

MINUTES

Constituency and Community Outreach

Mayor Donna Deegan Transition

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Location: Jewish Family & Community Services, 8540 Baycenter Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Chair: Ahmed, Parvez

In Person: Allen, Omega; Burton, Lakesha; d'Amore, Erika; Dumont, Georgette; Gundy, Reginald; Hilt, Madison; Hutto, Rebekah; Jackson, Regina; McCoy, Rosemary; McKinnon, Joey; Nixon, Kiara; Patz, Melanie; Singh, Sukhbir; Ticker, Susan; Zhou, Wei; Wright, Barry Rev.

ZOOM: Dean, Denise; Mann, Angela; Reyes, Andrea; Watson, Cindy; First Coast News

Absent: Alawee, Basma; Dawkins, Janyce; Decunto, Mario; Harris, Lee; Hassell, Paul; Hicks, Joshua; Leon, Anny; Newman, John

In-attendance as Subject Area Expert: Lakesha Burton

1. Meeting called to order at 6:05 by Parvez Ahmed
2. Minutes for prior meeting unanimously approved.
3. Introduction of New Members: Jimmy Midyette, Rosemary McCoy, Sukhbir Singh, Madison Hilt, Erika d'Amore, Regina Jackson, Rev. Barry Wright
4. External Expert on Public Safety Prevention and Intervention
 - a. Lakesha Burton, Director of Community Initiatives, City of Jacksonville - Lburton@coj.net
 - i. Newly created position:
 1. shows Mayor Deegan' commitment to public safety, prevention and intervention.
 2. exploring the work that has been done, stream-line existing programs, work more efficiently and improve accountability.
 3. feedback from these sessions will play an essential role in moving forward.
 - ii. Focus:
 - a. Prevention and Intervention
 - b. Crime Prevention, Youth Intervention, Re-Entry Programs, and the relaunch of the Jacksonville Journey Initiative
 - iii. Identifying social determinants of crime:
 1. There is a long list: blight, lighting, run-down homes, etc.
 2. Looking at efforts of "Cure Violence," and the Crime and Safety Committee, as well as various studies and reports, there is lots of over-lap.
 3. Looking to put all those recommendations into action.
 - iv. What is the Vision for Kids Hope Alliance:
 - a. Kids Hope Alliance was a big piece of the Jacksonville Journey, trying not to duplicate efforts.

- b. The Jacksonville Journey will be the main crime prevention effort; there will be different components added, such as literacy, after school programs, summer camp, teen programs; and will also be focused on adults. Not sure how much of the Cure Violence Program will be kept but will address re-entry and ex-offender programs. Get services in areas where needed for visible impact.
- v. Crime and Mental Health:
 - a. Co-Responder Program – licensed mental health officers riding with police officers; will provide service and support to all community service providers/stakeholders.
 - b. City of Jacksonville Offices of Community Initiatives, Health, Sheriff, etc., all intersect, and we will be working together to have the greatest impact by working more efficiently and eliminating duplication of efforts.
- vi. Youth Violence:
 - a. The Faith Community is an untapped resource – many pastors are Chaplains and could help. Truancy Program (Faith Entity) was working, until funding was cut.
 - b. There is a strong correlation between youth violence and domestic violence.
- vii. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be the point of contact for faith-based initiatives:
 - a. Mayor Deegan recently appointed Tracy Polson to lead Community Partnerships. Once in office, Chair Ahmed will invite Ms. Polson to address the full committee.
 - b. The Deegan Administration is focused on ensuring that we work together, as most issues intersect: crime, homelessness, mental health, etc., we want to remove the silos which prevent effective communication and problem solving.
 - c. The Subcommittee on Empowering Marginalized Communities is a good place to address concerns.
- viii. Issues of Inclusion:
 - a. Immigrant Communities:
 - i. In the immigrant communities, missing youth who may be victims of human trafficking are often misclassified as “run aways.” Better classification is needed.
 - ii. Explore Jacksonville modeling after Dayton, OH in becoming a “Certified, Welcoming City” for immigrants?
 - b. Suspended Drivers’ Licenses:
 - i. Clay County has an annual event, Operation Green Light, to reinstate drivers’ licenses. Not having a drivers’ license is a barrier to employment and other services. Perhaps Jacksonville could adopt the program.
 - c. Re-Entry Programs:
 - i. The goal is not to have anyone fall through the gaps, as they are re-entering into the community.
 - ii. Will be working on identifying organizations working on re-entry and bringing them together to better communicate and coordinate the work. I.e., Operation Loophole.

