



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**STEERING COMMITTEE &**

**CHAIRS**

**February 14, 2008**

# The Jacksonville Journey – Steering Committee

February 14, 2008

2:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Steering Committee taken on Thursday, February 14, 2008, Ed Ball Building - 8<sup>th</sup> Floor; 214 N. Hogan Street; Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m.

## Steering Committee & Committee Chairs

Betty Holzendorf - Steering Committee Co-Chair  
John Rood - Steering Committee Co-Chair  
John Coxwell - Intervention & Rehabilitation Chair  
W.C. Gentry - Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Chair  
Paul Perez - Law Enforcement Deterrence Chair  
Tony Boselli - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair

Ed Austin - Member  
Mac Brunson - Member  
Toni Crawford - Member  
John Delaney - Member  
Nat Glover - Member  
Hugh Green - Member  
Steve Halverson - Member  
Dr. Adam Herbert - Member  
Pete Jackson - Member  
Rev. Rudolph McKissick, Sr.  
Jim McMillan - Member  
Pam Paul - Member  
Gertrude Peele - Member  
Steve Wallace - Member  
Cleve Warren - Member  
Wayne Weaver - Member

## APPEARANCES

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:**

BETTY HOLZENDORF - Chair  
JOHN ROOD - Chair  
JOHN COXWELL – Chair  
W.C. GENTRY – Chair  
PAUL PEREZ – Chair  
TONY BOSELLI - Chair  
ED AUSTIN – Member  
NAT GLOVER – Member  
JIM MCMILLAN – Member  
TONI CRAWFORD – Member  
PETE JACKSON –Member  
REV. RUDOLPH MCKISSICK, SR.- Member  
PAM PAUL - MEMBER (via Conference Call)  
GERTRUDE PEELE - Member  
CLEVE WARREN - Member

### **ABSENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Audrey Moran–Positive Youth Development Chair  
Tom Petway – Funding Chair  
Will Ketchum – Public Relations Chair  
Mac Brunson - Member  
John Delaney – Member  
Dr. Adam Herbert – Member  
Wayne Weaver – Member  
Hugh Green – Member  
Steve Halverson – Member

### **STAFF:**

SUSIE WILES  
KANDI BEGUE  
ROSLYN PHILLIPS  
BRAD THOBURN  
KRISTEN KEY BEACH  
ADAM HOLLINGSWORTH  
GINNY WALTHOUR  
DAN CRONRATH  
SUSAN PELTER  
RACHEL DAVIS  
RENEE BRUST  
CHAD POPPELL  
RACHELLE SUNDY  
STEPHANIE BARNETT  
ANNA BRADLEY

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Various Media Representatives

**PROCEEDINGS**

February 14, 2008

Steering Committee & Committee Chairs

2:00 p.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** Chairwoman Holzendorf called the meeting to order at approximately 2:08 p.m.

**Purpose of Meeting.** Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step.

Chairwoman Holzendorf began the meeting at approximately 2:08 pm, by extending a welcome to the committee assembled. Housekeeping items were covered, such as; Sunshine Law reminder; state name each time the committee is addressed; speak into microphone; etc. Chairwoman Holzendorf then turned the meeting over to Councilman Kevin Hyde for a presentation on Public Health and Safety - Proposed Crime Legislation. (All presentations can be found on the website at [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net); and click on the Jacksonville Journey icon). Several questions and comments were made during the presentation regarding the City partnering with the public sector to encourage employment of ex-offenders. There is an understanding that the City's current practice is not to hire ex-offenders, Councilman Hyde noted that this is true, but hopefully, this will change once the legislation is enacted. Councilman Hyde thanked the Chair and asked if there were any questions he could answer. Madame Chairwoman thanked Councilman Hyde and noted her pleasure that the City Council has taken it upon itself to take a serious look at and participation in the Jacksonville Journey. She further notes whether there will be a committee formed to address

this program - Councilman Hyde stated there is a committee that has been prepared and Chairwoman Holzendorf noted that she did have a question and but would wait until the committee meeting. Chairman Rood noted that he is glad there is a focus on the hiring of ex-felons; he spoke about Mr. Coxwell's program for hiring ex-felons and noted the success of his program. Chairman Rood asked Ms. Wiles if there was a plan to have a meeting with Director Bass; Councilman Hyde notes that everyone involved understands that this is a priority in the City at this time...there will be meetings times devoted to communication with all involved.

