

MINUTES
Constituency and Community Outreach
Subcommittee – Empowerment of Marginalized Communities
Mayor Donna Deegan Transition

Meeting 1
July 11, 2023

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

Welcome:

Co-Chairs: Whitney Meyer and Melanie Patz

Introductions:

Omega Allen, Reginald Gundy, Wei Zhou, Erika d'Amore, Madison Hilt

Via ZOOM: Kiara Nixon, Angela Reyes, Cindy Watson

Review timeline and Framework:

NOTE: Agenda is emailed prior to meeting

P. Ahmed stated that there are more than 60 city boards and commissions: click on link for access to list [COJ.net - Boards and Commissions](#)

The list of existing boards and commissions are set up by legislation. Leave the advisory boards to the side, for now.

It is difficult to determine impact on Marginalized Communities. Which commissions intersect with the subcommittee's mission?

Jacksonville Human Rights Commission (JHRC) has a mandate to work on creating "community conversations." The subcommittee could revive JHRC's staff and budget so that the Commission can follow its intended mission.

It is questionable as to whether an advisory board is the best way to have an impact. Don't be afraid to ask the hard questions.

Additionally, there are vacancies on several of the city's boards and commissions. You are encouraged to apply, as well as, encourage others to apply: [COJ.net - Appointment Opportunities](#) (click link)

Who is available to help with:

- A) Identify city boards and commissions that work on issues related to:
 - a. Race
 - b. Ethics
 - c. Sexual Orientation
 - d. Disability

Discuss if there are other protected classes that can be included so more diversity is represented.

Action Item: Will report on this at the next subcommittee meeting.

- B) Which leaders should we meet with to address concerns?
- a. Garrett Dennis coordinates Boards and Commissions for the mayor
 - Who is available to meet with leaders outside of subcommittee meetings?

This information will assist with:

- C) Proposing action items to empower marginalized communities:
- Serving on a board or commission is certainly one way to ensure robust citizen participation.
 - There needs to be a focus on how to make sure marginalized communities serve.
 - Hold educational forums on what it means to serve
 - Organize Public Housing Tenants.
 - Encourage Voter Registration in public housing and allow tenants to address their issues/concerns.
 - Use existing coalitions and engage them in the process.
 - Enforce quarterly inspections of public housing units.
 - Establish a Faith-Based Office in the city.
 - Organize a “Know Your Neighbor” Event.
 - Quarterly Meeting of community coalitions.
 - Engage youth and young adults.
 - Define “Marginalized Communities”
 - Develop an Advisory Committee for LGBTQ+

Future Meetings:

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

Time: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Dates: July 18
July 25
August 1
August 8
August 15 (Finalize draft recommendations)
August 22
August 29

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned 6:00 pm