



AARON BOWMAN
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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

November 19, 2018
5:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council
FROM: Council President Aaron Bowman
RE: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction

On June 20, 2018, the Council engaged in a strategic planning session to create a unifying vision for the City and discuss City priorities. Safety and crime reduction and prevention within the City of Jacksonville were paramount on the minds of the Council Members during this important visioning process.

Specifically the Council established goals for action on a comprehensive City-wide anti-crime initiative including the following:

- Creating a complete crime reduction inventory;
- Initiating and funding of a full-service City-based organization to coordinate services and funding; and
- Ensuring that a safe City for the citizens and business interests is maintained.

While I believe that there is no one right way to approach this issue, and numerous organizations have created task forces related to crime prevention, I think that a concerted effort by the City, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Duval County Public Schools, community organizations, citizens and other stakeholders is necessary. I also think it necessary to look at correlating programs and funding that are tied to crime reduction and prevention such as education, positive youth development, mental health, workforce training, physical health, public safety, and neighborhood stability; these programs certainly impact crime deterrence and are useful as intervention and rehabilitation programs.

Together, I think we can come up with a holistic and multi-pronged approach that can benefit the community beyond simply addressing crime rates and violence alone. By combining our experience and resources, the City can benefit from a collective approach and a shared vision for the future. Accordingly, I am hereby establishing a Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction and have asked Mark Griffin to serve as Chair of this group representing people in the community who have a keen interest in serving and carrying out its charge.

CHARGE: Make recommendations for how the City of Jacksonville can better coordinate programs and funding for safety and crime reduction including: a look at corollary youth services, ex-offender, mental health and community engagement programs which appear to inversely impact crime rates, and increase overall public safety. The Task Force should establish metrics and goals reducing crime and creating a safer community. The Task Force should prepare its initial report by May 1, 2019 and shall recommend to the Council President whether legislation should be submitted to extend the Task Force.

CHAIR: Mark Griffin, Chair

MEMBERS:

See Attachment 1 for a list of Task Force member names.

- Chair
- Vice Chair, City Council Member
- Additional City Council Member
- Representatives from the Mayor's Office
- Representatives from Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Representatives from State Attorney's Office
- Representatives from Public Defender's Office
- Representatives from Kids Hope Alliance
- Representatives from Duval County Public Schools
- Representatives from religious institution/place of worship, non-profit, or other community organization actively engaged in crime prevention initiatives
- Representatives from business community
- Representatives from neighborhood group or association, Community Housing Development Organization, community activists
- Representatives from civic group
- Representatives from higher education institutions
- Representatives from youth community
- Alternates as necessary

SUBCOMMITTEES:

I am creating the following subcommittees with the understanding that the Task Force may add additional subcommittees if needed: Workforce Training Programs (address areas of our city that have high unemployment), Community Engagement (develop community action groups), Mentoring Programs (create programs involving businesses and community volunteers), and Business Partnership Opportunities (increase business partnerships including funding sources).

DEADLINE: The Task Force shall prepare an initial report to the Council President by May 1, 2019 and shall recommend to the Council President whether legislation should be submitted to extend the Task Force.

I would like to thank Mark Griffin for agreeing to chair this task force and lead us in our work, and I appreciate the many members of the community who have reached out to me and have come to Council meetings to request that the Council embark on a review of safety and crime reduction within the City. Finally, I would like to thank those members who have volunteered to devote the necessary attention to the task force and for making a commitment to make Jacksonville the best place it can be for its citizens.

cc: Council Members/Staff
Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Carol Owens, Chief, Legislative Services Division
Jessica Matthews, Legislative Services Supervisor
Paula Shoup, Information Systems Administrators
Kyle Billy, Council Auditor
Media Box

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ATTACHMENT 1
Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction

Chair: Mark Griffin
Co-Chair: City Council Member Sam Newby
City Council Member: Lori Boyer
Mayor's Administration: Charles Moreland
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office: Lakesha Burton
State Attorney's Office: Stephen Siegel
Public Defender's Office: Rob Mason
Kids Hope Alliance: Joe Peppers, Jennifer Blalock
Duval County Public Schools: Warren Jones
Youth: Mia Allen, Brandon Griggs

Members:

Clifton Anderson
E. Joyce Bolden
Francois Brown
Ricky Brown
Camille Burban
Betty Burney
Josh Cockrell
Larry Cook
Richard Danford
Frank Denton
Amy Donofrio
Sabrina Edwards
Ben Frazier
Tom Geismar
William (W.C.) Gentry
Ellen Glasser
Jeff Golden
Shelley Grant
Constance Hall
Phyllis Hall
Marian Hannah
Darcel Harris
Preston Harris
Sam Harrison
Carolyn Herman
Linda Joseph
Ronnie King
Sean Mulholland
Michael Munz
Ceil Pillsbury-Schellenberg
Alicia Sitren
Timothy Sloan
Vicki Waytowich
Donna Webb
Shamika Baker Wright