



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Steering Committee

MINUTES

OF

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

& CHAIRS

April 10, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Steering Committee & Committee

Chairs

April 10, 2008

1:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Steering Committee & Committee Chairs taken on Thursday, April 10, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Steering Committee & Committee Chairs

Betty Holzendorf, Steering Committee Co-Chair

John Rood, Steering Committee Co-Chair

Ed Austin, Member

Mac Brunson, Member

Toni Crawford, Member

John Delaney, Member

Nat Glover, Member

Hugh Greene, Member

Steve Halverson, Member

Adam Herbert, Member

Pete Jackson, Member

Rudolph McKissick, Sr., Member

Jim McMillan, Member

Pam Paul, Member

Gertrude Peele, Member

Steve Wallace, Member

Cleve Warren, Member

Wayne Weaver, Member

Tony Boselli, Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair

John Coxwell, Intervention & Rehabilitation Chair

W. C. Gentry, Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Chair

Will Ketchum, Public Relations Chair

Audrey McKibbin Moran, Positive Youth Development Chair

Paul Perez, Law Enforcement & Deterrence Chair

Tom Petway, Funding Chair

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Betty Holzendorf, Co-Chair	Steve Wallace, Member
John Rood, Co-Chair	Cleve Warren, Member
Ed Austin, Member	Wayne Weaver, Member
Mac Brunson, Member	Tony Boselli, Chair
Toni Crawford, Member	John Coxwell, Chair
John Delaney, Member	W. C. Gentry, Chair
Nat Glover, Member	Will Ketchum, Chair
Hugh Greene, Member	Audrey Moran, Chair
Adam Herbert, Member	Paul Perez, Chair
Jim McMillan, Member	Tom Petway, Chair
Pam Paul, Member	

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

Steve Halverson, Member
Pete Jackson, Member
Rudolph McKissick, Sr., Member
Gertrude Peele, Member

STAFF:

Stephanie Barnett	Linda Lanier	Cameron Siple
Kristen Beach	Susan Pelter	Misty Skipper
Kandi Begue	Roslyn Phillips	Kerri Stewart
Renee Brust	Lynn Rix	Ginny Walthour
Alice Checorski	Jennifer Savage	Susie Wiles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Frank Brenden	Ed Pratt-Dannals	Karin Croke
Marilyn Fenton-Harmer	Harlan Stallings	Chrisy Murphy
Jenna Emmons	Wight Greger	Quiounia Williams
Wyllie Hodges	James Richardson	Derrick Taylor
Michael Sharkey	Don Redmon	Natasha Bentley
Cathy Chadeayne	Matt Galnor	Al Chester
Thomas Neppel	Cheryl Runyon	Cardale Vaughn
John Howard	Pam Markham	Gordon Bass, Jr.
Ed Hearle	George Dandelak	William McClendon
Grace Swift	Shannon Nazworth	Earl Kitchings
Ida Bryant	Sherry Hall	Kevin Gay
Cassandra Bush	Michael Munz	Sherron Watson
Nathaniel Toler	Tiffany Griffith	Angelina Turner
Larry McClendon	Nikki Cogdell	Bill Sulzbacher
	Eugene Monts	Diane Brunet

PROCEEDINGS

April 10, 2008

Steering Committee & Committee Chairs

1:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. The meeting began at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step. This meeting was to hear the final recommendations of the Jacksonville Journey Sub-Committees. John Rood, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Chief Judge Gerald Tjoflat spoke about the positive influence of Boy Scouts on children. He stated that this program transfers values from one generation to the next.

Q: How many troops are in high crime areas in Jacksonville?

A: Mohawk troops are based in apartment complexes.

There will be a round up in August and September in schools.

Next the sub-committees began making their recommendations. All presentations can be found on the website at:

<http://www.coj.net/Mayor/Jacksonville+Journey/Minutes.htm>

Chairwoman Audrey Moran representing Positive Youth Development made the following recommendations:

- 1.) Recruit and train 1500 new mentors per year.
- 2.) Provide comprehensive training programs for all individuals working/mentoring youth in both formal and informal capacities.
- 3.) Expand high-quality after school programs to elementary and

middle school children who meet "free and reduced lunch program" qualifications.

