

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
1:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Call to Order & Attendance Quorum

Alexcia Cox, the subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm Beach, took attendance of the participants for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

April Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved as distributed. Alexcia Cox commented that a cited reference to the resources and data that are presented during the meeting should be included in the minutes as well as on the Task Force website.

Presentation: Best Practices on Racial Equity Training for Police Departments

Tiffany David introduced Mr. Gregory Key, the special assistant to the Mayor of West Palm Beach and retired sergeant with the West Palm Beach Police Department. Mr. Key worked for the West Palm Beach Police Department for over thirty years and provided his perspective on racial sensitivity training and the history of racial inequity within the police department. He shared that WPBPD experienced diversity hiring issues in the 1980s because the culture of the police department was not racially sensitive or supportive for minority police officers. Mr. Key highlighted the importance of improving new officers' initial training, especially field training, as well as ensuring there are promotional opportunities for police officers of color.

Discussion

Justice Ira Raab, subcommittee member, asked about the best way to improve relationships between officers and the community. Mr. Key shared that field training for new officers should include attending community meetings and greater interaction with community members so that they are familiar with the new officers in their area. According to Mr. Key, field training officers can dictate and change the culture of the department including fostering greater accountability and racial sensitivity. Justice Ira Raab also inquired about Mr. Key's opinion on a civilian review board, to which Mr. Key responded that he would be wary if the members of the board lacked knowledge of the law. Chief Tameca West, subcommittee member, described the new officer training program and shared how field training officers are chosen. Subcommittee members suggested creating an incentive for police officers to specialize in field training and establishing ascending ranks within the position of being a field training officer. Mr. Key



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also stated that increased barriers to promotions such as more training or education disincentivize officers.

Discussion: Policies and Operating Procedures in West Palm Beach Police Department

Alexcia Cox shared that many of the West Palm Beach Police Department policies and operating procedures can be found online and subcommittee members should assess the policies relevant to the subcommittee priorities. Subcommittee members also received the rules for the Delray Beach Police Department advisory board to discuss.

Kayla Elson reviewed the current list of ideas and strategies that have been generated by the Criminal Justice Subcommittee throughout past meetings. Before the next meeting, subcommittee members are asked to add any additional ideas they have to the list so the subcommittee can begin drafting recommendations at the next meeting.

Public Comment

Kate Renchin, public attendee, stated her comments in the chatbox. She had no questions but shared that she appreciated the work of the subcommittee.

Next Steps: June 12th Action Summit

Kayla Elson reviewed Action Summit updates. She requested that subcommittee members register for the Action Summit and share information about the summit among their networks. She also asked subcommittee members to sign up for the newsletter and follow the Task Force social media pages for more information.

Adjourn

Alexcia Cox adjourned the meeting at 2:26 pm. The next meeting will be on June 23rd, 2021, 1:00 pm on Zoom.



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

ATTENDANCE

Guest Speaker:

Gregory Key, Special Assistant to the Mayor and Former WPB Police Department Sergeant

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

Absent:

Chauncey Alexander Graham, Subcommittee Member