

Mayor's Commission on Reentry Minutes
November 16, 2020 at 1:00pm

In attendance: Kristin Barker, Michael Forte, Pat Frey, Shereatha Sims, Barbara Johnson, Waleisah Wilson, Jeanette James, John House

Kristin Barker welcomed everyone. The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed, and Jeanette motioned to approve the minutes. Pat seconded that motion and the minutes were approved. Kristin will make sure the minutes from September and October are forwarded to the city to be kept on file for the official record.

We won't have a formal report from the Housing Subcommittee until March of 2021. Pat shared that the best way to access community services is through 211. There is now a live link that goes directly to 211 on the Home for Good website. This direct link will make the process simpler and a more user friendly way to enter the process and get help with housing. The form takes about 90 seconds to complete and can be submitted on a mobile device. Pat will share this link with the commission via email.

The Employment Subcommittee continues to discuss how to move forward with a Ban the Box campaign. The Urban League and Hiring Well Doing Good have agreed to serve as partners and may apply for grants to support our work when needed. We want to apply for the Crime Prevention grant in 2021. The subcommittee is working on a timeline for the campaign that considers the funding element and a dashboard with critical metrics that can be reviewed monthly by the subcommittee. The subcommittee is also looking how the commission might help with needed employment related transportation.

The Faith Based Subcommittee reported that it will probably be 2021 before we are able to connect with most of the churches. Kristin asked if the letter has been sent out to the faith based community. This letter has now been reviewed by the city's legal department but has not been broadly been distributed to date. Kristin asked if the final letter can be forwarded to the commission.

Jeanette has not received any new information from the commission about what we are sharing on the Facebook page and Mayor's website. Kristin asked the group to think about who we should be targeting with information on each of those pages. We need to be sure we are sharing the right information to reach the right audience. Is the information shared on the Facebook page intended for returning citizens or community partners? Right now, we are sharing both. Pat asked where to find the commission Facebook page. Kristin will send an email with a link to the page. She asked the group to look at the page and let us know what we need to do to make it more effective.

Keith would like to dedicate our regular December meeting to strategic planning for 2021. Kristin asked the group to spend some time thinking about activities in 2021 that we need to engage in to support our strategy. She will re-share a planning document to use as a guide by email. She also asked if members of the Commission will be able to meet for 2 hours in December. The group said they will be available for an extended meeting.

Kristin asked if anyone will consider stepping in as Secretary. Jeanette is unable to make that commitment but will consider once election season is over.

Our next meeting will be on December 21. We will plan to meet from 1-3pm.