4.) Expand high-quality summer camp programs to elementary and middle school children who meet free and reduced lunch program qualifications. Expand from six weeks to eight weeks.

5.) Implement JaxParks Intramural Sports League.

Ms. Pam Paul made a motion to accept these recommendations. Ms. Toni Crawford seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion.

Q: Do 16,000 children want a mentor?

A: We have identified 16,000 children at risk. Only 600 children in zone one currently have a mentor.

Q: How can we accomplish this goal?

A: By using a clearing house for all the programs. And the Public Relations piece is critical.

Q: Have you considered teachers as mentors?

A: Training and certification for all those who touch the lives of children, including after school programs, is somewhat mentoring, but one-on-one is best.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman W. C. Gentry presented the following additional recommendations from the Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee:

1.) Create alternative centers for out of school suspension.

2.) Fund a study of out of school suspension and in school suspension in Duval County Public Schools.

Q: What age are the children in out of school suspension?

A: Mostly middle school age, 7th, 8th and 9th graders, with the highest number being 9th graders.

Mayor John Delaney made a motion to accept these recommendations. The motion was seconded; however, we are unable to identify who made the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Paul Perez, representing the Law Enforcement and Deterrence Sub-Committee, made the following recommendations:

1.) Add 101 patrol officers, 124 corrections officers and 38 civilian positions to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office based on the identified needs of the community and the available financial resources.

2.) Recommend judiciary and State Attorney's Office increase use of post-incarceration (probation or community control) for convicted felons in Duval County.

3.) Encourage local judiciary and State Attorney's Office to consider more stringent sentencing policies where police and prosecutors have identified those individuals who pose an ongoing danger or threat to the community.

4.) Encourage judiciary and State Attorney's Office to work with Public Defender's Office to ensure all reasonable actions are taken to facilitate the most expeditious disposition of pending felony cases.

5.) Encourage the local judiciary to reconsider adoption of the revised bond schedule for release from jail prior to the first

appearance that is outlined in the administrative order drafted by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and supported by the State Attorney's Office, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Public Defender.

6.) Duval County School Board and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office should create a specific Special Events Safety Plan for each school within Duval County. The two organizations must eliminate any obstacles that exist to providing the necessary security and should fully execute the plans once created.

Q: Are you recommending what is necessary for the high crime zones or for the whole city?

A: The whole city. We will let the sheriff deploy them as he sees fit.

Q: This is 101 uniformed officers?

A: Yes.

Q: Crimes are solved by detectives. The matrix recommends more detectives. Do you?

A: We passed on that part of the matrix due to lack of time. We concentrated on preventive measures.

Q: Does JSO still have a lapse percentage in the budget that has to be given back at year end? In other words, will all of these positions be filled or will some have to be left vacant to cover the lapse?

A: I'm not aware of the lapse, but with this funding all positions should be filled.

Q: Why does it take five (5) years to get officers on the street?

A: We took our charge to be financially prudent and so the recommendation staggers the staffing increases over 5 years.

Q: Was any consideration given to the pros and cons of privatizing the corrections piece?

A: No. We feel the additional corrections officers would lower the current overtime costs and save money in the long run.

Q: Is this a value that's worth the money we're asking for in solving violent crime?

A: Absolutely.

Q: In any community, the number of police officers must keep with the growth of the community. Over the last 10 to 15 years have we done that?

A: No, and as we grow in population the number of crimes committed increases and the number of arrests increases. Therefore, we also need more judges and prosecutors.

Q: What is the length of stay awaiting trial in Duval County jails as opposed to other counties in the state?

A: For a felony charge the average stay is 106 days. For a misdemeanor charge the average stay is 24 days.

Q: We did an audit (the matrix) of JSO. Should we do an audit of the court system?

