City of Jacksonville

*1st Floor - Council Chamber 117 W. Duval Street*

# Meeting Minutes

Member to Member Meeting

Friday, January 27, 2023

9:00 AM

In-Person Meeting

# Safety and Crime Reduction Commission

Meeting Convened: 9:02 am Meeting Adjourned: 10:40 am

**Attendance**:

**Chair**: Dr. Constance Hall; **Vice Chair**: Ronnie King; **City Councilman**: Sam Newby; **Administrator**: Dr. Nicoa Garrett; **Staff**: Jennifer Pope

**Commissioners**: Tom Geismer; Shelley Grant; Ellen Glasser; Frank Denton; William Gentry; Jeffrey Gorley; Desiree Jones; Viki Waytowich, Shamika Baker-Wright; Nemiah Rutledge

**Liaisons to the Commission**: Katoia Wilkins; Stephen Siegel; Harry Wilson; Paul Restivo; Jackie Simmons

**Guest:**  Abdul-Hai Thomas, Child and Youth Ombudsperson/Center for Children's Rights (CCR); Mike Weinstein, CEO Kids Hope Alliance.

**Excused:** Larry Cook; Mark Griffin

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Hall welcomed all to the meeting. And introduced new commissioners Jeffrey Gorley and Nemiah Rutledge.

1. **Roll Call**

Nicoa Garett verified quorum (12).

1. **Remarks – Councilman Newby**

Councilman Newby gave an opening welcome and outlined the strategic plan and proposed SCRC resolution for next fiscal year funding. The proposed funding would provide $350,000 to the mini grants as well as $100,000 for the mental health awareness campaign. He also indicated that Councilman Gaffney, Jr., may be contributing to the funding as well. Councilman Newby clarified that this is a pending resolution and funding would need to be approved under the next mayor elect.

Commissioner Baker-Wright asked about when the next application cycle would be opening and awarded. Chair Hall indicated that Dr. Garrett would address those concerns with her administration presentation.

Commissioner Denton requested clarification of the mission of the commission specifically in relation to other anti-crime efforts within the city.

Dr. Hall requested questions and comments held as of this time.

1. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

The October 2022 Member to Member meeting summary was approved by the SCRC Commissioners.

1. **Administrator** **Report**

Dr. Garrett reported to the commissioners on the awarding process of The Rise-Up Jacksonville Mini-Grants. She discussed the agreements with nonprofits have been executed as of October 1, 2022, and the follow up orientation and training which took place in November 2022. There will be an additional training session in April 2023. She went on to outline important upcoming dates such as reporting deadlines and advised that the required mid-year and annual presentation dates need to be established by the commission. Payments are still being executed, providing half of the funding in advance once a contract is executed. She also provided an update to the most recent monthly homicide statistics. Dr. Garrett addressed Commissioner Baker-Wrights questions, indicating that the next award cycle dates would need to be established after funding is approved. Councilman Newby stated he would revise his funding request from $350,000 to $500,000 for grant funding for the upcoming fiscal cycle.

1. **Remarks – Dr. Hall**

 Dr. Hall extended thanks to Dr. Garrett and Katoia Wilkins of KHA for their efforts and requested an update on the mental health awareness campaign. Dr. Garrett reported that with original endowment of $100,000 in March of 2022 the City of Jacksonville partnered with many organizations including Kids Hope Alliance and Duval County Public Schools. Through these ties parties physically went into communities and were able to share resources with over 450 individuals. Blue Cross has already shown interest in participating again this year.

Tom Geismar spoke about the importance of attempting to coordinate efforts among grant recipients, as well as specifically JSO to have maximum effect.

Vicki Waytowich suggested that with the next award cycle that the identified ‘hot spots’ should be considered as priority. Ellen Glasser voiced that she shared this opinion. Commissioner Gentry suggested that in addition to grant oversight the SCRC needs to communicate with other local agencies to attempt effort consolidation as well as avoiding wasting resources by duplicating efforts. Commissioner Geismar suggested the implementation of a survey to be distributed to local agencies(i.e. JSO and JFRD) for targeting information. Chair Hall questioned if there were existing assessments which could be used as a resource for that type of data. Ronnie King stated that a survey by the committee could still be an important resource and will be discussed at the Neighborhood Subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Gentry asked if it would be possible to have Dr. Garrett inquire about the status of Mayor’s Crime Task Force and see if a member might attend a SCRC meeting to share information.

Dr. Garrett shared that Commissioner Cook who has not been in regular attendance will be returning next month.

1. Subcommittee Updates

None

1. Commission Discussion

Ellen Glasser asked if there had been any follow up on partnering with the Be SMART Program which addressed the committee last fall. Councilman Newby stated that at budget time there may be a possibility of funds and suggested that the committee would need to secure an advocate for funding if it becomes available.

Commissioner Baker-Wright and Commissioner Jones indicated there is interest in using the mental health professional resources the committee has available, for expanding the mental health awareness campaign this coming year. This will also be addressed further in the Mental Health Subcommittee meeting. It was also suggested that a line of communication be opened with the Sulzbacher Center, about the activities of the committee.

Dr. Hall revisited Commissioner Glasser’s mention of the Be SMART campaign and suggested that inroads need to be made for implementation via the SCRC.

1. Public Comments – 3 Minutes Each

Abdul-Hai Thomas, Child and Youth Ombudsperson/Center for Children's Rights (CCR) took the opportunity to speak on the summer program upcoming for his organization. He also spoke seeking local funding as well as social improvement planned activities extending to clean-ups and enrichment activities in local blue zones.

At 10:40 a.m. with no further business, Chair Hall adjourned the meeting.

Minutes: Jennifer Pope - Neighborhood Service Office – Jpope@coj.net - 904.255.8263