

Orlando City Council - Workshop
Council Chambers, City Hall
400 South Orange Avenue
November 17, 2014

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5
Officer Edgar Malave, Sergeant at Arms
Jody Litchford, Deputy City Attorney
Alana C. Brenner, City Clerk

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The subject of the workshop was "Families Parks and Recreation's Children's Programs." The Mayor called on Lisa Early, Director, Families Parks and Recreation Department to begin the presentation. Ms. Early gave background on the beginning of the Office of Children and Education in 2003, discussed its evolution over the last 11 years and noted that 10,939 children were served last year by the Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ), After School All Stars (ASAS) and the Recreation Division. Three areas of impact were presented: 1) Mitigating economic hardship; 2) Improving academic performance; and 3) Preventing juvenile crime. A fourth area, "Encouraging health and wellness", will be covered in a future workshop.

Ms. Early outlined the ways in which the City attempts to mitigate economic hardship through its free programs, childcare subsidies, feeding programs and youth employment programs. Next, Ms. Early discussed ways in which the City seeks to improve academic performance including summer learning loss prevention tools, the PKZ Student Advocate Model, the use of Americorp volunteers, enrichment programs offered at community centers and the PKZ college access program. Lastly, Ms. Early discussing the ways in which the City seeks to prevent juvenile crime. She highlighted the work of the After School All Stars program which operates at 22 sites in the City. Next Christian Mpoy, an Americorp volunteer and Sasha Mills, who has been involved with PKZ since 2005, discussed their experiences. Ms. Early then reviewed the cost of these programs with the Council.

At 10:50 a.m., the workshop was opened to comments and questions by the Mayor and the Commissioners and discussion ensued. Ms. Early introduced members of her staff as well as Americorps volunteers in attendance.

The workshop was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Alana C. Brenner
City Clerk