The next agenda item is Ms. Phillips regarding the Eugene Rivers presentation and the new Faith Based Violent Crime Reduction Coalition. Ms. Phillips spoke to the TenPoint Coalition and gave a brief overview. She noted that Rev. Rivers urged our faith based leaders to join together to be there and provide sanctuary for our youth in the community. She notes that at the end of the day, a leader emerged in Bishop Vaughn McLaughlin, who was asked to lead this call; and he willingly accepted. He has been very busy, he has had a meeting in his own church of over 300 men to encourage outreach in the community. Next meeting is 2/18 and on 2/19; it is his intent to have a call to all pastors for the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. Bishop McLaughlin, at that time, would like to provide an update and make assignments on the current efforts underway to address these issues. He has modified the TenPoint Plan originally created by Rev. Rivers, to make it more localized and get more people involved. It is his goal to have 12,000 people involved in this outreach. He is in contact with Rev. Rivers to ensure that

there are documented outcomes and goals that can be achieved. Floor was opened to questions: Nat Glover, what time on 18<sup>th</sup>: at the Potter's House - not sure of the time. It is a public meeting? It is a meeting of members of his church and they will be developing a strategy. The public meeting is March 4<sup>th</sup> - all Steering Committee and public is welcome. Nat Glover asked if there was a copy of the revised TenPoint plan - he is working on that at the present time - Is this going to be a proposed presentation or will it be final? He has a committee that has worked with him to put this together. Chairman Rood noted that Rev. Rivers was powerful and very well spoken - very uplifting and encouraging. He'd like to commend the Mayor for bringing Rev. Rivers to town and noted that he felt the message was very powerful. Ms. Phillips noted that there were over 150 people in attendance on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January for the workshop. Chairwoman Holzendorf thanked Ms. Phillips for her presentation.

The next agenda item is for the Committee Reports - Ms. Phillips will be giving the report for the Positive Youth Development Committee. (All presentations can be found on the website). Chairwoman Holzendorf noted that she has been attending many of the committee meetings and is hearing that there is much work being done and it seems to be overlapping - we need to ensure we work to communicate and not have duplication of effort with time being so short.

Ms. Phillips began the committee report on Positive Youth Development. At the conclusion - was there any questions: Chairman Rood: I didn't see a lot about other organizations that

were involved in the community, are you going to be interacting with these programs: girls clubs - boy scouts? Ms. Phillips notes: Yes, we've had several representatives come and speak to the committees - in March we'll be dealing with Sports - each month we'll take on a different charge. Chairman Rood: Is it consistent with the community as a whole. Rev. Pete Jackson: If you know orgs that are working with Neighborhoods, how do you incorporate them?

Nat Glover: Have you discussed anything about adoption: taking on some of the youth into some of these stable families and step out of the box with that? We have not addressed the issue of adoption - in the Faith Based coalition, there has been some discussion about the faith based leaders taking on a role of mentoring (like adoption). She will take it back to her chair, Nat thanked Ms. Phillips - and noted that it would be a good suggestion to take back to this committee. Chairwoman Holzendorf noted that we need to use this time to go through the reports - please take your recommendations to the committee - encouraged all to attend the committee meetings - they are very informative. The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Gentry for the Education Subcommittee report. Chairman Rood asked for clarification - are we asking for centers or trainers? Trainers, there is adequate room for them. There are hundreds of childcare centers in this community, they are custodial, not learning centers. These centers can be transformed by these trainers to educate rather than just have them in a non-learning environment. How many kids are attending these centers? In 4 yr olds - there are 12,000 -

we've probably touched maybe 8,500. There are about 2,500 that we know nobody touches. They are either home with grandmother or somewhere that no one can get to them. The State of Florida does provide funding for child readiness, but there is a long waiting list for working parents...they do not qualify for these dollars. Chairman Gentry noted that he is dissatisfied with the lack of support of the Public Relations committee; he needs someone dedicated to every meeting, because they are ready to roll out their programs to the public. Chairman Rood notes to Mr. Gentry that if there is not enough Public Relations support, perhaps we can talk with the Mayor's staff to recruit more PR people to help get this out into the public. As Mr. Gentry wrapped up his presentation, he notes that the best way this group can help him is to provide PR help, he feels the Education Committee needs to continue beyond March 14<sup>th</sup>, may need to look at Magnet Schools. Mayor Ed Austin notes: Talking overall about crime, in the absence of a nurturing environment, what in this early development, how does this factor in, how do we get there? Answer - that's what we're trying to do, get them from birth; rather than seeing them in a high chair in the daycare, they should be on a colorful mat learning and being stimulated. They should be getting love and nurturing in the care center as well as at home.

