

## **Agenda**

City of St. Petersburg

### **Youth and Family Services**

Thursday, July 22, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

175 Fifth Street North

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**Members:** Committee Chair Deborah Figgs-Sanders,  
Committee Vice Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman,  
Council Member Robert Blackmon & Council Member Amy Foster

**Alternate:** Council Member Darden Rice

**Support Staff:** Linnie Randolph, City Council Legislative Aide

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**B. Approval of July 22, 2021 Agenda**

**C. Approval of May 20, 2021 Minutes**

**D. New Business**

1. **Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis - Amy Foster & Jane Wallace**

**E. Adjournment**

**Attachments:**

New Business Item backup materials with draft resolution language

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** August 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.  
TBD

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**St. Petersburg City Council  
Youth and Family Services Report  
Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2021**

**Present:** Committee Chair Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Committee Vice-Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, and Council Member Amy Foster

**Also Present:** Community Service Director Susan Ajoc, Urban Affairs Director Nikki Gaskin-Caphart, Urban Affairs Economic Development Director Richard Prince, Cohort of Champions Coordinator Carlos Daniels, CEO/Executive Director of PERC Michael Jalazo, Founder of Mindful Movement Florida Clayton Sizemore, P.I.T.C.H Coordinator Ernest Grant, St. Pete College Student Elphonza Doyle, Founder of Business Professional Roundtable James Randolph, Leisure Services Director Michael Jefferies, Community Intervention Director Reverend Kenneth Irby, Education Director Leah McRae, Assistant City Attorney Christina Boussias and Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin

**Absent:** Council Member Robert Blackmon

**Support Staff:** Linnie A. Randolph, City Council Legislative Aide

**A. Call to Order & Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**B. Approval of January 28, 2021 Report**

Councilmember Lisa Wheeler-Bowman made a motion to approve the January 28, 2021 report.

Approved by all.

**Approval of the May 20, 2021 Agenda**

Councilmember Lisa Wheeler-Bowman made a motion to approve the May 20, 2021 agenda.

Approved by all.

Committee Chair Deborah Figgs-Sanders opened the meeting by communicating her concerns regarding the recent violence in our City, giving a brief history of our youth initiatives and the reasoning for today's program reports. Ms. Figgs-Sanders introduced Community Affairs Director, Susan Ajoc.

**C. Boley SYIIP Summer & After School Programs – Susan J. Ajoc, Community Affairs Director**

Community Affairs Director, Susan Ajoc presented a PowerPoint outlining the Summer Youth and After School programs. Ms. Ajoc provided a description of the program, program criteria, outreach focus, funding data and the number of students that have been assisted. She concluded her presentation by reviewing some of the challenges and opportunities that the program is currently facing.

Council Member Lisa Wheeler-Bowman asked about the program for children over the age of 14.

Ms. Ajoc stated that this is the Urban League Style Program for youth leadership and employment that only runs through the summer.

Committee Chair Figgs-Sanders disclosed that she started the Boley Summer Program and facilitated the program from 2004-2007. Ms. Figgs-Sanders then asked Ms. Ajoc about the lottery program for enrollment into the program. Ms. Ajoc explained that the lottery was for the application process as they were receiving more applications than placement availability and detailed the process. Ms. Figgs-Sanders followed up by asking when the City went full pay [for interns]. Ms. Ajoc said that would have been before she took over and estimates that it was 2012 or earlier. Ms. Figgs-Sanders then asked how much emphasis was placed on entrepreneurship? Ms. Ajoc replies that this is something that they are working on how best to connect students with business owners that were entrepreneurs. Ms. Figgs-Sanders would like to see more pathways to careers and not just jobs. Council Member Lisa Wheeler-

Bowman asked for clarification of the numbers in parentheses on the youth employment slide. Ms. Ajoc stated that these numbers are the number of students who completed the program successfully.

