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MAYOR

E.O. 2019-004

May 7, 2019

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY CREATING A VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE TO DRAFT AN ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE INJURIES AND DEATHS DUE TO VIOLENCE IN JERSEY CITY

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor of the City of Jersey City by law, I hereby issue the following Executive Order:

WHEREAS, violence has terrible effects on individuals and communities, inflicting suffering, breeding fear and distrust, and rending the social fabric; and

WHEREAS, people of color and people in low-income communities face a disproportionate risk of injury and death from violence; and

WHEREAS, violence and the perception of violence inhibits the enjoyment, opportunity, and development of the Jersey City community;

WHEREAS, no level of violence is acceptable in our community; and

WHEREAS, the prevention of violence requires coordinated and cooperative efforts from many different organizations, people, and from varied places; and

WHEREAS, the experience of other cities has shown that treating violence as a health issue using evidence-based public health strategies can result in prevention of violent incidents and reduction in violence-caused injuries and deaths; and

WHEREAS, the experience of other cities has shown that such strategies are best developed and implemented by a focused and cooperative working group, which is informed by stakeholders, especially the people most affected and most at risk of violence; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by law as Mayor of the City of Jersey City, I hereby issue the following Executive Order establishing a multi-disciplinary Violence Prevention Task Force to lead a planning effort to establish an Action Plan to reduce violence-caused injuries and deaths in Jersey City.

A. Creation of a Violence Prevention Task Force

There is hereby created a Violence Prevention Task Force which shall draft a Violence Prevention Action Plan within one (1) year from the date of this Executive Order for the Municipal Council's consideration.

B. Violence Prevention

The Task Force shall:

1. Publish a Violence Prevention Action Plan which shall provide policy makers with a comprehensive proposal to violence in Jersey City and which shall propose both short-term and long-term data-driven strategies complete with measurable goals;
2. Gather and analyze data related to violence, including but not limited to data from law enforcement, emergency response, and hospitals;
3. Solicit information and input for the Violence Prevention Action Plan from subject matter experts and authorities, and from the public, especially the people and institutions most affected by and most at risk of violence;
4. Provide regular updates on the Action Plan's progress, violence prevention resources, as well as provide a way to solicit feedback from the public on violence-related concerns.
5. The Task Force may make preliminary recommendations for actions by any City Departments.

C. Membership, Terms and Removal

1. The Violence Prevention Task Force shall consist of up to eleven (11) members, including the Director of the Division of Injury Prevention and the Director of the Division of Community Development, who shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

In addition the task force shall consist of the following members:

The Mayor or his or her designee;
The Chief of Police or his or her designee;
The Director of Recreation or his or her designee;
The Director of the Jersey City Housing Authority or his or her designee;
The Superintendent of the Jersey City Board of Education or his or her designee;
A representative from the Robert Wood Johnson / Barnabas Health system, which operates the state designated Level II Trauma Center for Hudson County;
A representative from the Jersey City Anti-Violence Coalition Movement, the primary Jersey City community organization focused on preventing violence;
Up to two community representatives appointed by the Mayor.

2. The Violence Prevention Task Force shall expire after one year following the issuance of this Order and it shall be renewable at the option of the Mayor. All the members shall be appointed by the Mayor and shall serve for a term of one (1) year. Vacancies created by resignation or otherwise shall be filled by the Mayor for the completion of the term.
3. All members of the Task Force, with the exception of the Co-Chairs, shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and can be removed from the Task Force by the Mayor at any time and for any reason.

4. The Task Force shall meet at least once every quarter at a time fixed by the Chairpersons. The Chairpersons may call special meetings as necessary.
5. The meetings shall not be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.

D. Clerical and Technical Assistance

For the purposes of effectuating the goals of this Order, the Co-Chairs shall have the authority to create a budget, subject to the approval of the Mayor and Municipal Council, to meet the material needs of the Task Force. The Co-Chairs shall be empowered use their staff and resources to provide for the clerical and technical needs of the Task Force.

E. Cooperation with City Departments and Agencies

All City departments and agencies shall cooperate with the work of the Task Force to the degree possible and permitted by law.

G. Effective Date

This Order shall be effective immediately. It shall be kept on file in the Offices of the City Clerk and the Business Administrator and it will also be made available to the public.



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