

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

September 28, 2019

## **Minutes**

Proceedings of the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council taken on September 28, 2019 in the Multipurpose Room of Kids Hope Alliance, 1095 A Philip Randolph Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida commencing at 8:00 a.m.

### **Committee Members Attending**

Tajah Anderson, Tobi Arubuola, Alice Baker, Downsly Brice, Nicholas Burgess, Alanna Carter, Armenay Chakour, Hayden Collins, Eleana Cummings, Davin Daniels, Mary Dubuisson, Onyekachi Egemonu, Pehris Fennell, Martin Folsom, Elijah Foreman, Dyana Foster, Mona Freeman, Jacob Gazaleh, Arianna Glover, Grant Goodwyne, Alaya Green, Brandon Griggs, Monica Gupta, Khaylah Hall, Courtney Harold, Devonna Harrison, Paige Harvey, Brooke Hawkins, Kennedy Hill, Miles Johnson, Arquan Joseph, Joe Kennerson, Ja'Miyah Levy, Andrew Lopez, Jaira Lunsford, Gokul Madathil, Colleen Mackin, Torren Manning, Kynia McNeal, Donovan Moman, La'Mirakle Price, Evan Quiantance, Nidhi Patel, Zavier Rathle, Steven Regelski, Aarchan Saxena, Adit Saxena, Ny'Reon Shuman, Miracle Singleton, Makayla Smith, Tamara Sonera, Salma Soubai, De'Michael Sterling, Margaret Szczukouski, Jovanna Thomas, Daniela Valderrama, Rodney Wells

### **Staff Attending**

Heather Bogarty, John Everett, Mari Ganues, Dr. Saralyn Grass, Tia Keitt, Aszloyn Wakefield, Travis Williams

Breakfast and check in began at 8:00 am. At 9:00 am, Aszloyn Wakefield, Assistant Director of Character and Leadership Development called the meeting to order. She greeted the all the members of the Mayor's Young Leaders Advisory Council and introduced John Everett, Director of Pre-Teen & Teen Programming.

Mr. Everett provided the purpose and occasion then introduced Travis Williams, Senior Director of Communications for the Kids Hope Alliance at 9:05 am. Mr. Williams emphasized the importance of being in the Mayor's Youth at Work Partnership and concluded with a Welcome.

At 9:20 am, Mrs. Wakefield introduced Dr. Charles Moreland, Director of Community Affairs from the City of Jacksonville Mayor's Office. Dr. Moreland provided the Mayor's Address and give the MYLAC members the following advice: "Don't take this opportunity lightly, you have a great opportunity to inspire the next generation, but you also have great opportunity to improve the quality of life right here in the City of Jacksonville by providing input. If you have knowledge about how we can do better. Let us know, but before you let us know make sure you know how everything works. A lot of times people like to tell you what you should do and how you should do without knowing how everything works. So, make sure you have a foundation on the knowledge." He closed his address by expressing the difference between success vs significance.

At 9:52 am, Mrs. Wakefield introduced Jan Sifferath, HR Business Partner. Ms. Sifferath provided an introduction to City Government. She reviewed the branches of government and their functions. Ms. Sifferath discusses that the City consolidated with Duval County in 1968 and shared the advantages of the consolidation: "efficiency, additional resources, and less officials. Ms. Sifferath referenced her Power-point when discussing Independent Boards and Agencies such as: JEA, JHA, JAA, JPA, and JTA and Jacksonville's Constitutional Officers who are elected by the citizens: Jacksonville Sheriff, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Courts.

10:15am-10:20 am break

At 10:20 Mrs. Wakefield introduced Dr. Saralyn Grass, Chief Programs Officer of Kids Hope Alliance. She welcomed and congratulated the MYLAC members.

AT 10:25 am, Mrs. Wakefield introduced Carla Miller, Ethics Director. Ms. Miller facilitate her discussion using a Power Point presentation. Ms .Miller began her presentation by challenging MYLAC members to know their strengths and provided sites for free strength finders: High5test.com and also Gallupstrengthfinder.com. Ms. Miller defined the term public records and advised that everything created I the office is considered public record and should not be destroyed. She informed the MYLAC members that MYLAC should not be discussed with other MYLAC members outside of official meetings that have been publicly noticed. This generated clarifying questions from the students. Ms. Miller indicated they could have conversation with their parents, but two or more

MYLAC members can not together to discuss MYLAC at their leisure. That would be considered a meeting, opened to the public, and requires a Public Meeting notice so that anyone from the public who wants to attend, can. She also informed that text and emails become open to the public when communication about MYLAC exists. Lastly, she told the members if they receive any request from the public regarding MYLAC forward them to KHA staff and that they could not ask, “who’s asking” or “who wants to know?”

