

Orlando City Council Workshop  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
400 South Orange Avenue  
Monday, April 24, 2017

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer  
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1  
Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2 (arrived at 10:07 a.m.)  
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3 (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4  
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5  
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6  
Chief Assistant City Attorney Kyle Shephard  
City Clerk Denise Aldridge (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)  
City Clerk Aide Carolyn Skuta  
Police Officers Edgar Malave and Raul Zayas, Sergeants-at-Arms

Mayor Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He welcomed everyone and stated today's workshop is an overview of President Obama's 2014 challenge to cities to improve the lives of young black men, entitled "My Brother's Keeper" (MBK). Mayor Dyer introduced Families, Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Early to present the outcome of the program since its inception in 2014.

Ms. Early began by presenting a video that was created by middle and high school youth early on in the program. She then introduced Mr. Raysean Brown who, along with the late Gino Nicolas, was the first MBK coordinator. Mr. Brown honored Gino Nicolas by presenting his legacy entitled, "The Way Forward."

Mr. Brown reviewed the City of Orlando's response to President Obama's challenge. He stated that My Brother's Keeper was launched with aims to improve academic performance, increase employment and reduce incarceration among Orlando's boys and young men of color. He explained that, to achieve these goals, one of the key strategies is to connect youth to mentors. He then presented another video, entitled "In the Words of One Young Man."

Ms. Early explained how MBK was incorporated into the Families, Parks and Recreation programs, stating that some FPR programs specialize in particular populations, while the MBK program specializes in boys and young men of color. She stated that MBK Orlando is embedded into FPRs existing youth-serving programs.

Ms. Early explained FPR's focus on "Intentionality" in all of their specialized programs. She explained in regard to boys and young men of color, the particular focus begins as youth become teens and young adults. It is those populations which are the hardest to attract to programs and are the riskiest years of a child's life. She stated of the 13,000 children FPR serves, approximately 5,200 are boys and young men of color. They are served through several other FPR programs such as Parramore Kidz Zone, After-School All-Stars, City recreation centers, youth sports programs and FPR youth employment programs. She offered examples of several successful programs which have achieved positive results.

Ms. Early discussed results of several MBK Orlando strategies used to achieve its goals to improve academic performance, increase employment and reduce incarceration. She discussed results of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the 100% success of the "Operation Americorps," where all of the high school seniors that participated graduated high school and went on to pursue college, trade school, workforce, military or national service. She also discussed taking children on college tours to help achieve MBK goals where 1,100 youth were helped to complete college and financial aid applications. She stated they plan to host the second annual College Decision Day (as part of Florida College Decision Day) on May 2, 2017.

With regard to achieving the goal of increase in employment, Ms. Early indicated the results for 2016. She stated FPR employed 805 youth, ages 15 to 25. Of that number, 619 were City staff and 186 were employed via grants and fundraising. She stated those employed via grants are either hired by a non-profit organization or as AmeriCorps members. She indicated 405 of the youth employees were boys or young men; of those, 70% were young men of color. She also discussed the partnership with the White House Summer Opportunity Initiative/Linkedin for Good, with Senator Bill Nelson's office as one of the partnerships.

Next, Ms. Early played a video that went viral that depicted what happens when you make targeted investments in a neighborhood and when you don't. The video was titled "A Tale of Two Neighborhoods: Christmas Break 2016." Ms. Early noted that between 2006 and 2016, teen births and juvenile arrests in Parramore declined 73%.

Ms. Early discussed funding sources of public and private investments in MBK Orlando which include federal and state grants, FPR budget and private philanthropy for a total of \$4,460,000.

Ms. Early discussed the success of mentors to help MBK achieve its goals. She recognized Marcus Moore, PKZ Youth Development Coordinator, as an example of the importance of youth connecting to mentors. She stated MBK Orlando aims to connect boys and young men of color to mentors, especially those who don't already have strong male role models in their lives. She stated research shows that mentoring improves children's academic and social performance. Caring adults advise, encourage and inspire youth on the path to success. She stated the four core partners for mentoring as:

- City of Orlando Recreation Centers: Engelwood, Callahan, Rosemont, Ivey Lane, Smith, Wadeview and Downtown Recreation.
- Orlando/Orange County COMPACT
- Orange County Public Schools/ADDitions
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida

Ms. Early played another recognition video entitled "Local Heroes." She put out a call for Orlando Police Department to assist in getting police officers to sign up as mentors.

Mr. Brown approached the podium and called upon each "Local Hero" in attendance to stand and be recognized for their assistance with MBK continuing to reach its goals.

Mayor Dyer then presented a proclamation naming My Brother's Keeper Local Heroes Day in the City of Orlando. Ms. Early asked all members in the audience to stand and be recognized for their participation in all FPR programs that assist youth, including Paramour Kids Zone and After-School All-Stars.

At 10:34 a.m. the workshop was opened for comments and questions, and discussion ensued. At 10:45 a.m. the workshop was adjourned.