

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 5:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Walter Earley
Shelly Weil
Regine Celestin
Annette Annechild
Victor Kirson
Sinam Al-Khafaji
Joseph Ingram
Brittany Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jimmy Weatherspoon
Samuel Menard
Jason Dollard
Jose Herrera
John Jackson

STAFF PRESENT:

Assistant Police Chief, Joseph Milenkovic
Police Legal Advisor, Cathy Kozol

STAFF ABSENT:

None

GUEST OTHERS:

None

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mr. Shelly Weil, at 5:37 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

No introductions were made.

3. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. Annechild made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Ingram. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2009:

Ms. Annechild made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Earley. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Crime Update

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, advised that crime was reduced 20% prior to July 2009 but property crime has increased thereafter. Part One crime was reduced approximately 8.5% by the end of August 2009. However, there were forty vehicle burglaries in September 2009 and seventeen residential burglaries. There has also been a rash of robberies in different areas of the City.

B. Budget Update

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, stated that the City Commission came to a 7.39 consensus for the millage rate with the hopes of lowering it. He suggested that Board members attend the City Commission meetings and contact the City Commission with any input they may have.

Ms. Annechild stated that her taxes were lowered significantly.

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, stated that 55% of the taxes decreased however 45% increased.

Ms. Kozol advised that there is a recapture rate. She explained that the original value of some older homes is lower than the decreased value.

Mr. Kirson stated that the City Manager suggested increasing the millage to 7.25 however no one made a motion to support his recommendation. He suggested that residents speak at the City Commission meeting prior to the Commissioners casting their vote.

C. Board Member Beat Coverage/Officer Liaisons

Mr. Weil spoke of going out into the community and to different organizations and speak about the Police Advisory Board and the Police Department. He encouraged discussion regarding how the Board members can introduce themselves to the community.

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, spoke of different homeowners associations visiting the Police Department for a brief overview of how the Police Department and police officers function.

Mr. Weil presented binders to everyone which contained useful information for the Board members including a map of the City. He explained that Mr. Al-Khafaji is experienced in mapping and will assist in coding each individual in their respective beat on the map.

Mr. Al-Khafaji stated that with an address, he can color code and plot the beats on the map.

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, advised that the Police Department's analyst, Patina Santo, can assist with mapping.

Mr. Weil presented a card titled "hot spot campaign" used by the Police Department for the anonymous reporting of crime. He suggested that Board members hand these cards to residents as they patrol their specific patrol district.

Ms. Annechild suggested sending an email notification to residents with the results after an incident occurs or an arrest is made. She feels that people want to be reassured and informed that a certain occurrence will not affect them.

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, advised that some information cannot be relayed to residents such as domestics. He noted that some information is also not important for residents to know unless it is crime related.

Board members suggested ways that the project of patrolling specific patrol districts will be beneficial to the community.

Ms. Annechild suggested that they discuss how the process will begin starting with meeting their Police Liaison.

Mr. Weil advised that Police Chief, Anthony Strianese, is establishing a list of officers who will work as liaisons.

Mr. Earley suggested meeting with Homeowners Associations.

Mr. Ingram suggested Board members be introduced by a police officer.

Board members discussed the pros and cons of being more involved in the community.

Mr. Al-Khafaji suggested having monthly discussions so that the Board members will know what information needs to be shared with members of the community.

Board members discussed being contacted by residents if necessary.

Mr. Kirson felt that receiving telephone calls would be a nuisance.

Ms. Annechild stated that suspicious activity would be reported to the Police Department. She feels that the Board members would be a conduit of information.

Mr. Earley spoke of an informational article previously advertised about the Police Advisory Board.

Ms. Annechild spoke of neighborhood watch programs.

Assistant Chief, Joseph Milenkovic, stated that there are formal and informal neighborhood watch programs. He noted that the neighborhood watch is a network of people who care about the community and want to be involved.

Ms. Annechild spoke of a community awareness program that could be relayed to the residents.

Mr. Weil suggested that the Board members define what it is they would really like to do as far as outreach to the community.

Mr. Weil spoke of how the student members can be informative at school.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Celestin spoke of the absence of a place to hang out after school.

Mr. Al-Khafaji wanted to know if students would prefer the Board members meeting with a uniformed officer. He was unsure as to whether it was best to meet with an officer for the sake of getting honest answers.

Ms. Celestin and Ms. Smith feel that only the Criminal Justice students will talk to Police Officers.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

None

7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Police Advisory Board patrol district liaison.
- Discuss ideas as to how the Police Advisory Board can serve the community.
- Budget update.
- Crime update.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

None

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Annechild made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Kirson. Said motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Shelly Weil, Chairperson, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Venice Cobb, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

The undersigned is the Secretary of the Police Advisory Board and the information provided herein is the minutes of the meeting of said Police Advisory Board of August 10, 2009, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the Board on _____.

Venice Cobb, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

NOTE TO READER: If the minutes you have received are not completed as indicated above, this means they are not the official minutes of the Police Advisory Board. They will become official minutes only after review and approval, which may involve some amendments, additions or deletions.