

AGENDA

Youth Services Committee
Thursday, September 18, 2014
8:30 a.m.

Room 100

Members and Alternates: Councilmembers Amy Foster (Chair), Bill Dudley, Charlie Gerdes,
and Karl Nurse; Alternate—Steve Kornell

Support Staff: Mike Jefferis, Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Call to Order and Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes for Youth Services Committee—July 24, 2014
- C. Agenda Items
 1. Youth Services Priorities
- D. New Business
 1. Next Meeting Date—Thursday, October 16, 2014
- E. Adjournment

City of St. Petersburg
YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 24, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m.

Present: Committee Chair Amy Foster; Councilmembers Bill Dudley, and Charles Gerdes

Also Present: Mike Jefferies, Parks & Recreation Director, Kim Proano, Assistant City Attorney and Heather Worley, Assistant to the City Clerk.

Absent: Councilmembers Karl Nurse and Steve Kornell (alternate)

Committee Chair Foster called the meeting to order with the above persons present. Committee Chair Foster also moved for approval of the June 19, 2014 minutes as amended. All were in favor of the motion.

In connection with the new business, Civil Citation Update, Committee Chair Foster commented that she had been able to speak with the Public Defender's Office and was informed that youth did not need fingerprints for mug shots. Also, if a juvenile is taken to the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) then fingerprints and mug shots must be obtained. However, they will later be pulled and destroyed. Additionally, Committee Chair Foster explained that the Department of Juvenile Justice has directed its focus and philosophy from the incarceration of youth to their successful rehabilitation. The topic of arrested youth not getting the services that might provide training and skills guiding them to a path of success was touched upon as well as the need for an accurate way to measure results. Finally, service programs such as Clearwater's Operation Graduate and the proposed Evening Reporting Centers, an after school sanctuary providing tutoring and community service opportunities were considered.

Committee Chair Foster explained that a major area of concern is the gap of time between when the juvenile commits the offense and when the juvenile is enrolled in an aversion program. Typically the gap of time can be three weeks or more during which time the family may be experiencing crisis. Committee Chair Foster discussed that it is important to focus on allocating staff time within the Police Department to assist the family and youth during the transition period. Another area of interest is the possibility of using drug bust and forfeiture money obtained by the Police Department in order to fund additional resources. Lastly, it was discussed that the Sixth Judicial Circuit was selected to participate in a grant for a School Pathways to Juvenile Justice System Project and will begin to have meetings intended to build upon existing efforts.

Committee Chair Foster briefly reviewed the recommendations for improvement by the St. Petersburg Police Department, Youth Services Division, to include:

- Fewer transports to JAC by officers
- Awareness providing Civil Citation Programs
- Refresher training for officers
- Developing a handout for parents/ guardians describing the program

- Address the gap time between offense and intervention

Suggestions for the City of St. Petersburg Administration include:

- Designating a contact within the city network to provide a list of community service needs to JAC
- Having a city contact to supply a list of service providers within the city
- Utilize city resources such as community resource centers

Councilmember Foster recommended a monthly or quarterly report be generated to include the number of transports, where the youth was transported, and if the committee recommendations are working.

Councilmember Gerdes explained that addressing the gap in time between the committed offense and when the juvenile and family receive intervention should be added to the list of recommendations and Committee Chair Foster agreed.

Councilmember Dudley moved with the second of Councilmember Gerdes to forward to full Council a resolution recommending certain policies to the Police Department and Administration for improvement of the Juvenile Civil Citation Program. All were in favor of the motion.

The next Youth Service Committee meeting will be held on August 21, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.