



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, February 11, 2021

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

Meeting Convened 1:03 p.m.

Attendees: Kendra Mervin, Tanya Washington, Asst. Chief Derrick Mitchell, Bryan Mosier, Jerry Box, Johamil Claudio, Mia Hobdy, Tom Larson, Chiquita Moore, Misty May, Deborah K. Thompson, James Murphy, Tyrona Clark-Murray, Kiaira Nixon, Lynn Sherman, Shellie Solomon,

Discussion:

Kendra Mervin, CBCR Program Coordinator, began talking to the team about data information that was requested for JSS. She stated that she would have liked the past ten years of data, however, will receive the past five which will help with the action plan is due to the Department of Justice by April 15th. Soon after, Kendra Mervin requested updates from the committees.

Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

Jerry Box, CareerSource Northeast Florida, shared that the bus tour was a success and was thankful for lunch that was provided. He then informed the committee about the increase of people going into the JEA Apprenticeship Program that is made to track individuals from the community in case of need of support. For the community event, he is tossing around the idea of a book giveaway drive to gain trust and interaction within the community. He introduced Mrs. Deborah K. Thompson, NAACP Jacksonville Branch Vice President, she went into detail about her connection and network within the community. She informed everyone about a project that she is working on called "Tiger Paws", which is putting tiger paws along Kings Rd and signs to inform the people that it is an educational zone. In addition, Mrs. Thompson would like to get both big and small businesses back into that area to revitalize it. Jerry Box then introduced Mr. Tom Larson who wants to help nonprofit organizations who need financial support and is looking to expand financial capability programs. James Murphy briefly introduced his business to the committee.

Community Outreach Subcommittee

Mia Hobdy, New Town Success Zone (NTSZ), deferred onto Misty May. Misty updated the team on their continuous quarterly planning for community impact days. Collaborating with the Quality of Life Subcommittee, in the month of February on the 27th, there will be a cleanup. The committee is also planning a food pantry at Newtown to bring in Health Awareness to teach



members of the community how to cook healthy, at an affordable cost. While using what is available to the community in the community garden, it will not only inform to the neighborhood that the garden is there for use but also promote healthy eating. The committee will continue have their quarterly meetings for more events.

Crime / Public Safety/ Social Justice Subcommittee

Asst. Chief Derrick Mitchell explained to the committee about the violence reduction initiative “custom notifications” that is an operation that makes direct contact with gang members and any children that is in that area or home. The police officers offer services to them to try to get them on the right path. Chief Mitchell further informed the committee that Chief Ellis Burns expanded Edward Waters College officers to cover more areas. They are also forming a bike unit, so more and more officers are being given bicycles. The objective of most of this is to ensure relationship building between the community and their officers. The precinct recently got approved to get partnered with a One Cop-Faith Based Initiative that is out in Atlanta. The operation connects a cop with a faith-based organization in the city to help with relationship building within the community and helps with the long-term goal to rebuild the city.

Quality of Life Subcommittee

Bryan Mosier, COJ Neighborhoods Department Director, explained that they will be rescheduling the cleanup to the 27th of February due to the rain. The focus of the event is community engagement and help them to see that they need to take ownership, or it will not be much of an impact. The committee’s plan is also to get properties back into productivity, pushing to get blinded areas cleaned up. Bryan explained that the committee wants to know what type of population they have, so they are looking into the percentages of homes that are rented and owner occupied within single family homes.

Housing and Community Development Subcommittee

Chiquita Moore, COJ Neighborhoods Dept, informed the rest of the committee with the meeting that will be held on the solidification of columns being put on each end of Myrtle Avenue, specifically on Kings Rd and MLK. She is planning on having a landscape designer talk about the landscaping, painting, and layout of aesthetics that they will be putting out in that area. This will be assisted by the dollars/grant that is due to get out by March 31st.

Health Subcommittee

Lynn Sherman informed the team that her committee and the family support services teamed up to work in the same area to target a food insecurity issue in the neighborhood. Serving the implementation plan, Ms. Sherman and her partners are working on a plan to have some food giveaways. The committee is working on a written plan explaining their approach to improve the level of hope to result in the improvement of lives in the community, as well as develop programs to ensure that it is long term as it relates to health.



Justice & Security Strategies Research Firm

Shellie Solomon, CEO Justice & Security Strategies, led a presentation on Collective Efficacy, what is fostered, and why it is important. Collective Efficacy is a criminological theory on how neighborhoods operate based on the willingness of neighbors intervening, social cohesion and trust (investment in the neighborhood), and the informal social control. The presentation included data from high, moderate, and low crime reported areas, as Dr. Solomon showed the data, she explained the levels and how the research committee looks for variational data. While analyzing the data they look to identify hot areas and look deeper within the area to find one of the main communities. This is so they can attempt to decrease the crime activity with community engagement operations.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:55 p.m.

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