

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

MEETING MINUTES

A teleconference meeting of the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

Council Members Present:

Eddy Regnier, Chair
Albert Simpson, Vice Chair
Ron Henderson, 2nd Vice Chair
Matthew Gregory
William Hardin
Lois Scott
Andre Smith
Perry Thurston

Council Members Absent:

Janetta Cureton, 1st Vice Chair
Gypsy Gallardo
Argatha Gilmore
Shila Salem
Ben Shirley, Jr.
Gary Siplin
Wansley Walters
Stephen Wise

Other's Attending:

Ana Sanchez (Walters)
Richie Coleman (Siplin)

First Agenda Item: Welcome

Chairman Eddy Regnier welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the teleconference and thereafter requested 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 2:12 p.m. The agenda was adopted as posted.

Fifth Agenda Item: Chairman's Comments

Chairman Regnier talked about his observation of the sub-committee meetings and the direction of the discussions.

- Pulling together ideas for the Annual Report
- Deadlines that must be met

Chairman Regnier moved to the next agenda item opening the floor for member comments.

Sixth Agenda Item: Member Comments

Mr. Andra Smith talked about the new Commissioner of Education, Jerrod Robinson who is looking forward in participating in working with the Council in the future.

Rev. Albert Simpson talked about his appreciation for what Commissioner Robinson is doing in Jacksonville.

Chairman Regnier requested that Ms. Leven-Forbes make a note to discuss a letter of appreciation and invite addressed to Commissioner Robinson.

Representative Perry Thurston talked about following the lead of the Chair in stopping the disparity of black men in Florida, saying that the bar is set high. He said that somehow we would have to come up with jobs and remedies, stating that the Council will have its hands full.

Chairman Regnier moved to the next agenda item.

Seventh Agenda Item: Adoption of Outstanding Minutes

Chairman Regnier asked that members take a few minutes to review the meeting minutes for discussion which included minutes from April 26, May 10 and May 18. Thereafter, asked if there were any questions or correction to be noted. There were none. Chairman Regnier stated that the minutes will be tabled for adoption at a later date due to the lack of a quorum.

Chairman Regnier moved to the next agenda item.

Eighth Agenda Item: Jacksonville Meeting Update

Chairman Regnier talked about the Jacksonville meeting that is scheduled for September.

- Meeting location at Crowne Plaza Riverfront
- All day business meeting from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Sub-committee break-out
 - Structure of Annual Report
 - Is not interest of creating an Annual Report of new ideas to get filled and not reviewed
- Public Forum from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.
- The Attorney General’s invitation to Jacksonville
 - Call from AG’s office to inform Council of a schedule conflict and her interest of meeting with the Council for a future meeting.

Rev. expressed his appreciation for the AG informing the Council of the schedule conflict and her interest of meeting with the Council for a future meeting. He thanked the Chair and staff for all the work put forward in organizing the meeting in Jacksonville.

Chairman Regneir asked for further comments from the Council and there were none and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Ninth Agenda Item: Status of New Appointees

Chairman Regnier talked about three appointments that are needed.

Possible re-appointment for Chief Franklin Adderley

A Bio received for Representative Dwight Bullard

Representative Thurston stated that he contacted the Speaker’s office and made a request to expedite the process of appointing new member’s to the Council.

Chairman Regnier thanked Rep. Thurston for his efforts in following-up on the placement of new appointees, and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Tenth Agenda Item: Orlando Meeting Update

Chairman Regnier asked for updates for the Orlando meeting which will take place in Orlando.

Ms. Leven-Forbes talked about the meeting in Orlando

- All day business meeting on November 17th from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Mr. Ecitrym LaMarr, Executive Director for the Legislative Black Caucus, helping with meeting arrangements
- Meeting location at Buena Vista Palace
- Undecided location for Business meeting on November 18th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Regnier talked about meeting with a member of the Black Caucus and meeting out in the community. He opened the floor for other meeting ideas in Orlando.

Mr. Ron Henderson talked about the importance of spending time working on the Annual Report.

Chairman Regnier talked about getting community participation and the availability of parking space.

Ms. Leven-Forbes talked about going out into the community inside of the community coming to the Council and meeting in a community center or church.

Mr. Rickie Coleman from Senator Siplins office stated that if the Council would like to utilize a church he could help in the arrangements.

Chairman Regnier talked about sending a letter of invite to Buddy Dwyer, Mayor of Orlando.

