

**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey
Law Enforcement and Deterrence Sub-Committee**

MINUTES

OF

GETTING GUNS OFF THE STREET

SUB-COMMITTEE

March 19, 2008

**The Jacksonville Journey – Getting Guns Off the Streets
Sub-Committee
March 19, 2008
9:30 a.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey –“Getting Guns Off the Streets” sub-committee taken on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Bishop John Howard, Chair
Joe Stelma, Member
Ed Hearle, Member
Jon Phillips, Staff

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBERS:

BISHOP JOHN HOWARD, Chair

JOE STELMA, Member

ED HEARLE, Member

PROFESSIONAL STAFF:

JON PHILLIPS, Office of General Counsel

STAFF:

LYN COMPTON, Office of the General Counsel

PROCEEDINGS

March 19, 2008

Getting Guns Off the Streets

9:30 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Bishop John Howard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. To review and edit the subcommittee's Draft Report and Recommendations.

Minutes.

Bishop Howard explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to review and edit the draft final report, then turned to Mr. Phillips for comments.

Mr. Phillips explained that the report was not complete, and consisted of a compilation of the topics explored during prior subcommittee meetings, the subcommittee's discussions and tentative suggestions, and a great deal of research undertaken by him at the committee's direction.

Mr. Stelma introduced data regarding impending law enforcement budget cuts for the subcommittee's review.

It was noted that the first two recommendations in the draft report (1) Increased, routine use of post-incarceration supervision . . . probation and community control for convicted felons" and (2) More effective prosecution and sentencing . . . were critical not only with respect to the SAO, but the court system as well, as the proposals would require buy-in from both the SAO and the judges in order to be successful.

A discussion was had on repeat offenders. It was noted that of vehicular homicides, around a fifth involved a driver with a suspended license (DWLSR), and a significant portion of those had priors for DWLSR.

Mr. Stelma voiced his concern that sending more non-violent offenders to prison may be tying up prison space needed for violent offenders.

Mr. Phillips explained that the draft report was not advocating locking up non-violent offenders. Rather, the idea was that if someone has already demonstrated that he is violent and dangerous in his prior history, then such a person should be locked up if the opportunity presents itself, even for non-violent offenses. There was then a discussion regarding the DreShawna Davis case. It was noted that there had been lost opportunities to incarcerate the participants prior to the murder.

Mr. Hearle then noted that the committee needed to establish how it was going to proceed.

It was noted that the parent committee – the Law Enforcement and Deterrence Subcommittee – was presenting its recommendations on March 27, 2008, and that this committee should have its recommendations finalized prior to that time.

Mr. Phillips explained that he will take today's recommendations and finish the report by Friday, March 21, 2008.

It was then decided to discuss the draft report topic by topic, and adopt, reject, or modify each topic's recommendations. The discussion of each topic was as follows:

1. **Increased, routine use of post-incarceration supervision, *i.e.*, probation and community control for convicted felons.** All agreed to this recommendation, but suggested that the heading be modified to make it more powerful. It was also recommended that the body of this topic be shortened.
2. **More effective prosecution and sentencing, even for non-violent offenses, of those frequently arrested individuals who pose an obvious threat**

to the community. This section was approved, with editing modifications suggested. It was also suggested that the bulk of the DreShawna Davis example could be deleted.

3. **Better education/public relations for both young people and adults about guns, civic responsibility, and the gun bounty program.** The concept was approved, but it was felt that the education aspect should be stressed as opposed to the public relations, and that an explanation of the gun bounty program should be added.

4. **Lobbying for increased resources for the State Attorney's Office, the FDLE Crime Lab, and Probation and Parole officers for use in enhancing the prevention, detection, and prosecution of gun crimes and other crimes of violence. Also, increasing resources utilized for inter-agency cooperation with ongoing gun enforcement efforts by local law enforcement with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.** This too was approved, but the committee felt that this particular recommendation should be presented more forcefully.

5. **Increasing the penalty for Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon to a 30 year felony. Also, passing a statute explicitly making it a fifteen year felony to knowingly give, loan, deliver, sell, or otherwise furnish a gun to a convicted felon. In addition, consider making the possession of an assault weapon during the commission of a felony punishable by up to life in prison.** This topic was approved, with the suggestion that it also be made more forceful. Under the present law it is rare for somebody to be prosecuted for providing a gun to a convicted felon

6. **Consider the purchase of a Shotspotter system in conjunction with surveillance cameras.** Mr. Phillips noted that these devices were not cheap and that the City Council is already considering their possible purchase. Mr.

Hearle suggested just purchasing one, or possibly have one loaned to the City, to test its effectiveness. Surveillance cameras were also discussed.

7. **Lobbying for changes in Chapter 790 of the Florida Statutes.** It was noted that this law prohibits local regulations which compete with State and Federal laws, *i.e.*, it prohibits agencies like JSO from registering guns and hinders efforts to catch criminals. All of the committee felt this law should be modified.

8. **Consider Implementing a “Stop and Frisk” Policy Under Defined Circumstances.** Bishop Howard asked Mr. Phillips to explain the constitutional drawbacks of this recommendation, which he did. There were objections to the term “Stop and Frisk” as well. There was a discussion as to whether to include this topic only as an addendum, or appendix, to the report. It was noted that the City Council was already considering this topic.

Mr. Hearle then mentioned the Mayors Meeting on guns recently held in Jacksonville and handed out a report of that meeting.

The consensus was that the report should be shortened.

Bishop Howard then suggested one more meeting to be held on Monday, March 24, 2008 at 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. Mr. Phillips will take care of setting this meeting. This meeting is to review and approve the final report for submission to the parent committee.

11:32 A.M. – MEETING ADJOURNED.