- d. Bullying – How to best address those who have lost protections:
 - i. Education and communication are important. Following the lead of Mayor Deegan, we support all community members. We serve as the voice for inclusion and equity.
- ix. Inclusion and Equity:
 - a. The goal of the Chief Inclusion and Equity Officer, for the city, is to amplify the mayor’s voice and make an affirmative case for diversity.
 - b. Talk about the positive aspects of diversity. Diversity is a net, positive gain for society, which has been affirmed in many studies.
 - c. Focus on the business impact of social responsibility and ethical behavior.
 - d. Jacksonville Small and Emerging businesses (JSEB) program components empower women and minority owned businesses. COJ recognizes that JSEB is not as robust as it used to be. Please refer small business owners to the subcommittee.
 - e. JSEB is another example of how issues intersect. The Grants and Compliance Division controls the mechanisms for disbursing grants and funding.

5 Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Non-Profit and Higher Education Revitalization: **Angela Mann:** Angelamann@gmail.com
 - 1) Met on July 11, 2023
 - 2) Conducting interviews to better understand the process/experiences of working with the city
 - 3) Recommendations:
 - i Centralize funding streams for non-profits
 - ii Increase efficiency and transparency
 - iii Categorize non-profit types to get a broad spectrum for the interviews.
- b. Interfaith Relations: **Rebekah Huto**
 - 1) Met on July 6, 2023
 - 2) Reviewed events for MLK Weekend
 - 3) Minutes sent to P. Ahmed
 - 4) Recommendations:
 - i Develop a calendar of collective interfaith events/activities/observances.
 - ii Meet with various leaders not previously at the table – expand outreach.
- c. Empowerment of Marginalized Communities: **Whitney Meyer and Melanie Patz**
 - 1) Met on July 11, 2023
 - 2) Reviewed timeline and framework
 - 3) Will review list of 60+ City Boards and Commissions (to be received from P. Ahmed)
 - 4) Recommendations:
 - i Define “Marginalized” Communities, so that it is better understood.
 - ii Combine all recommendations into one document.
 - iii Identify missing entities and outline how to engage them.

Follow-up items from the Chair:

- Review the list of City Boards and Commissions (available on the coj.net website)
[COJ.net - Boards and Commissions](http://coj.net)
- Please apply if you are interested and encourage others to consider applying for one of the vacancies.
- It was noted that there's no Advisory Board for the LGBTQ+ Community.
- Question: Are Advisory Boards the "best" mechanism to get voices heard? They have no legislative or city support behind them – they are "advisory" only.
- Boards and Commissions are authorized by legislation, and if changes are recommended, legislation will need to be changed.
 - Example: The Commission on the Status of Women. The language is very antiquated. Upon careful review, we can recommend changes to better reflect current needs.
 - Example: The Jacksonville Human Rights Commission (JHRC). In addition to funding cuts, loss of staffing, etc., the scope of JHRC has also been whittled down – why not consider building it back up?
 - Will leave the various subcommittees to wrestle with those questions.
 - Each Board and Commission will have a link to their enabling legislation – that will address the scope, etc.

Note: Wendy Ahmed, JHRC Executive Director will address the next Empowerment of Marginalized Communities subcommittee meeting – scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5 pm at the Jewish Family & Community Services, AJT Building, 8540 Baycenter Rd, 32256

6. Report Guidelines:

- Think about your recommendations in their final form. Use the guideline and keep the format as it.
- List as many recommendations as your subcommittee develops but use the format to include them all.
- If you need to "define the problem," your subcommittee is addressing, place it in the Overview.

7. Public Comments:

- Those who are interested in joining the Committee or any of the subcommittees, please submit your resume.
- Resumes for **transition committees** should include a cover letter indicating the committee you are interested in serving on and should be sent to transitionteam2023@coj.net.
- There are three ways to contribute to the process:
 - Be a formal part of the Committee.
 - Participate through Public Comments.
 - Provide Expert Guidance to help the Committee finish its work.

8. Next Meeting of the Full Committee:

Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm at Jewish Family & Community Services, Alan J. Taffet Building, 8540 Baycenter Rd, Jacksonville 32256

9. Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm