

Mayor's Commission on Reentry Minutes
June 15, 2020

In attendance: Keith Mitchell, Kristin Barker, Dr. Michael Forte, Cathy Robinson, John House, Baki Muhammad, Jeanette James, and Waleisah Wilson.

Keith Mitchell opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Jeanette moved to accept the minutes with any needed changes and Cathy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Cathy was unable to fully attend the landlord meeting sponsored by Home for Good. She can get an update from Pat Frey. Having a list of landlords will benefit us greatly. Kristin mentioned there may be an advisory council forming, and this is something that the commission should tie into. Keith shared that he has been unable to make movement with the Housing Subcommittee since he stepped in to oversee this subcommittee. He is considering how we can continue making movement. Kristin shared that having the key people connected to the Housing Subcommittee will lighten the lift. John asked if we really need to do anything more than Home for Good is doing.

Cathy mentioned there are some other housing opportunities opening up in the future. She was unable to share more information at this time. Baki expressed that he remains willing to help with the subcommittee. Keith proposed that we need to start over with recruiting to the Housing Subcommittee, and this means the subcommittee will not have strategic information ready to report to the city by July as intended.

Kristin reported that the Employment Subcommittee discussed the Nationwide Day of Second Chances. This event has been rescheduled for November 12 of 2020. This would give the Faith Based Subcommittee time to organize some community participation if we desire to do so. If we decide to move forward with this, the Employment Subcommittee can support any needed training and recruitment of employers.

The subcommittee also discussed transportation and talking with Vocational Rehabilitation about the private transportation solution they have in place. She also shared some basic community resources that the subcommittee feels are most valuable to returning citizens. Keith asked how can the commission be most effective in sharing information on resources with returning citizens in our community. One idea is through orientation sessions that are sponsored by the commission quarterly. We need to make some decisions on how we may become information experts. The information can also be shared on CCG TV.

Dr. Forte shared that he had a discussion with the new program manager for the Nationwide Day of Second Chances. There is a cost for churches to participate. Can the commission share information with churches who may want to participate? Dr. Forte asked for direction on this. The commission needs to communicate that we can help connect churches who may choose to participate with organizations to provide community support. Churches need to understand the cost isn't being

charged by the commission. Dr. Forte will move forward with communicating this opportunity to area churches. Michael also mentioned that It is very difficult to reach out to churches during COVID-19.

Baki shared information from the Fatherhood initiative that may provide useful resources to share with returning citizens. Participants must be parents, and there are various qualification levels for participation. The core values reinforced by this program are valuable for our target population. Baki is looking at emerging expungement opportunities and will bring more information on this as it is available.

Jeanette sent a request to update the commission page on the Mayor's website with a link to our Facebook page. She will also add information on the three subcommittees and a main contact for each. We need to decide where that resource information will reside online. We will need to provide a link to this information. Jeanette will give Kristin admin access to the commission Facebook page so she can share information and upload images. Keith asked if we need to have a presence on other social platforms. For now, we will focus on creating engagement on our Facebook page.

There have been no new developments on meetings for a fall expungement summit. Budget challenges with the City of Columbus has slowed our ability to meet with the key players.

The meeting was dismissed at 2:41pm. Dr. Forte closed the meeting in prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on July 20 at 1:30pm. We will meet in person in July at Georgetown Elementary. UPDATE: We are now meeting virtually in July.