Is there anything we can do to encourage the normal environment to start with? One of the recommendations for the teams is to have a parenting coach in order to help that parent develop better parenting skills. We need social workers and mental health workers to help facilitate this goal. Ms. Crawford notes that

there are program in place that this has begun. Chairman Rood notes that we must move forward; turned over to Chairwoman Holzendorf who moved the meeting to the next presentation to Mr. Paul Perez for the Law Enforcement and Deterrence presentation. Mr. Cleve Warren asked the question -School Board security force only does their work in the evening, is it possible to take 164 officers (SRO) to the streets? Nat Glover: SRO officers assigned to the schools are critical, if you take them out of the schools, after you survive the outrage of the parents, you'll increase your calls to schools for service. It would be a detriment. The SRO program is functional and you need to keep them in the schools. The school system pays a certain percentage of their salary - it's not totally on local taxpayers. The school picks up between half and a third. The School Board security force is a force that augments any investigation going on in a school, unless it's a murder, they also help make it unnecessary to engage law enforcement resources to address problems in the school. Chairwoman Holzendorf notes resources officers came through the safe schools program, after Columbine, an infusion of dollars came from the government to help prevent these problems; and there is approximately 80 million shared between the schools. Mr. McMillan noted that the Matrix report recommends that the schools contribute a larger amount of dollars to this program.

Chairwoman Holzendorf turned the meeting over to Tony Boselli for the Neighborhood Safety & Stability presentation. He notes that there needs to be a tracking mechanism so that a determination can be made as to where these children go and what benefit they are

getting from the services that are currently available. Floor was opened to questions: Chairman Rood - noted great job and very good report. He actually received some press about some of the other agencies outside of government control, some of those dollars could be available - the outside agencies - perhaps we could influence their priorities to fund some of these initiatives to help our children. He notes that we need to put this to the Funding committee for them to explore. Mr. Gentry notes that he feels it is a great idea and we should have the funding committee look into it. Chairman Rood asked staff to share with Tom Petway, Chair of the Funding Committee and encourage him to explore this idea. Mr. Boselli needs the PR committee involvement; needs the faith based churches to become involved in these initiatives as well as non-profit organizations. Chairwoman Holzendorf turned the meeting over to Mr. John Coxwell for the Targeted Intervention and Rehabilitation presentation. He notes that the goal for the next review will be more recommendations. Nat Glover: Reentry piece, you really need to go talk to the secretary of corrections - they need to come to a nearby facility six months before they are released; that will give us the best opportunity to work with them. Mr. Glover notes he would be glad to participate when they talk to the secretary.

Chairwoman Holzendorf notes that Public Relations will be scheduled for the next meeting as will Funding. She'd like to get their reports at the next meeting; she'd like to start bringing everything together. She noted that the Steering Committee needs to begin to vote and take action on the items being recommended by

the subcommittees. They should be included on the Steering Committee agenda for action. She further notes we need to address these and start working on a solution, so that when April is here, there will be some solid recommendations. She notes that she will attend Intervention and Public Relations Sub-Committees in the coming weeks. She also notes, right now there are about 600 agencies trying to do what we are trying to do. She spoke with Steve Wallace for the FCCJ campuses to see if there could be something accomplished. She commends those who are coming together and addressing these problems. Community participation is what is going to help solve the problems currently facing the communities. She notes that in the high crime areas, where a lot of poverty is, there is not a lot of activity in those areas. We're going to have to find a way to initiate or get some people involved in those areas. That's why the PR committee becomes a key component in this endeavor. She thought we'd be advertising those meetings to encourage participation. She notes, Ron Littlepage left, but she feels he is part of the problem also, she needs attitude changes, we need positive words - the public needs to be shown that progress will be made and have them get involved in the solution as well.

She also notes that the Public Works department can clean lots - we need to get them involved. She notes that she worked 12 years for the city and knows what can and cannot be done. She doesn't want reports of what has been done, she wants them to tell her how they can get some of these lots cut - get some of this work done. She notes, "Rats don't play in clean places". She wants the City

to clean the communities up without paying more for these services. She stated to the committee "We have 120 days, then we've got to start telling the community - we either help with their problems, we didn't or we don't care". She encouraged the committee to come up with solutions that can be put in place and will not change the whole face of everything, but it shows we are concerned and we are going to move forward. We need to talk to every district City Council person - they have funds, they can do things in their district, we need their buy-in. The Mayor has very little discretionary dollars - the Chamber may come forward, but with the limited amount of funds, with the council people, we can bring about change in this community. She notes she is very concerned that we haven't taken a vote on some very good proposals. She feels a vote is in order - she wants this done in the next Steering Committee meeting. She notes that the meeting time for the next meeting will change and that the committee is going to have to meet a little more regularly. She notes, if they don't do it, she will do it herself. She strongly encourages that we all work toward this goal.

Chairman Rood thanked Councilman Hyde, reminded everyone there is a funding sheet in the package. He further notes a request of Harry Shorstein's presentation transcript has been made, it will be e-mailed to entire Steering Committee prior to next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

## **2. Action Items**

- 1) Send copy of the Shorstein presentation to the entire committee

- 2) Communicate change in meeting time to committee members
- 3) Add Subcommittee recommendations to the next agenda for action.
- 4) Coordinate meeting with City Council members to discuss using their district allocations to fund some of the Jacksonville Journey initiatives.

Adjournment. **Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.**