

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

September 9, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

A Quarterly Meeting of the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys was held on September 9, 2011 at the Urban League in Jacksonville, Florida.

Council Members Present:

Eddy Regnier, Chair
Albert Simpson, Vice Chair
Shila Salem, 1st Vice Chair
Franklin Adderley
Argatha Gilmore
Ben Shirley, Jr.
Andre Smith
Matthew Gregory (via teleconference)
Gary Siplin
William Hardin
Lois Scott
Perry Thurston

Council Members Absent:

Gypsy Gallardo
Ron Henderson, 2nd Vice Chair
John Davis
Sen. Wise
Robert Woody

First Agenda Item: Welcome

Chairman Regnier welcomed everyone to the meeting in Jacksonville Florida. Thereafter he made the request for roll call.

Second Agenda Item: Roll Call

Roll call was executed by Council staff Tawanna Leven-Forbes.

Third Agenda Item: Opening Invocation

Rev. Albert Simpson gave the invocation.

Fourth Agenda Item: Call to Order

Chairman Regnier called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The agenda was adopted as posted.

Fifth Agenda Item: Chairman's Comments

Chairman Regnier opened the meeting by talking about the September 8's meeting stating the disparities and the needs of African American men and boys in the areas of health, education, employment and crime. He talked about the mission of the Council and the Council's responsibility to present to the Legislature recommendations for improvement. He thanked Dr. Richard Danford, President of the Jacksonville Urban League for hosting the Council's 2nd quarterly meeting and the Urban League staff for exhibiting such incredible hospitality. Chairman Regnier welcomed the audience and opened the floor for member comments.

Sixth Agenda Item: Member Comments

Representative Perry Thurston stated that he was pleased to be in Jacksonville, he introduced Representative Mia Jones, chair of the Florida Conference of the Black Legislatures who was in the audience. He thanked Mr. Shirk, public defender for attending the meeting.

Senator Gary Siplin thanked everyone for coming to the public forum and he thanked Dr. Danford for hosting the Councils' meeting. He thanked Rep. Jones for coming to the public forum.

Rev. Simpson stated that Representative Jones also represent the Mayor's office in Jacksonville, Florida. He thanked Dr. Danford for hosting the Councils' meeting and applauded him for his good work in Jacksonville. Rev. Simpson stated that public defender Mr. Shirk is one of the finest in Jacksonville.

Chairman Regnier thanked Rep. Jones for coming and moved to the next agenda item.

Seventh Agenda Item: Guest Speaker

Chairman Regnier started by talking about meeting Dr. Richard Danford at the Councils 1st quarterly meeting in Miami, Florida where Dr. Danford invited the Council to Jacksonville and offered to host the Council's 2nd quarterly meeting.

Dr. Danford stated by acknowledging some of the audience members attending the meeting. He talked about the history of the Jacksonville Urban League, the 24 Head-start centers and the 350 employees who are working at the Urban League. Dr. Danford stated that the Urban League is working to pay off their building as part of their moving forward process. He talked about those who have worked for the Urban League whose pictures were displayed on the walls.

Sandra Parker spoke of the Urban League and the many things they are doing in the community.

Sen. Siplin asked who the origin of the Jacksonville council was.

Rev. Simpson stated that the Council's previous chairman, Richard Davison thought that the Council could be better served if the Council empowered a local council. He stated that Mr. Davison initiated seven local councils and place Council members who served those areas as coordinators. Rev. Simpson stated that the past chair thought that the local councils could be directed by the urban leagues in those communities.

Chairman Regnier introduced Rick Nuss who have been a part of the Council since its beginning. He stated that Mr. Nuss could give more information about the process of the Council.

Mr. Nuss stated that he had been with the Attorney General's office for fourteen years. He said that he supervised seven different programs including the Council and Black Crime Stoppers. Mr. Nuss talked about the Council and the history of the budget change. He stated that funding is needed for a program such as the Council.

Dr. Danford stated that what would help them in Jacksonville would be words from the Statewide Council in how the Urban League can move forward. He said that direction toward specific goals could be worked on as a group could strengthen them and put them in a better position to seek additional funding.

Sen. Siplin asked several questions about the local Urban League goals.

Dr. Danford stated that the budget for the Jacksonville Urban League is \$25000 funding for the local council. He said that they need someone on the council to make sure that the Statewide Council is following-up.

Chief Gilmore stated that the Jacksonville Urban League has a model program that could be duplicated throughout the state of Florida. She said that the Jacksonville Urban League work is fine but questions if the

same idea would work in Tallahassee or other states in Florida. Chief Gilmore stated that each county has its unique issues.

Dr. Danford asked Ms. Parker to share what the Jacksonville Urban League has to offer to the community.

Ms. Parker talked about what the Jacksonville Urban League do for the community and the different needs of the people.

Rev. Simpson talked about the coordinators of the local council's that tried to initiate the local councils but there were no funding. He said the Dr. Danford and the Jacksonville Urban League got established without the extra funding and has done a great job.

Eighth Agenda Item: Public Comments

Chairman Regnier recognized several audience guests and among the guest was:

- Mia Jones, State Representative
- Matt Bisbee, Public Defenders Office
- Hugh Wilkinson, Public Defenders Office
- Matt Shirk, Public Defender
- Cachet Wells, Women of Righteous Dist.
- Erik Dawkins
- Reuben Gaines, Urban Entrepreneur
- Jocelyn Turner, Duval County Health Dept.
- Reylus Thompson, Northeast FL. Community
- Derek Bermudez, Jacksonville Youth Works, Inc
- Charles Griggs, Duval County Health Department
- Stephanie Campbell, Edward Waters College
- Bingham Parkinson, BMEL Business Solutions
- Irvin Cohen, New Town Success Zone
- Nichole Mobley
- Cassandra Bush, THORMINC
- Marilyn Hughes, President of Jacksonville Youth Works
- And others

Rep. Mia Jones thanked the Council for visiting Jacksonville and complimented the Council on the work it is doing.

Mr. Joseph Turner talked about how the Urban League and the Health Department are helping in her school in reducing sexually transmitted diseases and unattended pregnancies.

Ms. Paula Wright stated that she work with youths and the school board member. She said that she hope for the future to see males and females to respect again. Ms. Wright said that she is looking to pull in parents on how to work with their children and the school principles.

Mr. Ervin Cohen talked about the history of Edward Waters College, the new town success zone and the many programs.

Marilyn Hughes talked about jobs being brought to the youths and about getting the word out.

Mr. Clive Warren talked about the city of Jacksonville saying that it had come a long way as a community. He talked about the History in Jacksonville and people coming together.

Ninth Agenda Item: For the Good of the Order

Chairman Regnier thanked members of the Council and Dr. Danford for hosting the meeting. He thanked the public and Dr. Bush for coming and sharing.

Tenth Agenda Item: Adjournment

Chairman Regnier asked for a motion for adjournment. Sen. Siplin motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Ms. Scott seconded the adjournment. Chairman Regnier declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

