

MHAAB MINUTES

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Mayor's Conference room, 4th Floor of City Hall

Board Present: Jennifer Silva, Jose Cuetos, Christina Echeverry, Marivi Wright, Jose Morales, Elizabeth Pantoja, Angel Santiago, Meredith Moore

Board Absent: Agustin Vautier, Tomas Jimenez, Jr.

Staff Present: Laura Davis, Dr. Johnny Gaffney

Guests/Visitors: Sheriff Mike Williams, Alicia Burst, Demika Jackson, Dan Merkan

Meeting called to order at 9:06 AM. Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence. Quorum was met and minutes from December 2018 were approved.

Chair Jen Silva introduced Sheriff Mike Williams, recognized the importance of public safety as one of the key initiatives for the Mayor's Office, and recognized the important liaison MHAAB has to JSO in Board Member Angel Santiago.

Angel Santiago summarizes the community outreach efforts of JSO under the leadership of Sheriff Williams through the Citizens' Education Office.

Sheriff Williams stated the importance active outreach and partnerships in the community. JSO has groups with direct pipelines to the community including Hispanic and LGBT communities. JSO is working with volunteers and the press to maintain accurate flow of information and open avenues of discussion. JSO is working to support the LGBT community and the Hispanic community, i.e. last year's challenge of Hispanic victims of robbery was addressed through educational outreach about what to expect from JSO and Sheriff's Watch activities in crime prevention. JSO has collaborated with the Mayor's Office, City Council, and the State Attorney's Office. As a result, crime numbers positively reflect the efforts made in certain areas, but these are complex problems to address.

Chair Jen Silva asked what the key activities for crime prevention are. Sheriff Williams emphasized the importance of doing more prevention work and focusing on consistency, with proven strategies that continue despite changes in administration. Three key concepts are:

- Prevention- getting involved with young people through programs such as PAL and Kids' Hope Alliance. It's essential to understand when kids have gotten into crime.

- Intervention-those who re-enter society after incarceration must have opportunities to be successful. For those who make a commitment to programs like the Jax Re-Entry Center, which provides support, housing, GED classes, bus passes, etc., success is around 80% for keeping ex-offenders out of crime.
- Enforcement-important to focus on what works and introduce more technology. Crime numbers are down and communities are invested in keeping their neighborhoods safe.

Chair Jen Silva stated that MHAAB involvement includes using powerful member channels to promote JSO messages, i.e. Jorge Lopez will use radio for PSAs and Meredith Moore will include in ESOL adult education.

Jacksonville is working with the non-profit organization Cure Violence and is determining how to work with their curriculum. Jacksonville is a member of the National Network of Safe Communities, which uses strategies of focused deterrence. JSO works with Operation New Hope, Clara White Mission, and Job Corps to assist those who are on probation or have completely re-entered society. Based on national evidence, when a social pathway for change is established, there is a tremendous improvement in crime statistics.

Sheriff Williams shared that custom notifications are very effective; visits with friends and families of offenders has had a tremendous impact on affecting change. Over 400 conversations like this have caused the message to get through and cause communication to come from the community to their own members. Cure Violence organizes community efforts around violence reduction initiatives. Deterrence strategies are effective when they are consistent.

Chair Jen Silva shared that when MHAAB meets with the other boards in the coming months we can begin to use common language to address issues in order to supplement JSO efforts.

Sheriff Williams shared that JSO is open to the support from outside groups. Despite extensive training, which includes mental health training, JSO cannot be the default solution – to call the police because no other support is available, or let a situation progress to a crisis when it could be dealt with differently. JSO has a center for voluntary Baker Act assistance.

Chair Jen Silva remarked on the problem of lack of investment in mental health is a federal and national issue, as well, and that MHAAB is available to assist in any outreach efforts.

Sheriff Williams shared that ICE is not involved in community outreach, in order to provide a safe environment for dialogue.

Dr. Gaffney summarized his role in MHAAB and the importance of open lines of communication and accurate understanding of the issues at hand by working closely with JSO. Often community negativity is due to personal agendas.

Chair Jen Silva shared that safety is a fundamental need. She discussed the MHAAB scholarships for student leadership and peer mentoring, and suggested that funding from JSO might be used in a fund-matching plan to increase these awards. Scholarship criteria is being developed and language about prevention can be included. Elizabeth Pantoja shared that she would work with Angel Santiago to include JSO information at the Mayo Clinic event. Meredith Moore asked about curriculum being used in outreach, and will work with Angel Santiago to deliver a repeated, consistent message to reach all levels of English proficiency as well as new arrivals. Angel Santiago is looking into including safety information in *La Guia*. Sheriff Williams asked Angel Santiago to reach out to Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton, who oversees Community Engagement. Sheriff Williams encouraged MHAAB to promptly report any issues of concern.

Chair Jen Silva confirmed our meeting with the City Boards on March 7 from 5-7 in Lynwood Roberts Room, and Cristina Echeverry is handling the invitations.

For the meeting request to City Council members, Jose Cuetos has been working with Laura Davis to have meetings established in the coming weeks.

Committee Updates: end-of-year information for the final 2018 report should be forwarded to Laura. Jose Cuetos will follow up with Agustin Vautier, who was Secretary last year. The strategic plan, budget request, and end-of-year report should be ready for the February 2019 MHAAB. Sub-Committee meeting reports will be included in the minutes of the same meeting and should be submitted to the Secretary soon after the monthly meeting.

Strategic Plans: Chair Jen Silva sent out versions of strategic plans as examples for each subcommittee to follow and went over the Education Subcommittee's strategic plan and timeline planning. See attached strategic plan. Progress will be reported at the monthly meetings, and plans can be adjusted as needed. Chair Jen Silva went over the strategic plan of the Committee on Public Relations and Media. See attached strategic plan. The board has not stated political positions in the past, but on behalf of the Hispanic community, we can provide letters of support for issues like immigration policy or citizenship and keep the Mayor informed of recommendations on both simple and controversial issues. Dr. Gaffney shared that the State Caucus meets at City Hall quarterly and the board could present; Laura will provide dates. Alicia Burst was interested in immigration patterns in Miami, Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville, and what trends might look like, specifically due to issues in Puerto Rico. Board members agreed that the influx of new residents from Puerto Rico would continue.

Alicia Burst provided an update on *La Guia*, and the City will provide translation services. There is \$1000 at the Department of Health to print 500 copies. The City administration is currently considering best processes to address this issue. The last time *La Guia* came out, 5000 copies were made. MHAAB will provide a final review and vote to approve before the guide is printed again. Alicia Burst suggested amending the minutes from December about *La Guia*, and Chair Jen Silva stated that the minutes would stand as submitted in order to show that while an error occurred, it's now being corrected.

Angel Santiago raised the issue of changing the order of MHAAB agendas to allow guests limited time at the beginning of MHAAB meetings, 3-5 minutes, and that the Chair or Vice-Chair introduce speakers immediately after approval of the minutes. Board members agreed to this change.

Chair Jen Silva raised the issue of MHAAB supporting of voting with an informational booth, and Dr. Gaffney suggested inviting someone from the Supervisor of Elections' office to inform the process. Laura Davis suggested Zone 3 and zip 32244. Further discussion of other dense Hispanic populations ensued. We will work with the Supervisor of Elections and Laura Davis will provide the calendar.

March 19th will stand as the March meeting date even though it's an election day.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Minutes submitted by Meredith Moore on 2/15/19