



# Community Based Crime Reduction Program

## *Cross Sector Strategic Planning Team Meeting Minutes*

City Hall - 117 W. Duval Street - Mayor's Large Conference Room (via Zoom)

Thursday, December 10, 2020

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened 2:05 p.m.

**Attendees:** Dan Durbec, T-Neisha Tate, Jerry Box, Dr. Pauline Rolle, Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell, Vironica Brown, Kiara Nixon, Tyrona Clark-Murray, Lynn Sherman, John Pappas, Kristopher Smith, Misty May, Ennis Davis, James Coleman, Denise Cross, Jynelle Robinson, Linzee Ott, Stephen Siegel, Jynelle Robinson, Kristopher Smith, Garland Scott, Bryan Mosier, Julie Ann Riviera, Lisa Ransom, Marcel Nelson

### **Discussion:**

Kendra Mervin, CBCR Program Coordinator, introduced new CBCR Subcommittee members and then requested updates.

### ***LISC***

Kristopher Smith, LISC Jacksonville, shared that the awareness campaign for Black Restaurant Week was successful. It is the first phase of the larger piece of work that the Education and Economic Development will undertake to help businesses grow and assist people with getting jobs. Kendra emphasized that CBCR partners will be involved in promoting the Pepsi/National Urban League 2021 Black Restaurant Accelerator program.

### ***Business Developments in Target Area***

Ennis Davis, Benesch, provided an update on the major developments taking place in the CBCR target area neighborhoods. He recommended that the Cross Sector Team keep an eye on developments along the Emerald Trail. Once all of the developments are completed, individuals will be able to walk or bike from Gateway Mall on the Northside to San Marco in the South corridor. FDOT is in the process of planning the expansion of I-95 roughly from I-10 through MLK, Jr. Parkway. There will be interchange improvements at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Kings Road, Union Street, Monroe Street and Beaver Street. JEA recently selected LaVilla to build its emergency headquarters, which will house over 200 employees. Additionally, several DCPS school projects will be completed in the CBCR target neighborhoods over the next two years. Ennis advised that there should be discussion about what will happen to the land where schools are slated to be demolished and not reconstructed, such as Susie E. Tolbert and Mt. Herman Exceptional Student Center. There are opportunities to create green space in the New Town area where some of these projects will occur. T-Neisha Tate, Jacksonville Jaguars, asked whether members of the Cross Sector Team could take a tour of the CBCR neighborhoods and a tour guided by Ennis will be scheduled in January 2021.



### ***Education and Economic Development Subcommittee***

Jerry Box, CareerSource Northeast Florida, gave a presentation of economic/workforce development opportunities that will occur in the CBCR neighborhoods. He introduced Mr. James Coleman, Operation Boost, who explained Operation Boost's training programs that are designed to assist low income, homeless, and ex-offenders ages 18 and up. A second presentation was given by Denise Cross, Business Front, which provides life skills, business skills, equipment safety, and other areas of training for young women 16 years and older (target market: school drop-outs and at risk drop-outs, teen moms, public assistance recipients, aspiring entrepreneurs, and at risk probation recidivism). Following Ms. Cross's presentation, a third guest, Marcel Nelson, Amazon, shared information about the partnership that has been established with CareerSource of Northeast Florida to hire people from the CBCR neighborhoods and the 32202 zip code. Over nine hundred people have been hired; 699 are all working at the Jax 2 Pecan Park facility.

### ***Community Outreach Subcommittee***

Mia Hobdy, New Town Success Zone (NTSZ), updated the team on the success of the first Community Impact Day that was held on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Celebration Church, JSO officers, members of the Cross Sector Team and several community volunteers participated in the event. 366 cars drove through the food distribution car line and 144 surveys were completed that provided community feedback that will be used by the CBCR. Program. There will be a small-scale toy giveaway sponsored by JSO on December 18 at NTSZ. The objective is to give residents an opportunity to interact with the police officers, thereby building trust and communication.

### ***Crime / Public Safety/ Social Justice Subcommittee***

Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell expounded on the Community Outreach toy giveaway, which is named Operation Santa's Heroes. He then informed the group that he is working with Garland Scott, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Violence Reduction Strategy, on the One Cop - One Precinct project. The goal is to involve several churches in crime reduction efforts. Chief Mitchell also contacted Rhonda Boyd and Tyrona Clark-Murray, CPAC Northwest District 5, and requested they spearhead getting neighborhood residents actively involved in CBCR efforts. Mr. Garland Scott then explained his program and role in mitigating gang activity.

### ***Quality of Life Subcommittee***

Bryan Mosier, COJ Neighborhoods Department Director, explained that the Quality of Life Subcommittee will primarily focus on addressing illegal dumping, absentee landlords, abandoned houses and recurring community clean ups. COJ Public Works Solid Waste Division, COJ Neighborhoods Department, Clean It Up-Green It Up, COJ Code Enforcement Division and



the JSO Blight officer team will be integral partners in their efforts. Additionally, the subcommittee is working on a strategy to engage the community to be involved in initiatives.

### ***Housing and Community Development Subcommittee***

Tonya Pressley, COJ Neighborhoods Department, provided the team with the subcommittee's update in the absence of Chiquita Moore. The subcommittee is involving the District 8 Councilwoman, Ju'Coby Pittman, and other key community stakeholders to determine the components of the Early Action Plan initiative that is being planned to occur in Durkeeville in February 2021 on Zora Neal Hurston's birthday. Additionally, there will be three grants awarded in the amount of \$2500.00 for community projects.

### ***Health Subcommittee***

Dr. Pauline Rolle, Florida Department of Health, shared that the Health Subcommittee is reaching out to different agencies whose services can be integral parts of the implementation plan. They have communicated with Feeding Northeast Florida to support healthy living and healthy eating initiatives in the target neighborhoods. The subcommittee also continues to meet with community leaders, experts and organizations to evaluate existing programming and identify gaps.

### ***Justice & Security Strategies Research Firm***

Shellie Solomon, CEO Justice & Security Strategies, introduced her team members who will be supporting the CBCR program by serving as the research partner.

Kendra Mervin announced that she was promoted to the City's Grant Administrator position beginning December 11. She will still be very actively involved with the CBCR program, which will be administered through her new division, the Office of Grants and Contract Compliance.

**Meeting Adjourned: 2:31 p.m.**

*The written minutes for this meeting reflect an overview of the full discussion.*