

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
1:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order & Attendance Quorum

Alexcia Cox, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach Mayor's took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, introduced Milena Almetica, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, she will be observing the meeting and taking notes. Kayla then reviewed the meeting agenda.

March Meeting Minutes

No comments were made about the March meeting minutes; the meeting minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

Presentation: Best Practices on Racial Equity Training for Police Departments

Kayla Elson presented data about racial equity training for Police Departments nationwide. In the study presented, 150 police departments in big cities were asked about their police training, specifically their implicit bias training. 90% of the police stations surveyed required officers to go through implicit bias training. However, even though a majority of stations (69%) surveyed have implicit bias trainings, a majority (59%) do not have ways to measure the successes/failures of these programs. It was also noted that there was not much of a behavior change pre/post training. In order for police to start gaining community trust, they need to be willing to meet communities in their safe spaces and be mindful that their uniforms can create distance.

Discussion

Justice Ira Raab, subcommittee member, wondered why there was no change in police behavior/attitude after undergoing implicit bias training and wondered if the trainings were ineffective. Subcommittee members agreed that change will not happen overnight, and also agreed they needed information on how long after the implicit bias training these behaviors were measured. Daniel Eisinger, subcommittee co-chair, suggested figuring out who the training wasn't working for. He also asked if there was anonymous police reporting and Tameca West, Assistant Chief and subcommittee member responded there kind of was, but there were details about reporting that make it non-anonymous. Tameca West stated her department was one of the first to wear bodycams and believes the bodycams should be randomly inspected once or twice a month. Alexcia Cox said the subcommittee should look more into instituting random monitoring/reviewing of bodycam footage for all officers monthly etc. Kayla Elson noted that there's desire for near, mid, and long-term recommendations including an audit of



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training recommendations, enhancing education around reporting (what it is, community and policing) and supporting education of consistent reporting.

Data Review: Crime Statistics from West Palm Beach Police Department

Subcommittee members reviewed one of the reports sent prior to the meeting. This report contains data that highlights the types of crimes that took place in West Palm Beach between 2016 – 2020. It also includes some racial demographics of offenders and officer involvement in response to said crimes.

Discussion

Subcommittee members requested for correlations/insights for race/ethnicity with the crimes/offenses listed and the demographics for who was involved. Justice Ira Raab correlated the data in the reports and shared with the groups his findings. He noticed in several of the charts that there were spikes of assaults from offenders and wanted to know what caused that. Daniel Eisinger noted that the Clerk's Office can create reports on the type of charges by police department or agency. Subcommittee members still want to find more data about the type of crime committed and if there's any way they can request race of offender by charge and by area of the city.

Public Comment

There was one public attendee, Kate Renchin. She stated her comments in the chat box. She noted that she was impressed with the thoughtful work the subcommittee is doing and asked if hiring has been an area of focus. Alexica Cox responded that the subcommittee reviewed hiring benefits, promotion, retention etc.

Next Steps: June 12th Action Summit

Tameca West said that the Chief of Police would be happy to meet the subcommittee. Kayla Elson then reviewed Summit updates. She stated that subcommittee members will be asked about their recommendations for physical collateral distribution. She requested that subcommittee members register for the Action Summit. She also asked subcommittee members to think about what they need from the community during the June 12th Action Summit to help the subcommittee further their work. Subcommittee members agreed they wanted to hear from the community if the subcommittee is on the right track and if not, how to change course.

Adjourn

Alexica Cox adjourned the meeting at 2:27 pm. The next meeting will be on May 12th, 2021, 1:00pm on Zoom.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

ATTENDANCE

Public Attendees:

Kate Renchin

Present:

Alexcia Cox, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Daniel Eisinger, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Bryce Graham, Subcommittee Member

Ruth Wanjiru Mageria, Subcommittee Member

Justice Ira Raab, Subcommittee Member

Alisha Singh, Subcommittee Member

Tameca West, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office

Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Milena Almetica, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Absent:

Chauncey Alexander Graham, Subcommittee Member