



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force Special Meeting

Special Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2024

5TH Floor, PBC Clerk Training Room, Court House
205 N. Dixie Highway, WPB, FL 33401

Summary Meeting Minutes

Voting Members & Guests Present:

Chair, Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender
Vice Chair, Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice
Dr. Angela Bess, School District of PBC
Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC
Jessica Younts, Justice Impact Alliance
Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Dr. Teresa Johnson, League of Cities – Town of Haverhill

PBC Public Safety Department Staff Present:

Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Dept.
Cathy Wolf, PBC Public Safety Dept.
Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Dept.
Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Dept. (Virtual)
Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety Dept.
Richard Sena, PBC County Attorney

Voting Members Absent:

Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office
Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections
Judge Jeffrey Gillen
Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County
Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department
Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery Florida
Oswald Newbold, PBC Reentry Alumni

I. Welcome, Opening Comments, and Introductions – Chair, Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, 15th Judicial Circuit

- a. Roll call taken and a quorum present.
- b. Attendees introduced themselves and indicated their name and affiliation.

II. Approval and/or Additions to the Preliminary Agenda

Agenda approved with additions to include adopting the agenda. Motion by Tamara Starks; seconded by Dr. Teresa Johnson.

III. Purpose of Meeting, Chair, Carey Haughwout

Chair Carey Haughwout outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to review, discuss, and approve comments drafted by the Reentry Task Force Housing Subcommittee. Comments were to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in support of its efforts to reduce barriers to HUD housing programs for formerly incarcerated and convicted people. Specifically the proposed changes detailed in the recent Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), "Reducing Barriers to HUD-Assisted Housing" (FR-6362-P-01). The proposed rule recognizes that a criminal record alone should not determine someone's ability to secure housing.

Jessica Younts, Vice Chair – Housing Subcommittee provided an overview of the below five comments:

- a) **Adopting a “lookback period” of no more than three (3) years prior to application**
- b) **Prohibiting Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and assisted owners from obtaining arrest and other non-conviction records**
 - c) **Restrictions for Housing Choice Vouchers should also apply to Private Landlords**
 - d) **HUD should replace “12 months” with 3-6 months in the final definition of “Currently engaging in drug-related criminal activity”**
 - e) **Threat to health, safety, and right to peaceful enjoyment**

Members discussed the comments and motion to approve the comments as written with the exception of a) **Adopting a “lookback period” of no more than three (3) years prior to application**, was made by Tamara Starks and second by Atensia Bowen. The edition made was to the second to last sentence which reads “The Task Force further supports a lookback period that begins at the time of criminal activity *and not at the time of conviction*”, was changed to read “The Task Force further supports a lookback period that begins at the time of criminal activity *related to the conviction*.”

Following this approval, staff will revise and print the letter for Chair Haughwout’s signature. It will then be uploaded on HUD’s website as outlined in instructions.

IV. Additional Member and Guest Comments

Ms. Younts encouraged individuals to have their organizations also submit comments by June 10th, as the more comments submitted in support, the better the outcomes.

V. Adjournment

With no further items for discussion, the meeting adjourned.