#### **D. City Program Reports:**

##### **1. Cohort of Champions, MBSK – Nikki Gaskin-Caphart, Urban Affairs Director**

Committee Chair Figgs-Sanders introduced Nikki Gaskin-Caphart who gave a report of the Cohort of Champions program. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart gave background on the My Brothers and Sister's Keeper program and walked through the flowchart that was provided as backup in the agenda packet, highlighting the accomplishments in each of the program categories. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart then introduced Mr. Richard Prince, Urban Affairs Economic Development Director, who reviewed the Cohort of Champions statistics and resources by highlighting the Cheedy family success story which is detailed in the agenda packet. Upon completion Mr. Prince introduced Carlos Daniels, Cohort of Champions Coordinator. Mr. Daniels reported on the summer program giving details and statistics on how many children who will be attending this summer. Mr. Daniels spoke about the "Pimp My Style" bicycle activity and invited Council Members to join them in a bike ride at the completion of the program. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart then introduced Mr. Michael Jalazo, CEO/Executive Director of PERC (People Empowering and Restoring Communities). Mr. Jalazo spoke about the robotics and manufacturing activities that will be included in the summer program and what they have been able to creatively do during the Covid months. He then spoke about the Rising Star and Wrap Around mental health services which they were able to expand over the last year. These programs have been much needed in lowering the stigma in seeking mental health assistance. They are currently working with the students on virtual resumes while building trust and relationships with the students and their families. Committee Chair Figgs-Sanders asked a follow up question on the virtual resume activity and wanted to know if they were practicing virtual interviews to include instructions on body language. Mr. Jalazo said yes, this was a big part of this activity. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart then introduced Mr. Clayton Sizemore, Founder of Mindful Movement Florida. Mr. Sizemore gave a brief explanation of mindful movement and how teaching a young person the importance of self-regulation and how mindfulness can improve their relationships and themselves. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart then introduced Mr. James Randolph, Founder of Business Professional Roundtable /H.Y.P.E.. Mr. Randolph addressed the committee by introducing himself as a small business owner who worked for corporate America for 13 years and is in his 26<sup>th</sup> year as a business owner. Mr. Randolph stated that his program focuses on the age group of 14 to 21 years old with the "sweet spot" being youth at 16 years of age who are ready to join the workforce. Mr. Randolph explained that H.Y.P.E. is based upon the "first job/first wage" theory. They have discovered that through this program that young people develop a better understanding for a business when they've seen what it takes to create and maintain that business. Mr. Randolph concluded his presentation by mentioning a key element in their program, the disconnected youth (14-20 years old), a nationwide phenomenon, these are children who are not in school or recently out of school. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart then introduced Mr. Ernest Gant, P.I.T.C.H. Coordinator for St. Petersburg College. Mr. Gant gave a brief description of the P.I.T.C.H. program which works with young men aged 18-24. Mr. Gant was accompanied by a student, Elphonza Doyle, who spoke about his experience and success in the program. Ms. Gaskin-Caphart closed her portion of the presentations by thanking the committee for the opportunity to speak on their programs and inviting everyone to join them in their Youth kickball game this coming Friday.

##### **2. City Parks & Recreation – Michael Jefferies, Leisure Services Administrator**

Mr. Jefferies described the Parks programs in brief and provided the web address [www.stpeteparksrec.org](http://www.stpeteparksrec.org) for anyone who wants to see the program details. Mr. Jefferies went on to explain that they are a nationally accredited agency, one of under 200 agencies to undergo the accreditation process. Parks and Recreation provides licensed child care, nature camps, TASCO (Teens, Arts, Sports & Cultural Opportunities), youth sports, drop in recreations, teen jobs, volunteer

opportunities and aquatics. All of their middle school programs are at no cost and explained the fee process for other programs. Mr. Jefferies went on to explain the criteria for their students in the programs stating that 95% of the students in the programs are meeting the criteria established by them and their instructor.

