



Community Based Crime Reduction Program

Steering Committee Minutes

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

Thursday, November 12, 2020

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened 10:33 a.m.

Attendees: Kendra Mervin, Kiara Nixon, Assistant Chief Ellis Burns, Rev. William Wiggins, Dr. Tyrone Blue, Cheryl Taylor, Javon Knight, Dr. Marie Crandall, Vironica Brown

Discussion:

Kendra Mervin, CBCR Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order. Following the welcome and introductions, she stated that the Steering Committee members are more than welcome to participate in the Cross Sector Team meetings every month, but they are in no way obligated. Kendra advised the members that she will provide project updates from the work of the Cross Sector Team. She then affirmed the Steering Committee's central responsibility is to vet the strategy recommendations that will be presented to the community and submitted to the Department of Justice.

Kendra gave a brief overview of LISC and their involvement as a key CBCR partner. The organization has been involved with community-based crime reduction programs since 2012. LISC affirmed a committed and vested interest in Jacksonville's CBCR program. Kristopher Smith, LISC's Community Development Program Officer, is the CBCR program's point of contact person at LISC. Kendra then shared a presentation covering CBCRP research partner, Justice & Security Strategies. She stated that Justice & Security Strategies has expertise in building social cohesion, collective efficacy and sustainable community-based crime reduction programs. Cross Sector Team Subcommittee updates followed.

Economic Development and Education Subcommittee

Kendra Mervin shared that the Education and Economic Development Subcommittees has been combined with Jerry Box serving as the Chairman. The subcommittee has been working on hosting a community walking audit in December 2020. Three groups of volunteers will walk through three specific high crime communities in the targeted area to make inventory of needs (ex: better lighting, infrastructure, and aesthetics). All of the recommendations from the walking audit will be addressed using the CPTED model (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design).

The Economic and Education Subcommittee developed a partnership between CareerSource NEFL, the Florida Department of Corrections and Amazon. Amazon has agreed to make its new Jacksonville facility a Second Chance employment site. Individuals who have been identified



through the CBCR program referral process who are seeking employment, but are hindered with criminal backgrounds, will have a chance to be employed by Amazon.

Kendra mentioned that **Black Restaurant Week** is set to take place November 27th until December 6, 2020. CBCR and LISC have partnered together for this initiative. LISC has offered to set aside funds to pay for the premium registration of 20 Black-owned restaurants so that they can receive the full marketing package. This initiative is the catalyst for the \$10 million grant for the “Black Owned Restaurant Accelerator Program” that Pepsi and the National Urban League will lead. The initiative will invest in 20 to 30 restaurants in 12 selected cities. Funding will support training and marketing for Black-owned restaurants. Partners, specifically LISC and the Jacksonville Jaguars, have committed to supporting the Accelerator program. More information regarding the program will be discussed in a meeting on November 13, 2020.

Kendra informed the committee that T-Neisha Tate, VP of Social Responsibility and Impact for the Jacksonville Jaguars, has joined the CBCR program and will serve on the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee. Dr. Tyrone Blue asked whether the CBCR Program plans to reintegrate workforce programs back into the public schools since A. Phillip Randolph, Frank H. Peterson High Schools have discontinued several of their various workforce programs. Cheryl Taylor added that CareerSource NEFL can help with this effort and has partnered with local businesses and apprenticeship programs to perform customized training that will get young people involved and equipped with the necessary skills.

Community Outreach Subcommittee

The Community Outreach Subcommittee will host its first Community Impact Day event on November 21, 2020 at EWC in partnership with Celebration Church and New Town Success Zone. The Community Impact Day will have a survey component to receive feedback from the community concerning crime and safety issues. Marketing materials are being developed for distribution. Additionally, CBCR program literature will be distributed during the Clean it Up, Green it Up **Shredding & Tree Give Away** event taking place on the same day at the Prime Osborn Center. Kendra thanked Assistant Chief Ellis Burns for providing JSO officers to help with the Community Impact Day.

Monthly CBCR community forums will begin taking place in the near future. The CBCRP has a comprehensive directory of community organizations, businesses, churches, and schools to get them involved in volunteer opportunities. Forums are also a means of remaining transparent. The subcommittee has decided to include the National Funds for Scared Places as a prospective initiative of the Early Action Plan.

Crime /Public Safety/ Social Justice Subcommittee

Kendra reported that the subcommittee decided to address environmental issues directly associated with criminal activity. Blight is a continuous problem not only for the targeted area, but throughout various other parts of the city. The CBCR **Quality of Life Subcommittee** has



partnered with the City of Jacksonville's Solid Waste Division to focus on illegal dumping sites using a rapid response approach. All churches, businesses and organizations in the targeted areas will be sent the fight flyer. ProChamps was identified by the subcommittee to begin recording and tracking abandoned houses in the focus neighborhoods and to hold absentee landlords accountable.

Assistant Chief Burns stated that his team will also begin conducting warrant sweeps in the four focus neighborhoods.

Housing and Community Development Subcommittee

The subcommittee has been working on the CBCRP small business & neighborhood association mini grants application for the past several weeks. This mini grant will provide neighborhood associations and small businesses an opportunity to improve community safety conditions, as well as beautify and revitalize their neighborhoods. The subcommittee is committed to physically going out to encourage individuals in the targeted area to apply for the mini grants.

Research and Data Subcommittee

Research and Data Subcommittee has pulled data to identify relevant health indicators in the New Town and Durkeville area. This data will be used to assist with strategic planning for the Health Subcommittee. Once the research partner is on board, a meeting will be scheduled.

Health Subcommittee

The Health Subcommittee reported that many health disparities are linked to poverty and racism. Economic opportunities to impact both are necessary to make a difference.

Other Discussion

Kendra asked the Steering Committee members if they desired to elect a chair and co-chair. She stated that if so, bylaws would need to be established. Steering Committee Members have been invited to serve, but they are not appointed. After a brief discussion, all members concluded that chair and co-chair positions were not necessary right now. The process is working well, but the topic could be raised later down the line.

Kendra informed members to be on the lookout for additional information that will be sent via email. She then thanked everyone for their contributions and feedback.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:20 a.m.

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