

Mayor's Commission on Reentry Minutes
October 19, 2020 at 1:00pm

In attendance: Keith Mitchel, Gamaliel Torres, Pat Frey, Michael Forte, Barbara Johnson, Cathy Robinson

Keith Mitchell welcomed everyone and asked Gamaliel to open the meeting with prayer. The minutes from September were reviewed. Gamaliel motioned to approve the minutes. Pat seconded that motion and the minutes were approved. It was noted that Kristin has agreed to serve as Vice Chair. Someone will need to step into the position of Commission Secretary in her place.

Home for Good will serve as the lead organization for the Housing Subcommittee. Housing is not just about a place to live. It is also about the wrap around services that a person needs to exist. Pat expects to have Housing Subcommittee meetings begin to ramp up in the next 60-90 days.

The Employment Subcommittee is recommending a 3-step approach for a Ban the Box campaign. These steps include seeding the target market, developing a database of key influencers, and disseminating a resource kit to educate employers in our community. The Commission will put our heads together to help make this campaign successful. Pat suggested we use the Columbus Water Works example as a part of the campaign to leverage the importance of providing second chances.

The Faith Based subcommittee has prepared a letter to address area churches. The city attorney has reviewed and approved the letter. The next steps will be to send the letter out and the Commission will have a chance to review one last time. Pat sent a mailing list for the Columbus Ministerial Alliance. Michael Forte will check to make sure he has received this.

There are no website updates. Keith challenged the Commission to look at the website and Facebook pages from a consumer standpoint to be sure we are using these channels appropriately.

Keith welcomed Barbara Johnson who joined this meeting representing the Department of Community Supervision. The Commission members introduced themselves to Barbara.

Cathy shared that Grace House and Trinity House now have added capacity, and SafeHouse is partnering with United Way on grants for housing. Cathy will serve as the Commission representative at the Home for Good monthly Housing Navigation meetings.

The Commission discussed possible community partners to apply for grant funding that will support Ban the Box. Hiring Well Doing Good and Urban League were mentioned. They are both members of the Employment Subcommittee.

The Commission strategic plan was presented and discussed the development of an annual action plan. Keith asked the group about their ability to meet outside of our regular monthly meeting to build out an action plan for 2021. Our goal is to have this plan in place by January of 2021. It was determined that it will take a minimum of 6 hours to address this. Pat suggested that we produce an outline based on the strategic vision to guide these meetings. We may break this into smaller meetings over the next

two months. We will tentatively plan these meetings on Thursdays at 4pm. We will try to schedule the first 2 sessions in November and then 2 additional meetings in December. An outline will be sent to the group prior to the first meeting.