input from the sheriff and from patrol officers is important in the process to find solutions.

Stanley Scott, African American Think Tank, said the workshop is starting on the wrong track. Mr. Scott said we are not here to talk about the sheriff but about safety and the community.

Wells Todd, Take ‘Em Down and NAACP, said to start looking at this situation in a national and local way in terms of policing, that the structure policing is under needs to be addressed, and that he hopes for a civil discussion. He said that historically there has been an issue with African American communities and the police and there needs to be a policy change as to when police officers shoot first. Mr. Todd explained the meaning of defund the police, the need to establish social programs that were eliminated, police accountability, a policing review council, the role for social workers go out on mental health/domestic violence calls, policy changes regarding race relations, and getting officers out of their cars to talk to residents and community policing. CM Boylan asked for research evidence/documents that support what works for police policy, as mentioned by Mr. Wells.

Ms. O’Connor said she believes structural racism is at the root of the issues that have been talked about, and she talked about previous crime and race studies in Jacksonville, and policy changes that have yet to be enacted that could help move forward to make things safer together.

Mr. Zona said he thinks it is important to listen and find a consensus when possible, and that he will be present for all of the workshops going forward. JSO Director Mike Bruno said that everyone in the Sheriff’s Office knows the importance of community policing and having a dialogue with the community about safety. Director Bruno mentioned weekly crime meetings at JSO that council members may want to attend to fully understand various police practices.

CM Boylan talked about looking at the Aspen Institute information or studies from the DOJ which talk about community policing. CM Morgan talked about City Council’s commitment to this issue and these discussions. The workshop meeting schedule for 2021 is not yet finalized.

CM Boylan said the next workshop will most likely be an organization meeting to talk about the road map and tool boxes to be used for this process, with the next meeting anticipated to be in early January 2021.

Stanley Scott spoke at the workshop conclusion about a holistic approach to community safety. CM Morgan thanked all of the attendees and adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Minutes: Richard Distel, Council Research

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