

Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council (MYLAC)

January 25, 2020

Minutes

Proceedings of the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council taken on January 25, 2020 in the Breakroom of Kids Hope Alliance, 1095 A Philip Randolph Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida commencing at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Attending

Tobi Arubuola, Alice Baker, Dowensly Jean-Brice, Armenay Chakour, Hayden Collins, Cameron Demery, Mary Dubuisson, Onyekachi Egemonu, Pehris Fennell, Elijah Foreman, Dyana Foster, Mona Freeman, Alaya Green, Arianna Glover, Grant Goodwyne, Courtney Harold, Devonna Harrison, Brooke Hawkins, Kennedy Hill, Arquan Joseph, Joe Kennerson, Ja'Miyah Levy, Jaira Lunsford, Gokul Madathil, Kynnica McNeal, Nidhi Patel, La'Mirakle Price, Evan Quaintance, Aarchan Saxena, Steven Regelski, Tamara Sonera, DeMichael Sterling, Margaret Szczukowski, Brainna Toawicha, Daniela Valderrama

Staff Attending

Heather Bogarty, John Everett, Mari Ganues, Tia Keitt, Jodi Thomas, Aszloyn Wakefield,

Guest Presenter

City Council President Scott Wilson

At 8:33, the meeting was called to order. MYLAC members reviewed the agenda and was accepted by General Consensus.

At 8:36 a.m., Nidhi Patel then reviewed the December Meeting minutes. Brooke Hawkins noted a correction in the minutes: Mr. Everett's name was spelled wrong as Mr. Edward. Joe Kennerson made the move to accept the noted change. Alaya Green seconds this motion. Alaya Green then introduces our guest speaker: Mr.

Scott Wilson, the Jacksonville City Council President and the District 4 City Representative. She also gives a brief biography about Mr. Wilson.

At 8:45, Mr. Scott Wilson speaks to the MYLAC body about the city council's role in the district legislative system and his own story about his motivations and goals as City Council President. He encourages the body to be open to new fields and ideas. Alaya Green asks Mr. Wilson about any advice for steps to creating change, a discussion that had been started in the December MYLAC meeting. He added to our previous steps to make the procedure as such:

1. Identify the issue
2. Research both sides of the issue
3. Talk to the people who are voting on the issue and convince them to take action
4. Gain consensus on the action

The floor is then opened to the MYLAC members to ask Mr. Wilson questions. Questions included: How many people work for the City of Jacksonville, the process of passing a district bill, how many people live in Jacksonville, how long a bill is debated within the City Council, etc...?

At 9:14, Alaya Green introduced Mr. John Everett, the PTT Director. He shared the top 4 selections from the MYLAC survey that was taken during the winter break to support enhancing MYLAC. The top choice was scholarships for MYLAC members, followed by ACT/SAT preparation, college tours, and finally more legislative tours. Mr. Everett also shared some of members' suggestions for change, including: more community service/engagement in MYLAC, adding a middle school component, more outreach, additional meetings, and marketing. Mr. Everett says that MYLAC's bylaws might need to be updated to reflect any changes that members want to include. He also says that MYLAC's marketing has been completely up to the MYLAC members, but ideas must be approved before publicly sharing. In addition, he says that additional meetings can be had, however

usually this results in a lack of attendance. Outreach is also completely decided by the body, but it must be done in an organized fashion. Mrs. Wakefield reminded the body that the Focus Issue Committee is working on a public outreach component of MYLAC, and that they would present later in the meeting about their ideas. Furthermore, he advised the members to focus on the things that need to be done, and to sharpen the focus on what needs to be done in the next few months.

At 9:26, Mr. Everett shared that KHA will be putting out a Request for Proposal (RPF) for MYLAC to the community. He then explained the benefits to the RPF and explained how the RFP could allow for the members' suggestions for additions to MYLAC such as scholarship being awarded to qualified seniors. He also says the proposal is being drafted and that more information would come soon.

At 9:30, Arquan Joseph asked what more could the seniors do to aid in the progress of the future of MYLAC. Mr. Everett says that MYLAC can develop the criteria for the scholarships and that can be used in the RFP. He also stated to promote the fairness and equality-centered characteristics of MYLAC, the criteria should be set to allow all ranges of Jacksonville youth to have a chance to receive scholarships.

At 9:38, Alaya Green announced the short break, before separating into our respective committees.

At 11:14, the respective committees gathered to present the committee reports. Alaya Green calls the meeting back to order and introduces the Census 2020 to present their brief. The Census 2020 Committee has decided to create fliers targeted for elementary, middle, and high schools and try have them presented on the DCPS webpage. They will create fliers, and then vote on them. Also, the fliers would also be placed on MYLAC and our personal social media accounts. Fliers will also be sent through online platforms and the 3rd Quarter Report Card. Gokul

Madathail addresses the leadership to move to begin a voter registration after the Census campaign was over. Evan Quiantance seconds this motion.

At 11:20, the Mental Health committee presents their ideas about activities for the Mental Health Summit (tentative May 8, 2020 at the UNF Arena). One idea was a shoebox drive, in which one would place a positive note in a box of shoes and then donate them to another in need. This activity would boost positivity and self-esteem within the community. In addition, they shared the idea of a contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. The committee also suggested MYLAC involvement in shoebox drive.

At 11:25, the Focus Issue committee begins their presentation. They inform the body about their public outreach campaign: “What’s Going On, Speak Up About It?”. For this campaign, the schools represented by the MYLAC body would receive a box and a designated paper pad for their schools. The purpose of this campaign is to spread the word about MYLAC within the Jacksonville community and to collect the opinions and perspectives of the youth of Jacksonville, themselves. The boxes are to be put in a safe location within each school, starting on February 3, 2020, and are to be collected bimonthly.

At 11:50, Alaya Green opens the floor for New Business. She introduces the idea of having MYLAC’s Final Ceremony to take place at the River Club. DeMichael made the motion. Hayden seconds the motion. More details will be provided later. Mrs. Wakefield introduced an idea to have next year’s officers selected during our final MYLAC meeting in May 2020, in order to have MYLAC Legislative Preparation over the summer. The Body discusses the idea and determines several pros and cons. Joe Kennerson moves for the juniors and sophomores to run for the higher positions, while the newcomers run for ambassadors and council positions. Alaya Green seconds this motion. There was further discussion. Monica Freeman suggested a may vote for president and vice president. DeMicheal suggested an

appointment of a position from the current MYLAC Body. Joe Kennerson amends his original motion to move that there be a summer MYLAC Representative and all officer positions open in the fall to all MYLAC members.

At 12:08 p.m., Alaya Green opens the floor for any new business. She brings the issue of child homelessness and suggests that MYLAC partner with a women's center. She asked if any MYLAC members were interested in this movement and asked if anyone had other suggestions to email her at alaya040@gmail.com. In addition, she informs the ambassadors of each district that they will receive more information at a later date about meeting with the City Council Representative of that district. Joe Kennerson encourages MYLAC members to increase our social media presence. He encourages members to follow MYLAC on Instagram and Twitter to spread the word about MYLAC.

Instagram: [cojmylac](#)

Twitter: [cojmylac](#)

Lastly, Margaret Szczukowski requests to have a Scholarship sub-committee which would be responsible for setting the scholarship criteria for seniors. More information will be provided at a later date.

At 12:30, the meeting was adjourned.