- 3. Not My Son, Second Chance – Reverend Kenneth Irby, Community Intervention Director**  
Committee Chair Figgs-Sanders introduced Reverend Irby and he addressed the committee to explain the grassroots community marketing campaign Not My Son to promote positive achievement and anti-crime awareness. Not My Son was launched in 2015 as result of seven young men who were murdered. We are about to launch the Enough is Enough campaign where we have partnered with over 35 unique faith community groups, parks and recreation and multiple neighborhoods. The Second Chance program includes youth from 9 to 17 years of age with misdemeanors or civil citations. This program has become the model for restorative practices and justice ministries in counties across the state to give civil citations opportunities for misdemeanor offences. They have partnered with City Parks and Recreation to provide the 8 hours of community service and anger management training. This program is managed within the Police Department. A flyer with more details was provided and is included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Figgs-Sanders asked about the “Not Eligible Offense” section of the flyer. Reverend Irby explained the criteria then went on to say that there are other programs in the system where these juveniles can get similar services. Ms. Figgs-Sanders asked if there was a way to look at offenses involving a firearm on a case by case basis. Reverend Irby stated that this is a possession issue and at the discretion of law enforcement at the time. These are all reviewed on a case by case basis.

- 4. Youth Development Grants – Leah McRae, Education Director**  
Committee Chair Figgs-Sanders introduced Leah McRae to review the Youth Development Grant program. Ms. McRae presented a PowerPoint to the committee stating that this is the fourth grant cycle for the MBSK Youth Development Grant. This program provides support to build capacity of organizations engaged in projects/programs seeking to improve the lives of at-risk youth within the City of St. Petersburg. This program is designed to assist historically underserved youth who are less likely to successfully transition into adulthood while achieving economic self-sufficiency or academic success. This program offers funding to Florida non-profit organizations, in good standing, with specific projects/programs to address career relevant training, on grade level reading, health and well being of the whole youth and graduation from Highschool ready for life, college or career. Ms. McRae went on to explain the eligibility requirements in more detail and highlighting important upcoming dates.

Ms. Figgs-Sanders asked how the application turn out has been so far. Ms. McRae stated that usually around this time they see around 10-15 applicants and that’s consistent with years past. Ms. Figgs-Sanders followed up by asking, if an organization has received funding in the past can they reapply this year? Ms. McRae said, yes, and that they encourage these organizations to apply every year in order to continue their programs.

**E. Adjournment:** 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the Youth and Family Services Committee is July 22, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

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# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: Members of City Council  
DATE: February 1, 2021  
COUNCIL DATE: February 11, 2021  
RE: Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis

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**ACTION DESIRED:**

Respectfully requesting a discussion at the Youth and Family Services Committee about declaring racism a public health crisis. A draft resolution written by members of the Black Health Equity Alliance and the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area is attached for discussion.

Amy Foster  
Councilmember, District 8

## **RESOLUTION 2020**

### **Declaration of Racism is a Public Health Crisis**

WHEREAS, race is a social construct with no biological basis; and

WHEREAS, racism is a social system with multiple dimensions, including individual racism, which is internalized or interpersonal; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism, which is institutional or structural, is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks; and

WHEREAS, systemic racism unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and depletes the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, racism is rooted in the foundation of America. From the time chattel slavery began in the 1600s, to the Jim Crow era, to the declaration of the war on drugs that eventually led to the mass incarceration of Black people, racism has remained a presence in American society while subjecting Black people to hardships and disadvantages in every aspect of life; and