At 11:05 am, Mrs. Wakefield introduced District 5 Council Member LeAnna Cumber. Councilman Cumber encouraged the MYLAC members to watch the School House Rock episode of How a Bill Becomes Law. She stated, “It defines perfectly how a bill becomes law. She provided a general overview on the Legislative process: 1. Ask questions (even if you believe in the cause) “don’t just accept the information, ask questions.” Councilman Cumber also stated that even with a “Yes or No vote, anticipate all the questions people might have” in order to defend your legislation. 2. “Have a moral center.”3. “Get to know your MYLAC colleagues.” 4. “Know your details, unintended consequences.” Councilman Cumber shared an example so that MYLAC member may better understand what she meant by unintended consequences. 5. Be upfront and honest. “Do not have hidden agendas.”

At 11:35am Mrs. Wakefield did a roll call of high schools to give MYLAC members a chance to see the schools represented.

1:45 am- 12:30 pm Lunch Break

At 12:30 pm Chief TK Waters with Jacksonville Sheriff’s office spoke with the MYLAC members about his wide range of responsibility with JSO and policing in general. MYLAC members had lots of questions about the mental state of policemen after they have shot someone, psychological screenings before they become police officers, and throughout their career. The MYLAC members asked Chief TK Waters his questions regarding private prison systems that benefit from the cheap labor of inmates, a police operated quota system where police have to issue so many tickets. Chief Waters shared that there are more police doing the right things vs those who don’t. He concluded by discussing the importance of forming relationships and how he established himself as a leader by listening and implementing the recommendations of fellow officers.

At 1:20 pm Mrs. Wakefield introduced Katrina Taylor, Director of School Behavioral Health with Duval County Public Schools. Mrs. Taylor began her presentation by stating that September is Suicide Prevention Month. She had students count off 1-4 and then have all of the ones to stand. She explained that 1 in 4 middle school students have thought about committed suicide and that 1 in 5 high school students considered it. She talked about Wellness Wednesday and explained how and why it came about. The MYLAC members had lots of comments and suggestions pertaining to Wellness Wednesday. Some thought that it wasn't effective. Others thought that it could be better if it wasn't so scripted. Others thought that if the setting could be different, not in their Homeroom, but another setting. Some members thought if the program contained more opportunity for student dialogue or increased teacher enthusiasm about the program, it might be better. Some students recommended another program that school district used in the past "Challenge Day" that they thought was effective. Ms. Taylor explained that this program was very expensive. Mrs. Taylor shifted the conversation to the Mental Health Conference that MYLAC members will be a part of hosting this year, just like last year. Mrs. Taylor charged the members to begin thinking of a theme for the conference, topics for the break-out sessions, and their expectations for the panel discussion. Last year's theme was "Building Your mental Muscles." Mrs. Taylor ended her presentation by leading the students in a relaxation technique called Head Space.

AT 1:55pm Mrs. Wakefield introduced Mr. Armon Lowery, Partnership Specialist with the Atlanta Regional Census Center. Mr. Lowery spoke to the MYLAC members about Census 2020. Mr. Lowery discussed the 9 questions that the Census asks to get an accurate count of members in a household. He stated they are interested in numbers, not about the specifics of family. He told the students that over a million children were not counted 10 years ago and as a result of that, services and funding that could've been received were not received. He shared where the students can go to retrieve online resources

At 2:30 Mrs. Wakefield introduced Ms. Stephanie Jackson, a Cultural Competency trainer. Ms. Jackson provided a group of MYLAC members with written scenarios on culturally inappropriate statements. It did not take them long to realize the inappropriateness of the statements, but also that they respond identically or similarly to situations. Ms. Jackson discussed with the students how words hurt

and how stereotypes tear down and keeps up separated when we have so much in common. She ended her presentation by saying, "We are all human and deserved to be treated as such"

At 3:10 pm the MYLAC members took a brief break and Brandon Griggs, MYLAC's 2018-2019 Secretary and only remaining officer from 2018-2019, assisted Mrs. Wakefield with setting a few guidelines for the official MYLAC meetings to begin October 26, 2019. Mrs. Wakefield reminded the MYLAC members of the meeting schedule in their folders. Brandon confirmed that all (whole group) MYLAC meetings were held on Saturdays. The majority of the group agreed on a meeting time of 8:00 AM as evidenced. Mrs. Wakefield advise MYLAC that during next meeting, officers will be voted up, so those interested should email her with their "Intent to Run" along with the position they are running for. Mrs. Wakefield discussed each position and explained the increased number of ambassadors to 14- one for each council district. Mrs. Wakefield shared that the candidates will need to present a 3minute max presentation and that presentation can be as creative as they want it to be. Mrs. Wakefield reminded MYLAC members of the projects that they will be working on and encouraged them to think about these topics/issues- Mental Health Conference, Census 2020, and a youth issue. Mrs. Wakefield reminded the MYLAC members that there are other committees that they will sign up for, and the chairman of those committees will be selected by the committee so there will be no need for a presentation. Mrs. Wakefield reminded MYLAC members that our next meeting was Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 8:00 am. Mrs. Wakefield confirmed with Secretary, Brandon Griggs that there was nothing else that needed to be addressed. The MYLAC orientation ended at 3:45 pm.