A: We heeded the mayor's charge of 'no more studies'.

Q: Is fewer days in jail your recommendation?

A: Yes. We start with that finding and make 2 recommendations:

- a) Revise the bond schedule.
- b) Encourage the State Attorney's Office and judiciary to work closely to make this happen.

Q: There has been an annual increase in the JSO budget of 8% a year for the past 5 years. We were told that this was due to the increasing cost of personnel, not by adding any personnel. Has it been discussed that new employees come under a different benefit and pension plan?

A: We did not look at this in enough detail to make a recommendation.

Q: Are random stops an effective way to stop crime?

A: We didn't study that.

Q: You're not recommending more police officers in high crime areas. Does your report show a need in zone 1?

A: Yes. And we believe that is where the sheriff will put them, but we are allowing him the discretion to make deployment decisions.

Q: Reverend Rivers has a program where police officers work with community leaders. Did you look at his program?

A: The request by the sheriff for additional officers is to allow for proactive time as Reverend Rivers suggests.

Mr. W. C. Gentry made a motion to accept these recommendations.

Mr. Tom Petway seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. The discussion resulted in an amendment made by Mr. W.

C. Gentry: **Recommend that the City Budget Office look at JSO benefits and retirement package for new hires and examine the cost figures.**

Mr. Tom Petway made the motion to accept the recommendations of the Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee with the amendment.

Mr. W. C. Gentry seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman John Coxwell, representing the Intervention and Rehabilitation Sub-Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1.) Establish and implement 'Camp Jacksonville' for the summer of 2008.
- 2.) Re-open and secure funding for the continued operation of the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC). Identify mental health issues and solutions for troubled juveniles.
- 3.) Maintain current inventory of intervention and prevention programs and seek additional funding for programs designed for youth/juveniles being run by the State Attorney's Office.
- 4.) Recommend the establishment and further development of a portal providing referral information on re-entry services for ex-offenders - the Jacksonville Re-Entry Center (portal of entry for all local, state and federal offenders whose residency and county of conviction was Duval and who are now returning to Duval County upon release from incarceration.
- 5.) Expand operation of Drug Court, Mental Health Court and/or Re-entry court. Explore other opportunities to expand re-entry services to the pre-trial population to allow judges other disposition options.
- 6.) Recommend expanding re-entry programs, such as Operation

New Hope's Ready4Work program, that are particularly attached to employment with benefits.

- 7.) Identify community-based programs, grass-roots efforts that make a significant impact and difference in the high-crime areas within the Jacksonville community and make efforts to help build capacity to these organizations. This recommendation has several components with the same purpose:
 - a. Create a matrix/inventory of organizations and the programs/services each offers for ex-offenders (juvenile and adult).
 - b. Create a matrix/inventory of organizations and programs/services each offers for intervention (juvenile and adult).
 - c. Assist in creating more awareness within the community for the 2-1-1 Call Center, a United Way program.
- 8.) Request WorkSource to respond to the committee request to perform the following activity: Serve as an administrator for non-profit organizations dealing with ex-offenders. WorkSource could use its developed skills in obtaining and monitoring federal and state grants targeted to these non-profits. This would free up time for the non-profit to expand its capacity and core mission dealing with ex-offenders.
- 9.) Begin community-wide discussion to develop a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) program in Jacksonville (based on Annie E. Casey model).

- 10.) Make direct efforts to lobby Jacksonville employers to hire ex-offenders. Recommend that the City of Jacksonville make specific efforts to hire ex-offenders.
- 11.) Identify mental health issues and solutions for troubled juveniles.
- 12.) It should be noted that the Targeted Intervention and Rehabilitation Sub-Committee also made the following endorsements, but other sub-committees will be bringing more detailed recommendations:
 - a. Elimination of out-of-school suspension; and
 - b. Creation of 20,000 more mentors for Duval County Youth.

Q: What is the current rate of recidivism over two years?

