



City of Greensboro

Melvin Municipal Building
300 W. Washington Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

4:00 PM

Plaza Level Conference Room

I. Call To Order

This Work Session of the City of Greensboro was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on the above date in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building with the following members present:

Mayor Nancy Vaughan, Mayor Pro-Tem Yvonne Johnson, Councilmembers Marikay Abuzuaite, Sharon Hightower, Nancy Hoffmann, Michelle Kennedy, Justin Outling, Tammi Thurm, and Goldie Wells.

Also present were City Manager David Parrish, City Attorney Tom Carruthers, and Deputy City Clerk Angela R. Lord.

II. Presentations

1. [ID 18-0566](#) Cure The Violence Update

City Manager David Parrish spoke to a review of the Cure the Violence program; and recognized Durham County Health Education and Community Transformation Director Mel Downey-Piper, Bull City United (Bull City) team Supervisor, Dorel Clayton; and Guilford County Commissioner Skip Alston to speak to the item.

Ms. Downey-Piper referenced a site visit in Durham; provided a Ted Talk video by Gary Slutkin; the history of the Bull City project; spoke to a public health approach; project funding discussions; and to the timeline for implementation. Ms. Downey-Piper referenced non-profit organization endeavors to manage violence; spoke to grant funding; staffing needs; and to the process for determining the focus areas.

Mayor Vaughan inquired about hot spots; and referenced an assessment that had been emailed to Council.

Ms. Downey-Piper outlined adjustments to the focus areas; spoke to office locations; and confirmed the reduction of crime due to floating focus areas.

Councilmember Outling asked for data to support targeting specific areas; for data regarding a reduction in crime citywide; requested administrative support information; and information regarding service providers.

Ms. Downey-Piper spoke to violence displacement; data from the Cure the Violence program; stated that crime percentages were down in Durham; spoke to working with high risk individuals; stated additional information would be provided to Council; and that the fees were determined based on the size of the community.

Discussion took place regarding the role of the violence interrupters; interactions between staff and the police; previous criminal history of staff members; Cure the Violence challenges; a data driven program; peer support training and therapy sessions; weekly check-ins; team building exercises; staff certifications; funding allocations; monthly community events; County versus City participation in Durham; advantages and disadvantages of the program; hiring people that were part of the problem that were now part of the solution; staff relationships with offenders; and job availability for formerly incarcerated individuals. Discussion continued regarding evidence based and best practice programming; differences between the Cure the Violence model and other programs; the connection between public health and county government; stability for formerly incarcerated persons; long term sustainability; the inclusion of the City of High Point; In-kind contributions; the need for Human Resource processes; delays associated with governmental programs; the need for City/County partnerships; and violence

impacting the community.

Mr. Clayton spoke to data collection; target areas; mediating conflict; multiple site locations for the program; working with high risk individuals; and a focus on conversations with shot callers.

Councilmember Hightower spoke to recent violent activity; to a spill over of crimes into other areas of the City; emphasized the health concerns; and requested staff work with Guilford County (County) staff to form a plan of action.

City Manager Parrish outlined the next steps for negotiations; and spoke to scheduling meetings with County Manager Marty Lawing.

Councilmember Outling voiced concerns with the City forming an action plan; stated the item was a County responsibility; and voiced the need for clarity.

Commissioner Alston spoke to County staff negotiations for a Cure the Violence program; staff recommendations and an action plan; and confirmed the request for the program originated from the community.

Discussion ensued regarding community involvement; the need for funding conversations; liability coverage; and inviting the Housing Authority to the discussion table.

Councilmember Outling reiterated the request for information be provided to Council prior to them making a decision; the need to provide and clarify staff direction; and voiced concerns with a lack of County participation in parking deck funding.

Mayor Vaughan spoke to a proposal for a partnership; and to a proposed Sub-Committee.

Discussion continued regarding allocation of funding; a partnership between Greensboro, High Point and Guilford County; a thirty day timeline; identification of staff; a staff driven process; and the need for structure.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson voiced the need for Councilmembers and Commissioners to be included in the action plan meetings.

City Manager Parrish confirmed staff would provide data and geographical information; that an agenda item would be on a future Work Session; spoke to a follow-up meeting with County Manager Lawing; and to the inclusion of Councilmembers in the negotiations.

2. [ID 18-0567](#) Boards and Commissions Update

It was the consensus of Council to postpone this item.

III. Adjournment

Moved by Councilmember Abuzuaiter, seconded by Councilmember Wells, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.

THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.

ANGELA R. LORD
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

NANCY VAUGHAN
MAYOR