WHEREAS, racism, including implicit and conscious bias, causes persistent racial discrimination in Criminal Justice, Social Capital, Voter Suppression, Education, Transportation, Employment, Food Access, Mental Health and Health Behaviors, Socioeconomic Status, Environmental Exposure, Access to Health Services, Housing, and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, historical racism in Florida has impacted Black Floridians including Black residents of St. Petersburg. As early as 1870, St. Petersburg County citizens voted against a state measure giving Blacks the right to vote, in 1913 the Democratic Party conducted a "whites only" primary, and in a 1930s city charter had provision for a white primary. Three lynchings have been documented as occurring in St. Petersburg: John Thomas, December 25, 1905; John Evans, November 12, 1914; and Parker Watson, May 9, 1926. During the 20th century discriminatory housing practices, known as redlining, along with deed restrictions prohibited Black people from living in certain areas and locking neighborhoods into concentrated poverty. Loans in these neighborhoods were unavailable or awfully expensive making it difficult for most Black people to buy homes setting the stage for the persistent racial wealth gap that exists today. A 1931 city charter forbade white people from living or operating a business in the Black community while banning Blacks from doing the same in white neighborhoods. In 1936 the city council approved a resolution making all African Americans live west of Seventeenth Street with the southern boundary being Fifteenth Avenue South. In 1937 the Ku Klux Klan marched through Black neighborhoods to keep them from voting on a referendum. In 1954 Dr. Robert Swain broke the Fifteenth Avenue South "redline" by opening a dental office on the south side of the street; and

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WHEREAS, in 1965 twelve African American police officers sued the City of St. Petersburg for the right to patrol all neighborhoods in the city. In 1967 the *St. Petersburg Times* newspaper ended the publication of the Negro news pages. In 1968, the city sanitation workers went on strike for better working conditions, better pay, and benefit; and

WHEREAS, the city experienced racial disturbances in August of 1968 and again in 1996 and most recently, the marches for peace, justice, and equity for Black lives held for more than 130 days with a Rally Against Hate in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Black citizens across the state of Florida have been limited to areas with restricted access to healthy foods, disproportionate amount of convenience and liquor stores, clean water, and other essential resources, leading to a variety of other health issues, including reduced life expectancy, higher rates of infant and maternal mortality, and higher rates of lead poisoning; and

WHEREAS, for more than 400 years, racism has existed in America. However, in the 21st century, we are seeing an increased incidence of police brutality, the result of racism and the disproportionate impact on Black people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Black people are dying in larger-than-expected record numbers from both; and

WHEREAS, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, Black people have higher prevalence of chronic illnesses and stress, are more likely to be employed in enclosed areas, lack access to health care causing them to die from COVID-19 at higher rates than white people. In Pinellas County, Black people make up 11 percent of the population, yet they are 2.14 times more likely to be infected than their white neighbors, are nearly 2.23 times more likely to be hospitalized, and 1.18 times more likely to succumb to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Black people are disproportionately suffering in-part due to long standing, unaddressed health disparities as well as systemic racism and other socioeconomic inequities. Indicators of health disparities include Black infant mortality, which is 11.5 % compared to White infant mortality at 5.2%; prevalence of diabetes; collectively, Blacks have the highest death rate and shortest survival of any racial class or ethnic group for most cancers; and many Black residents state that they lack access to health care; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two percent of all children in Pinellas County and 43% of those are Black children grow up in poverty, complete less schooling, work, and earn less as adults, are more likely to receive public assistance, eat disproportionately more high-calorie and low-nutrition foods, and have poorer health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 studies have linked racism to worse health outcomes, and there is clear data to illustrate that racism negatively impacts the lives of Black people in the City of St. Petersburg. The

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current COVID-19 crisis and ongoing protests against police brutality have helped to highlight now, more than ever, that racism, not race, causes disparities for Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, the privileges that other Americans experience often inhibit them from fully understanding how racism impacts Black people in America - for example, the performance of simple tasks like driving while Black, walking/running in neighborhoods, wearing a hoodie, going to the store, eating ice cream in your own home, or just going to a park all come with certain risk not experienced by others. Concerned parents prepare their Black youth at an early age by having "The Talk" with their children in order to attempt to protect them; and

WHEREAS, local, state, and national leaders across the country are declaring racism a public health crisis or emergency; and

WHEREAS, in Florida only two cities/counties, Hillsborough and Manatee on September 16, 2020 and November 11, 2020, respectively, has made a declaration; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association, National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have declared racism as a public health crisis, this Council believes that now is the time to do the same. The disparities caused by racism that we have outlined in this resolution represent a public health crisis which affects us all; and

