



Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys
Executive Office of the Mayor
Tony Dugger, Executive Director
202-545-3055 [o] | tony.dugger@dc.gov

MINUTES OF CFMB THIRD PUBLIC MEETING

HELD JUNE 29, 2016

WHEATLEY EDUCATION CAMPUS

1299 Neal Street, N.E.

The Public Meeting was called to Order by the Chairman, George Garrow, Esq. at 6:10 p.m. and he had each present Commissioner to introduce himself or herself. He then introduced Tony Dugger, Executive Director of CFMB who made introductory comments and provided an overview of the purpose and work of the Commission on Fathers, Men and Boys. Present at the meeting were Brett O. Greene, Vice-Chair, Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., Secretary, Tristian Wilkerson, Franklyn Malone, Silas Grant, Jelani Murrain, Elsie Scott and Don Smith. Dr. Ivory Toldson was absent.

A motion was then made and seconded that the Minutes of April 20, 2016 be received and approved, and the vote in favor was unanimous. Thereupon, Mr. Dugger introduced the Moderator and the Panel. The Moderator was Celeste Duffie, and the Panelists were Bret Mobley, Program Manager of Covenant House in Washington, D.C.; Juanita Price, Chief Executive Officer of the Hillcrest Family and Children Center (HFCC); Argie Weatherington, Staff Attorney at the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); Charles Thornton, Director of the Office of Returning Citizens (ORCA); and Deborah Carroll, Director of Department of Employment Services (DOES). The Panel focused on barriers to training and employment due to substance abuse in the District of Columbia and the impact of decriminalizing marijuana for personal use and the potential impact on getting and maintaining employment, and when criminal prosecution for abuses could be pursued. Ms. Weatherington emphasized OAG's interest in preventing and investigating small convenience stores selling the synthetic drug K-2 in the District of Columbia and the impact it has on our population. Mr. Thornton emphasized the relationship with CSOSA who are under supervision and getting them employment and drug usage impacts their conditions and subject to revocation of release in the community and most of the companies he deals with have a no-tolerance policy and they are disqualified from jobs involving manufacturing and selling of products. He further emphasized that the use of synthetic drugs is no different than using PCP and such individuals are viewed as unpredictable and unreliable and do not socialize well.

The discussion also dealt with the issue of smoking marijuana in public and establishing private clubs, an issue being considered by the District of Columbia City Council at that time. After the Panel presentations, the Commissioners and members of the audience were allowed to make comments and ask questions. Among the comments was the question of the use of marijuana on employment opportunities and maintaining one's job as employers could have tighter requirements. Further, questions were raised about adults smoking marijuana around young children who would inhale the

smoke and whether this would impair their alertness in school and studies and lead to more poor performance and youth dropping out of school. Also questions were raised about smoke moving through air conditioning systems into unwanted apartments or units of persons occupying high rise apartment buildings.

Issues were raised as to monitoring of results in Colorado and the State of Washington where statistics over the past two (2) years have shown an increase in traffic accidents and injuries from the combined use of alcohol and marijuana and also an increase in marijuana use among teenage youth, and more hospitalizations and emergencies of youth being taken to hospitals for treatment from over ingesting marijuana. Finally, it was noted that there are studies in progress suggesting that such usage of marijuana could lead to increase usage so as to become chronic reducing I.Q. level and future performance of the individual and experimenting with other drug substances much more detrimental to that individual's health, employment opportunities and well-being in the future.

Several members of the audience raised similar concerns about the adverse and negative effect on employment and retention in employment, or advancement in the employment, and concerns about increased usage of not only illegal drug usage, but also synthetic drug products on which individuals can get similar highs and effects, detrimental to the health and wellness of the entire community and greatly increasing the healthcare costs in the community, separate and apart from alleged criminal activity, and maintaining the high rate of incarceration of minority youth and those persons living in poverty.

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and attendees were invited to partake of available refreshments and to network with each other.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.

Secretary