



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, April 8, 2021

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

Meeting Convened 1:04 p.m.

Attendees: Mike Weinstein, Kendra Mervin, Marc Swatt, Jenn Petion, Lynn Sherman, Dan Durbec, Jennifer Behnam, John Pappas, Ennis Davis, Chiquita Moore, Vironica Brown, Eliza Macuch, Kiaira Nixon, Shellie Solomon, Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell, Bryan Mosier, Dr. Pauline Rolle, Kristopher Smith, Jerry Box, Kristina Wilson, Kimberly Wilson, Mia Hobdy, Tyrona Clark-Murray

Discussion:

Kendra Mervin introduced new CBCR Project Coordinator, Sharon Pennant. Sharon shared that she matriculated from the University of Central Florida and she has over ten years of experience in the Healthcare, Nonprofit, and Government sectors. Sharon also stated that she is heavily involved in the community and is eager to begin in her new role with CBCR. Kendra shared that another new staff member, Pehris Fennell was onboarded to assist OGCC with all clerical matters.

Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

Jerry Box informed everyone about great meetings and conversations he had with contractors. He shared that one contractor has committed to sponsor construction of the First Coast Expressway. The expressway will connect locals from Middleburg all the way to Green Cove Springs. Jerry is partnering with employers to hire over 117 jobseekers: 54 being from the target areas. He shared a preview of his six-month report that will be finalized shortly. Jerry stated that during a contractor's site tour the contractor agreed to raise their percentage of hiring jobseekers with backgrounds to 30%. He also shared that Amazon will expand their jobsites and open a total of 16 fulfillment centers across Jacksonville. To assist in promoting job vacancies he proposed the return of virtual information sessions called Team Tuesdays.

Community Outreach Subcommittee

Mia Hobdy told everyone that the previous community impact day focused on health and nutrition. She stated the American Heart Association, and Celebration Church prepared the healthy meals comprised of produce from the NTSZ garden. Residents also received complimentary groceries and a health care packaged stocked with healthy food samples, alternative recipes, and nutrition guides. She stated she received good feedback from the 117 participants and 25 volunteers. She is hopeful that local youth will seek agriculture careers at the community garden as it the garden provides resources and ultimately reduces crime.



Crime / Public Safety/ Social Justice Subcommittee

Assistant Chief Derrick Mitchell shared that JSO will officially be hosting a free summer camp this year which would have not been possible without Mike Weinstein (KHA). He announced that there will be four mobile camps starting June 7th, one being in the target area at Grand Park formerly “Johnny Walker Park”. He stated that there will be a limit of 36 kids from ages 6 to 12 years old. The camp will be held 8a.m. to 3p.m for 5 days. He believes this camp will help repair the JSO relationship within the target areas. He shared that 3 JSO Police Officers, PAL, and the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranch will be facilitating the camp. He is also hosting a Faith Leader mastermind June 7th and 8th. It will end with a luncheon at the Prime Osborn Center. He invited over 1,200 Faith Leaders throughout Florida. He reiterated the Faith-Based Initiative goal is to help recruit kids for the free summer camp.

Quality of Life Subcommittee

Bryan Mosier stated that LISC found 80 State-Owned properties in the target area and wants to provide free legal assistance to get them owner occupied by community residents. He stated he will partner with Northwest Jax CDC to achieve this mission.

Housing and Community Development Subcommittee

Chiquita Moore shared with everyone that she has been busy with processing COVID19 Rent/Mortgage relief applications. She stated their relief program received 650 applications but the program seeks to assist up to 1500 residents. She asked everyone to refer residents from the target areas to submit applications and spread the word. She stated the Emergency Room Assistance and Utility Assistance Programs is going well but the cutoff to apply is tomorrow. She also stated she received price quotes for the park beautification project and secured the silhouettes so she will order supplies shortly.

Health Subcommittee

Dr. Pauline Rolle introduced Jenn Petion and Jennifer Behnam from Family Support Services (FSS), the leading local child welfare agency. Jennifer gave a presentation about reinvesting in communities and enhancing family well-being. She hopes to reduce the impact of trauma after families are investigated and children are removed from their homes. Ultimately, they wish to keep families together lessening the number of investigations that result in children becoming a part of the welfare system. Jennifer shared that they are reaching out to local churches to see if they can support their efforts.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:13 p.m.

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