

## **Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council (MYLAC)**

January 12, 2019

### **Minutes**

Proceedings of the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council taken on December 15, 2018 in the Lynwood Roberts Room in City Hall, 117 W. Duval Street, Jacksonville, Florida commencing at 12:00 p.m.

### **Committee Members Attending**

Mia Allen, Miracle Beu, Dantesia Block, Amber Brown, Carley Clark, Kendall Cospers, Eleana Cummings, Isiah Dowdell-Butler, Yasmine Edwards, Ki'Aira Ellis, Michael Esguerra, Caroline Espuierdo, Kyra Freaney, Ellison Gilmer, Marlon Griggs, Monica Gupta, Anjolina Gutierrez, Vanessa Hamza, Zana Harold, Tabitha Henry, Melba Hill, Al'asia Jenkins, Kendall Kirkland, Madaline Krawchuk, Bruce LaFleur, Ciara Long, Andrew Lopez, Nathaniel Lunford, Colleen Mackin, Torren Manning, Kenyana McCray, Cierra McKenzie, Kynia McNeal, Donovan Moman, Andrea Moran-Melendez, Joshua Murry, Sadhana Mylavari, Haleigh Oglesby, Casey Peterson, George Pratt, Evan Quaintance, Dean Quilon, Adit Saxena, Sterlin Scott, Tamara Smith, Vanessa Strive, Sierra Taylor, Brianna Toawicha, Emma Towler, Mia Uzell, Jasmine Waters, Zuri West

### **Staff Attending**

*Dr. Jennifer Blalock, John Everett, Mari Ganues, Joe Peppers*

The meeting was brought to order by President Michael Esguerra at 12:13 p.m. Michael Esguerra had MYLAC Officers that were present to introduce themselves to all MYLAC participants.

President Michael Esguerra advised MYLAC Members to review the previous meeting's minutes.

A motion was presented to change Vice President to President on the minutes.

The minutes were approved and seconded, with minimal changes submitted to MYLAC Secretary Brandon Griggs.

Dr. Blalock distributed Reducing Youth Crime & Gang Activity Panel Discussion Guiding Questions to the MYLAC Members.

MYLAC President Michael Esguerra introduced Dr. Blalock. Dr. Blalock recapped projects and research processes. She advised members to try to be present to meetings so that progress can be made. Dr. Blalock introduced the KHA MYLAC team: Dr. Blalock, John Everett, Mari Ganues and Chardae Chaney.

Dr. Blalock advised the member that the reason for the panel was to bring community leaders, individuals different perspectives on the problem here in Duval County and give the member the opportunity to learn more about them and ask them questions. Panelist are happy to share their stories but would also be interesting in what the members would like to learn.

At 12:30 p.m., Dr. Blalock introduced the Reducing Youth Crime & Gang Activity Panel Discussion:

**Renata Hannans** - The Hope Dealer - Ribault High Graduate, Jacksonville University Graduate, She informed the group that she has worked with at-risk youth, writes incarcerated youth, owner of P.S. Never Give Up Hope and author of P.S. Never Give Up Hope. Mrs. Hannans counsels youth at Juvenile Regional Detention center on Tuesdays and A Book Club with youth charged as adults on Thursday.

**Ellis Curry** - founder the non-profit CUTS - mentor young men that may be going down the same path he went down, attended Terry Parker, was a troubled teen infatuated with playing with guns and hanging in the streets. At the age of 14 was convicted of 15 armed robberies and a year in county jail and considered an adult. At the age of 16, Mr. Curry was charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and armed robbery at Terry Parker. He informed the members that he was sentenced to 15 years and while incarcerated at 25 or 26 received his GED and vocational trade in welding.

**Amy Read** - Department of Juvenile Justice – Juvenile Detention Alternative Coordinator, work to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the system and any disproportionate minority contact. She works in Duval County, down to Tallahassee and Marion County and she works with programs such as the Evening Reporting Center). When 20 arrested as an adult was able to clear her record with an aversion program to clear her record. Ms. Read graduated from Fletcher High School and the University of North Florida. Worked as a probation office, where she experienced a lot of great kids with trauma at home.

**Willie R. Smith III** - Department of Juvenile Justice, Office of Prevention and Victim Services, Delinquency Prevention Specialist. Graduate of Norfolk State University and Law Degree from Florida Coastal Law School. 3 Mr. Smith ensures the programs in 11 counties 3 circuits 4 , 5, and 7 make sure the programs that are funded are within compliance with their contracts and community engagement in those counties. In Duval County, GAAP discussions – Gang Appreciation by Adjusting Perspective, these discussions are used as means to open up a dialog between young people and law enforcement.

Upcoming event – January 16<sup>th</sup> , Resource Fair – providers and programs that assist youth and at-risk youth in one room, giving families and youth an opportunity to learn about these programs

Opportunity for MYLAC table

**Daniel McCollum** - Current student at Douglas Anderson School of Arts. Previous resident of Colorado. Previous speaker at Shhh...Let the Youth Speak. Mr. McCollum came up with Operation Safer Schools, SAFER stands for Student Advocates For Emergency Response and the goal of this program would give students the ability to lead in a high stake situation where the adrenaline is flowing and there is a crisis.

MYLAC members asked questions to the Reducing Youth Crime & Gang Activity Panel.

At 2:00 p.m., food was provided for the members from Olive Garden during Lunch with Leaders.

At 3:00 p.m. MYLAC member continued project planning for the Gun & Gang Violence Event by committee.

At 3:50 p.m., MYLAC President Michael Esguerra brought the group back together for subcommittee presentations discussing the date and time at which the Gun & Gang Violence event will be held.

By committee:

Finance: A. Philip Randolph Park and Kids Hope Alliance from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Projects & Planning: Recommended either Hemming Plaza and City Hall, or the Landing from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm.

Mayor's Report: Suggested Hemming Plaza from 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Media Relations: Recommended Hemming Plaza from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Issues: Recommended City Hall (inclement weather) & Hemming Plaza from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Rules & Bylaws: Recommended FSCJ or EWC (Edwards Waters College) or UNF from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Data & Research: Suggested a venue that could accommodate over 500 people and recommended City Hall, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Gun & Gang Violence event date before Spring Break

Dr. Blalock advised KHA staff with follow up with location availability and costs by next meeting on January

Following the meeting, members will research articles and performers to attend the event.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

Next Meeting for MYLAC is at noon on January 12, 2019, at City Hall in the Lynwood Roberts Room.