WHEREAS, we as a governmental body have a responsibility to ensure an optimal quality of life for all of our Black residents of St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Petersburg has worked diligently to promote racial equality, inclusion and diversity in city government and the community in direct response to addressing traditional reactions to race as an identified stumbling block for career advancement and employment opportunities in our country; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Petersburg has been designated as a City of Equity, City of Compassion, and a City of Peace; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Petersburg was the first and only city in the nation to raise a flag outside city hall in honor of the father of Black History and to mark the beginning of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, under the current administration, according to 2016 Census data, the city's Black unemployment has decreased significantly; the Black community's income grew; the Black poverty rate decreased significantly, and there has a historically significant increase in Black employment and earnings; now

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Petersburg City Council hereby declares racism as a public health crisis in the City of St. Petersburg that affects all members of our society on a local, state, and national level and demands action from all levels of government and society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of St. Petersburg recommits its full attention to improving the quality of life and health of our Black City of St. Petersburg residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Petersburg City Council advocates for relevant policies that improve health in the Black community, and support local, state, and federal initiatives that advance social justice, while also encouraging individual member advocacy to dismantle systemic racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of St. Petersburg will assess our current and proposed ordinances, and internal policies and procedures, as well as their implementation, to ensure racial equity is a core element of our government, communicate the results of assessment, and determine the appropriate interval for reassessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of St. Petersburg will create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion staff position and/or a taskforce to engage residents, businesses, and nonprofits to achieve community-centered solutions that address the legacy of racial injustices faced by Black communities, and identify specific activities to increase diversity and to incorporate anti-racism principles across membership, leadership, staffing and contracting in the City of St. Petersburg; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of St. Petersburg will seriously consider the findings and implement the recommendations of the Commission to Study Racism in St. Petersburg; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of St. Petersburg will support on-going racial equity training with the goal of reaching all City of St. Petersburg leadership and staff and encourage racial equity training among all community partners, grantees, vendors, and contractors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this City Council urges other governmental bodies to declare racism as a public health crisis and to immediately take steps to intentionally address and support methods that will strategically reduce the long-term impact and public health disparities of systemic racism; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the St. Petersburg City Council requests that the City Clerk forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, Pinellas County's State Legislative delegation, Pinellas County School Board, and the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners.

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## Youth and Family Services Referral List

Topic	Return Date	Referral Date	Prior Dates	Referred By	Staff	Notes
First Tee of St. Petersburg Youth Enrichment Program	TBD	1/23/20 7/30/19	9/05/19 8/15/19	Wheeler-Bowman	Rick Waltman and Bill Darling	1/23/20 - CM Wheeler-Bowman referred a resolution approving a transfer of \$18,540 to YSF to complete the emergent needs matrix 9/5/19 - Council reviewed the submitted documents and determined measurable objectives to still be needed. 8/15/19 - CM Gerdes moved approval on the condition a written curriculum with measurable objectives be presented to full Council
Childhood Homelessness Quarterly Report	Quarterly	1/5/2021	5/06/21 1/28/21		Theresa Jones	5/06/21 - 3rd Quarter Report provided by Theresa Jones attached to agenda packet 1/28/21 – Quarterly Report given to Committee by April Lott LCSW, President and CEO of Directions for Living
Boley Centers, Inc. update regarding the Summer Youth Intern Program (SYIP) and After-School Youth Employment Program (ASYEP)	5/20/2021	3/18/2021		Deborah Figgs-Sanders	Susan Ajoc	3/18/21 – CM Deborah Figgs-Sanders referend the update to Y&FS committee.
Declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis	7/22/2021	2/11/2021		Amy Foster	Jane Wallace	2/11/21 - CM Amy Foster refered the discussion topic to the Y&FS committee.
						<b>Updated: May 20, 2021</b>