



Mayor's Task
Force for Racial & Ethnic
Equality

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

1:00pm

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order & Attendance Quorum

Daniel Eisinger, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 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.

July Meeting Minutes

The July meeting minutes were reviewed. No comments were made about the minutes; they were unanimously approved as distributed.

Debrief: Police Officer Recruitment Strategies and Additional Information Needs

Daniel Eisinger opened the discussion about the information shared regarding the West Palm Beach Police Department's recruitment strategies. Alexcia Cox, subcommittee co-chair, reviewed Sergeant Riddeau's, the recruitment officer, suggestions for how to increase diversity in the recruitment process. The subcommittee members agreed to include her suggestions into their recommendations. Alexcia Cox also sought clarification on what age individuals can join the police force. According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) the minimum age is 19 years old. However, at the last meeting Chief Tameca West, subcommittee member, stated that the minimum age is 21 years old. Tiffany David will follow up with Chief Tameca West.

Confirmation: Priority One Recommended Ideas

To begin the discussion, Kayla Elson highlighted the criteria, which formed the basis for the subcommittee's draft policy recommendations. The subcommittee members reviewed the recommended ideas under priority one. With respect to the priority to create a civilian review board, the subcommittee discussed the recent article in Palm Beach Post about the West Palm Beach police officer who was rehired after committing fifteen violations. While the article questions the effectiveness of civilian review boards, the subcommittee members decided to leave the recommendation vague, so the city can decide the best ways to make it impactful, if the Mayor decides to accept the recommendation. Tiffany David suggested that the subcommittee include into the policy the objective of the civilian review board to clarify its purpose.

For the next idea to target strategies to hire and maintain a diverse team of police officers, the subcommittee members discussed specifying from which areas to target recruitment. Tiffany David will work with the police department to help specify from which areas and zip codes West Palm Beach minority residents are underrepresented in the police application process.

Discussion: Priority Two Recommended Ideas

The subcommittee members confirmed the details of the recommended ideas under priority two. For the first idea to invest in the police department's field training program, the subcommittee added language to clarify the rationale behind the policy idea. The subcommittee members also included further specifications to the recommended idea to track and share use of force data to be disseminated through a public-facing, searchable, case management system. Lastly, with respect to the final idea to pilot a crisis intervention team program to address mental health calls, Tiffany David will confirm with Chief Tameca West whether there is a higher number of crisis calls in minority communities. The subcommittee will then include additional language on the connection between mental health crisis intervention and racial and ethnic equity.

Public Comment

No public comments were made at this time.

Next Steps

At the next task force meeting, the co-chairs will present their final recommended policy ideas and task force members will make a final decision on which recommended ideas will advance to the Mayor and City Commission.

Adjourn

Alexcia Cox adjourned the meeting at 2:36 pm. The next meeting will be on September 8th, 2021, at 1:00 pm on Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Alexcia Cox, Subcommittee Co-Chair
Daniel Eisinger, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Ruth Wanjiru Mageria, Subcommittee Member
Justice Ira Raab, Subcommittee Member
Bryce Graham, Subcommittee Member

Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Milena Almetica, Justice & Sustainability Associates
Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office

Absent:

Chauncey Alexander Graham, Subcommittee Member