Mr. Leven-Forbes talked about expanding the meeting time for November 18 meeting because of the possibility of community participation. It was agreed by Rep. Thurston.

Ms. Lois Scott stated that Sen. Siplin would have a better idea as to who to invite and what topics to over.

Rev. Simpson stated that he thought that having the meeting at a church is a great idea and cannot recall at any time the Council met at a church.

Chairman Regnier asked for other comments and there were none, thereafter he moved to the next agenda item.

Eleventh agenda item: Subcommittee Reports

Chairman Regnier talked about sub-committee member's giving reports on their meetings.

Mr. Ron Henderson talked about the direction of the combined meeting of criminal Justice & gangs' and education sub-committees.

- Discussions was about previous recommendation and no actions
- Use sub-committee meetings to focus on one or two recommendation
- Looked at the focus points requested by the Council Chair
- Would like to bring in participants from state agencies or professionals in the field to give guidance for focus
- Talked about the effects of education and the digital world etc.

Ms. Lois Scott talked about the outline provided for the meeting on structure of information by each subcommittee member in the areas expertise.

- To state the problem
- Multiple barriers as it relate to black men and boys
- Going back at least a five years to show a data trend (example: data as it relates to employment or training opportunities)
- Improvements
- Recommendations for future years etc.

Ms. Scott said that each member is to report from the outline that was provided. She state that her staff person Ms. Holly Carson helped with last year's Annual Report and will be assisting with this year's Report.

Chairman Regneir talked about his subcommittee that talked about healthcare

- How to access kid care
- Nutrition
- Access of insurance
- AIDS epidemic and education

Chairman Regnier stated that his committee main focusing will be on AIDS and access to insurance for children. He asked was there any comments and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Twelfth agenda item: Discussion of Letter of Commendation

Chairman Regnier talked about member's that worked with the Council in the past and would like to formulate a letter of commendation for their services.

Rev. Simpson talked about the letter should come from the Council with the signature of the Chair.

Chairman Regnier asked was there any comments and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Thirteenth agenda item: Discussion of Plaques of Commendation

Chairman Regnier talked about past members and current members getting a plaque of commendation for the hard work that was put into the Council. He asked was there any comments and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Fourteenth agenda item: Discussion of Annual Report

Chairman Regnier stated the he had been in contact with Dr. Elam who assisted the Council in putting together its first Annual Report. He said the Dr. Elam offered to edit and help the Council put the Annual Report together and suggest that the report should be a call to action rather than collected data.

Rev. Simpson stated that Dr. Elam was a great contributor and supporter of the cause of the Council. He suggest that the Council ask the legislators that are part of the Council and ask how do we move the data agendas to get the report to the law making process to have the discussion to have them become policy.

Mr. Coleman said that he could talk with Senator Siplin to get the information on how to get the report to the law making process to have the discussion to have things to become policy.

Representative Thurston stated that changing the format of the report to an action report which would be appropriate.

Mr. Smith stated that his concern is about who will be the audience that will be reading the report.

Representative Thurston stated that the reports audience is the leaders of the state.

Chairman Regnier asked was there any comments and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Fifteenth Agenda Item: Discussion of Better Participation/Absenteeism

Chairman Regnier talked about the problem in getting a quorum and asked for ideas in getting better participation in Jacksonville.

Rev. Simpson stated that Ms. Forbes tolled a survey of Council member's attendance and should know the status of participation for the Jacksonville meeting.

Mr. Henderson suggested sending the Jacksonville agenda to the agency heads with a note asking if the Council member will be attending this meeting and to inform the AG's staff of their intentions.

Chairman Regnier asked Council staff to make part of the next agenda item a letter from him to Council members asking their intentions.

Chairman Regnier asked was there any comments and thereafter moved to the next agenda item.

Sixteenth Agenda Item: Future Council Meeting Dates and Locations

Ms. Forbes stated that the next meeting Full Council teleconference is October 11, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. & December 8, 2011 Embassy Suites Tampa, Florida.

Seventeenth Agenda Item: For the Good of the Order

Chairman Regnier said that the Council was appointed for a group to be dedicated solely to the problems of African American men and boys, to look at the problems, research them and come up with a solution to make a change. He said that the black community needs its men, boys, girls and women to have equal opportunity to move forward.

Eighteenth Agenda Item: Adjournment

Chairman Regnier asked for a motion for adjournment. Rep. Perry Thurston motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Ms. Lois Scott seconded the adjournment. Chairman Regnier declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m.