Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys

Wednesday May 29th 2019

Meeting Minutes

Location: FBR Nation Boys and Girls Club

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| **Commissioners** | **Attending** |
| Arthur Burnett | Yes |
| George Garrow | Yes |
| Silas Grant | Yes |
| Tamara Henry | Yes |
| Amber Hewitt | Yes |
| Villareal Johnson | Yes |
| Frank Malone | Yes |
| Chester Marshall | No |
| Elsie Scott | yes |
| Don Smith | Yes |
| Ivory Toldson | No |

A quorum was present

1. **Meeting called to order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was present for the meeting to begin
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
4. **Overview of Public Meeting**

A moment of silence was conducted for Maurice Jones

FBR Nation Director Lavar Jones provided background on FBR Nation, Boys & Girls Club as well as the programs that are offered at the program.

Commissioner Garrow provides overview of meeting and what topics will be discussed. The categories will include Employment & Poverty, Family Law, Health and Well-Being, and Rehabilitation

1. **Sub-Committee Reports**

Health & Well-Being:

Problem: Shortage of adequate mental health services

Problem #2: Lack of data integrating health and academic outcomes

Policy Recommendations: Strengthen support for behavioral health service

Develop system to integrate health and academic outcomes data. Commissioner Johnson states that resident food education to increase good food options. Resident guest communicates that residents should flex economic muscle as community. Resident guest communicates that school are underserved when students are serviced for mental health needs. Specifically, the amount of time that students are allowed to meet with school service providers.

Employment & Poverty:

Pathway for Violence Interrupters can transition into more gainful employment. Integration of the business community to tackle the employment issues within the District.

Government should not be the only answer to tackling employment issues within the District.

Recommendations: District Government can mimic federal program that sole sources projects to CBE Businesses

Employment & Poverty subcommittee will provide specific recommendations in the future

Commissioner Johnson believes that committee should partner with agencies to gain access to Opportunity Zone benefits.

Family Law and Responsible Fatherhood:

Commissioner Malone states that the Department of Health should focus more on the health of black men in the District.

Recommendation: DOH should place an emphasis on Men’s health, prostate cancer, diabetes, etc.

Enhance DOH capabilities to develop program to address Men’s Health

Commissioner Johnson: laws relating to unwed fathers and custody issues

DHS Rep: spoke about Fatherhood initiative and what services they provide for men in the District

Rehab & Reintegration:

Commissioner Garrow states that jury selection is a high priority in the District as returning citizens are unable to serve on juries because of their criminal background. Felons are disqualified for 10 years after parole and probation requirements are complete.

A felon should be qualified to serve on jury panel as soon as time is served.

Open list up to eligible jury duty list to people as soon as they graduate from high school – include grad list as one of the lists that jury panels and choose from.

1. **Finals Remarks:** Executive Director Wallace thanked everyone for their hard work and is excited to continue the progress we have made.
2. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm