

MINUTES
Constituency and Community Outreach
Subcommittee – Empowerment of Marginalized Communities
Mayor Donna Deegan Transition
Meeting 6

Date: August 22, 2023

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

Welcome:

Co-Chairs: Whitney Meyer and Melanie Patz called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

In Attendance:

Madison Hilt; Janis Fleet; Jimmy Midyette; Mario Decunto; Wayne D. DuRant

Via TEAMS: Chair Parvez Ahmed; Angela Reyes; Alexia Jenkins; Wei Zhou; Cindy Watson; and Coleman Shepard – Feeding NE Florida;

Discussion of Empowering Marginalized Communities Subcommittee Final Recommendations:

In total, the subcommittee is making 21 recommendations. The Co-Chairs grouped the recommendations under six (6) headings and created two documents for the subcommittee to review and discuss. The first document is a list of the 21 recommendations indicating which member(s) contributed to the recommendation(s). The second document contains the details of the recommendations, including budgetary impacts.

The Chair, Parvez Ahmed, has requested a master list of participants from the subcommittee – including any individuals invited to speak as “subject matter experts.” The list will be compiled and forwarded, as requested.

Comments on the List of 21 Recommendations:

- Youth Government Engagement and Workforce Development - 1 & 2
 1. Kiaria Nixon: Create a youth (15-24 age group_ 3-year Civic and Political development program. The program will prepare youth for America’s 250th Anniversary and beyond.

The Chair questions “Civic and Political Development,” as it is not a “city government” function. Perhaps it is a function for Kids Hope Alliance. The city supports non-profit organizations engaging in Civic Education, this could be an opportunity for a partnership. Perhaps Youth Leadership Jacksonville could expand their program and the city could support through funding. This could be a way to get youth involved in understand the city.
www.leadershipjax.org/programs/youth-leadership-jacksonville
 2. Rosemary McCoy: Duval Mayor’s Office should establish a focus group to initiate the Blue Cap Youth Democracy Program.

It was felt that 1 & 2 should be combined and collapsed into one point. Looking at the broad parameters of age, perhaps substitute “youth” with “student.”
- Boards and Commissions - 3 - 8
 3. Rosemary McCoy: Create a Mayor Re-Entry Committee or Subcommittee.
 4. Madison Hilt: Create a Board focused on LGBT+ Citizens

For numbers 3, 4, 6 & 7, legislatively creating a board or commission to focus on LGBT+, Re-entry, Refugee and Immigrant communities, would ensure appropriate resources and staffing, someone to take notes, post notices of public meetings, etc.

Numbers 3, 4, 6 & 7 will require separate justifications in the final report. The Chair will work with Garrett Dennis, Director of Boards and Commissions, to work out the details.

Numbers 5 & 8 will require thinking of diversity in a more expansive way. Having a larger Jacksonville Human Rights Commission (JHRC) would enable more diversity. Discussions pertaining to bringing JHRC back to previous levels are encouraging.

- Physical Infrastructure - 9 - 11

9. Cindy Watson: Review COJ expenditures on infrastructure by zip code or census tract to ensure equity in investment.

After discussion, it was felt that there weren't enough details for Recommendation #9.

10. Rev. Gundy: Enforce quarterly inspections of public housing; informing residents of their rights.

The Chair felt that the first part of #10 could be removed, as inspections occur regularly for public housing and Section 8, but not subsidized housing. The second part of #10, "informing residents of their rights," might be an opportunity to partner with Legal Aid to accomplish.

11. Madison Hilt: Ensure all City of Jacksonville (COJ) facilities provide a family bathroom.

O.K.

- Business Development - 12 & 13

12. Omega Allen: Review Jacksonville Small and Emerging Businesses (JSEB) Disparity Study participants and recruit participants to ensure diversity.

13. Omega Allen: Review and implement recommendations from the JSEB Disparity Study.

Recommendations 12 & 13 are very detailed, but the Chair felt that the section is too long. The Chair was given authority to "better shape the document" into a full report. Dr. Ahmed would like to keep the "how" and "why" sections consistent and evenly flowing. He will keep the "Full List Recommendations" document and all of its details, to serve as a reference point for more details, but will have a more uniformed and streamlined version for the Final Full Committee Report.

- Safety - 14

14. Madison Hilt & Rev. Gundy: Move oversight of Gang Group Violence Intervention to COJ in accordance with best practices.

New recommendations were sent to the Chair today to be reviewed. Upon further discussion, it was decided that language will be added to Recommendation #14 to include "safety/crime prevention that is Hispanic oriented and to address the need for afterschool recreation." Mario Decunto will email details to the Chair, Parvez Ahmed.

Change "gang" to "group."

- Community Engagement 15 – 21

15. Basma Alawee & Angela Reyes: Research COJ qualifying as a Welcoming City.

O.K. well documented on pages 20 & 21 of the larger document.

16. Melanie Patz: Implement a week of service volunteer activities throughout Jacksonville.

This recommendation is being addressed by the Non-Profit and Higher Education Revitalization Subcommittee. Be sure to check language to remove first person references.

~~17. Rev. Gundy: Encourage Voter Registration across the county, i.e., libraries, high schools, public housing, faith organizations.~~

This recommendation will be removed, as this falls within the functions of the Supervisor of Elections.

18. Janis Fleet: Create a Lien Forgiveness Program.

O.K., well documented on Page 28 of the larger document.

19. Kiaria Nixon: The Mayor's Office should officially acknowledge Ax Handle Saturday.

O.K.

20. Whitney Meyer: Create an Office of Diversity and inclusion.

O.K., well documented on Pages 28 & 29 of the larger document.

21. Strengthen Disability Services with effective communication and additional funding/partnerships with other aligned non-profits.

O.K., well documented on Pages 30 – 33 of the larger document. Chair sees a need for increased support for the disabilities community. Subcommittee discussed the possibility/desirability of changing the name from "Disabled Services" to "Citizens Accessibility Services." The Chair will explore further.

The Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their contributions, service and participation; expressed accolades and appreciation for the Chair.

The Empowering Marginalized Communities Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 29 is cancelled.

Final Recommendation Count moving forward to the Full Committee: 19

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.