A: Locally it is 36% in a year. Statewide, according to the Department of Justice, it is 2 out of 3 within 3 years.

Q: Are you using any faith-based organizations?

A: Yes, that is in the list of providers. The clearing house will screen providers.

Q: Are the summer programs out of the Jacksonville Children's Commission part of Camp Jacksonville?

A: No. It is separate.

C: Maybe these can be combined.

Q: Did you talk about starting the re-entry process prior to release?

A: Yes, that is part of the recommendation.

Mr. Cleve Warren made a motion to accept these recommendations. Sheriff Nat Glover seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion.

There was no discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Kerri Stewart, representing the Neighborhood Safety and Stability Sub-Committee made the following additional recommendations:

- 1.) Establish New Oversight Board for funding and monitoring of all Parks and Recreation programming in Community facilities (Community Centers, Libraries, Schools, Churches, etc.) with the intent of holding both City and non-profit programming accountable for outcomes and leveraging of City dollars.
- 2.) Recommendations for the City to support economic development activities that would lead to safer and stable neighborhoods; that would cut down on crime and murder.

Co-Chairwoman Betty Holzendorf made a motion to accept these recommendations. Ms. Toni Crawford seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion and the motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion was then re-opened on the recommendations made by the Law Enforcement and Deterrence Sub-Committee. Sheriff Jim McMillan made a motion to add the following amendment:

Study the need to implement the recommendations of the Matrix Report to see if it would have a direct impact on our crime problem by adding the detectives recommended by the Matrix Report.

The motion was seconded by Co-Chairwoman Betty Holzendorf. The floor was opened for discussion.

Q: Does adding a certain number of patrol officers take away the sheriff's discretion to make some of them detectives?

A: This is from the sheriff's recommendation and the matrix.

Q: Did you focus on patrol officers only and not look at traffic officers and detectives?

A: We looked, but didn't have time to look at those in detail. We felt the addition of patrol officers had the most immediacy.

C: With this amendment we need to look at ratio of the number of crimes to the number of residents and the ratio of cases to detective.

The motion to accept the second amendment was approved unanimously.

Mr. Tom Petway made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Law Enforcement and Deterrence Sub-Committee with the two (2) amendments. Mr. W. C. Gentry seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor John Peyton gave an update on the proposed limit on spending in Tallahassee.

Co-Chairman Rood proposed a meeting inviting the sub-committee chairs to meet one-on-one with City Council. Ms. Susie Wiles is already working on this.

A reminder was given of the public meeting dates as well as other scheduling reminders from the agenda.

A general discussion then ensued:

Q: Are we only looking at zone 1?

A: I believe that we should be helping all children that are at risk.

Q: What is the goal and format of the public meetings?

A: To present the programs recommended and get feedback.

C: The community will want to hear what we're doing for kids 17 to 24 years of age. They think we're doing a great job with the little kids but this older age group frightens them.

Mr. W. C. Gentry applauded the mayor for the courage to convene a group of citizens to look critically at the city, warts and all, and make recommendations.

Mayor John Peyton commends the Jacksonville Journey Committee for its willingness to participate. The recommendations have exceeded all expectations.

Ms. Audrey Moran announced that Mayor Peyton is having a dialogue with youth at the Jacksonville Children's Commission on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

2. Action Items

1. Positive Youth Development Recommendations:

Accepted unanimously.

2. Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Additional Recommendation:

Accepted unanimously.

3. Law Enforcement & Deterrence Recommendations:

Accepted unanimously with the following 2 amendments.

Amendments:

A) Recommend that the City Budget Office look at JSO benefits and retirement package for new hires and examine the cost figures.

B) Study the need to implement the recommendations of the Matrix Report to see if it would have a direct impact on our crime problem by adding the detectives recommended by the Matrix Report.

4. Intervention & Rehabilitation Recommendations:

Accepted unanimously.

5. Neighborhood Safety & Stability Additional Recommendations:

Accepted unanimously.

3. Discussion Items

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.