

# Sanford Krasnoff New Orleans Criminal Justice Council Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1:00-3:00 p.m.

---

### I. Call to Order (1:07)

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Stevens who thanked the members for their attendance and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

### II. Roll Call (1:08)

Derwyn Bunton	Orleans Parish Public Defender	Absent
Nakita White	Office of Juvenile Justice	Present
Hon. Ranord Darensburg	Juvenile Court	Absent
Hon. Paul Sens	Municipal and Traffic Court	Designee Present (Lenae Crowley)
Shaun Ferguson	NOPD	Absent
Leslie Harris	City Council	Designee Present (Alison Port)
Jennifer Greer	Probation and Parole	Designee Present (Toby Lamy)
Susan Hutson	Sheriff's Office	Designee Present (Perlina Thomas)
Hon. Robin Pittman	Criminal District Court	Absent
Doneisha Turner	City Attorney	Absent
Dwight McKenna	Coroner	Designee Present (Brian Lapeyrolerie)
Gilbert Montano	Chief Administrator	Absent
Helena Moreno	City Council	Designee Present (Sayde Finkel)
Darren Lombard	Clerk of Criminal District Court	Absent
Oliver Thomas	City Council	Designee Present (Diedre Pierce)
Tenisha Stevens	Mayor's Office	Present
Jason Williams	District Attorney	Present
Emily Wolff	Office of Youth and Families	Absent
Thelma French	Total Community Action	Absent
Melanie Talia	Police and Justice Foundation	Absent
Troy Rhodes	Community Representative	Present
Margaret Washington	Community Representative	Present

### III. Opening Remarks (1:11)

Commissioner Stevens thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed Nikita White as a new member to the council. Commissioner Stevens also reviewed the process on appointing designees,

and the official subcommittees of the SKNOCJC (jail population management, the criminal justice information sharing, and the New Orleans re-entry taskforce. Two guests, Michael Hecht and Jerome Jupiter, were announced to present on the work that they are doing within the community and along the public safety spectrum.

#### **IV. Consideration & Approval of the Minutes for June 2<sup>h</sup> (1:15)**

Commissioner Stevens asked the members for a motion for approval of the minutes from the February meeting of the Council. So moved by Derywn Bunton and seconded by Diedre Pierce. There were no oppositions, the motion passed.

Commissioner Stevens asked for a motion to amend the agenda to have Jerome Jupiter present before Michael Hecht. The motion was moved by Michael Hecht, seconded by Derwyn Bunton. The motion passed.

#### **V. YEP Presentation- Jerome Jupiter (1:17)**

Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) was founded in 2004 and has four service areas: mentoring, education, enrichment, and job readiness training. YEP serves about 800 young people each year. The program has year-round open enrollment. The project works with people as young as seven and do not have an age cutoff. YEP focuses on juveniles returning from secure settings with an effort to ensure that they do not recidivate and that they transition smoothly back into home life. Their youth prevention services expand from Orleans and Jefferson to parishes to St. Charles, St. James, Lafourche, and St. John parishes. YEP Educates Work is an adult education program available for youth ages 16 and up and all services are free. The program pays for the high school equivalency test, provides transportation assistance, and connects young people to post-secondary education and career pathways. The YEP Works programming provides customer service training, social/emotional learning, and the mechanics of background work. Youth are connected to opportunities to help with their next steps in their pathways: getting a high school equivalency, entering onto post-secondary or advanced training. The program check-ins and follow up with them to provide as much support as possible.

The YEP Enriches programming have three programs for young people ages seven to seventeen. There is an after-school program on Oretha Castle Boulevard that helps with homework, do arts and crafts, do yoga, has a robotics program and many other programs. There is a free summer camp program, one for younger kids, one for teenagers, and a therapeutic sleep away camp that takes place six times a year. They have several locations throughout the city. There is an adult learning center. A new location in New Orleans East was launched this month, bringing their already existing programs to that area.

There is a tentative community outreach event scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a night to share information about YEP and how they can better serve the community.

#### **VI. NOLA Coalition Presentation- Michael Hecht (1:27)**

The Nola Coalition originated from Gino Inc. and now has close to 400 members. The coalition supports community support for constitutional policing and investing in the youth. The group represents a diverse population of the New Orleans community from different areas of the city to race, political affiliation, and business and organization types. The NOLA Coalition pushes for both safer streets for today and systematic change for tomorrow and have chosen to invest in youth services with a foundation build on two platforms.

The first platform centers on community support for NOPD, focusing on seven main areas: recruiting and retention, pay and benefits, technology, accountability for the entire criminal justice system, gang activity and violent crime, resources, and community and social support.

The second platform centers in investments in youth services. The goal is to raise \$15 million dollars over three years to invest in youth service programs. IMTT is investing a million dollars into the coalition, bringing the coalition to about 2.25 million of the first \$5million for the first year.

The funds will be dispersed in one of three ways. The United Way has set up a Nola Coalition Fund, acting as a fund of funds. An RFP is going to go out shortly, with the intention that not only established nonprofits get the funding, but also that smaller community-bases nonprofits that could use some technical assistance and funding be included. The second way the funds will be administered will be that some people will be given funds as restricted- grants to United Way. Lastly, some funds are going directly to organizations.

## **VII. Community and Council Member Updates (1:49)**

Commissioner Stevens and members of the council bid Derywn Button a farewell as he is transitioning into his next chapter.

There were no member or community updates.

## **VIII. Closing Remarks & Adjournment (1:53)**

Commissioner Stevens sought a motion to adjourn. So moved by Donesia Turner and seconded by Pearlina Thomas.