

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007, 5:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Jackson
Shelly Weil
Jimmy Weatherspoon
Annette Annechild
Jose Herrera
Charles Ridley
Sharon Austin
Joshua Bressler
Jose Ramirez

MEMBERS ABSENT:

L'Tanya Allen
Joseph Ferrer
Altanese Jean-Louis
Karen St. Fort

STAFF PRESENT:

Cathy Kozol
Chief Larry Schroeder

STAFF ABSENT:

None

GUEST OTHERS:

Officer Richard Jacobson
Reverend Matthew Mitchell
Shirley Johnson
Michele Carter
Nate Rolle
Bishop Winston Hudson
James Johnson
Elijah Davis Jr.
Bernard Quince
Alice Finst

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Charles Ridley, at 5:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

At this time, the guests introduced themselves.

3. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Mr. Weatherspoon made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2007:

Ms. Annechild made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 9, 2007, seconded by Mr. Bressler. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on “Thou Shall Not Kill” - Reverend Mitchell

At this time, Mr. Ridley spoke about the “Thou Shall Not Kill” action plan and then introduced Reverend Matthew Mitchell.

Reverend Matthew Mitchell spoke about parents being more involved in the lives of their children. He also spoke about residents working together to keep the youth off the streets.

Mr. Bernard Quince fears that children over the age of thirteen will commit crimes because that there are no activities in place for the summer. Mr. Quince then stated that he does not feel it is wise for the children from the different recreational centers to only interact with children from the center they attend. He feels that a program should be established which will allow the children to socialize with each other.

Ms. Shirley Johnson spoke about educational aspect of the “Thou Shall Not Kill” program. She believes that lack of education is a major contributing factor to the problems with today’s youth.

Bishop Winston Hudson stated that the Clergy’s have been meeting on a regular basis to support issues that will make the community a safe place. He stated that males that were incarcerated are coming back to the community and need help.

Ms. Austin stated that parents are taking their children from the public schools and placing them in private or magnet schools. She feels that the community suffers if the children are removed from the public schools.

Mr. Herrera feels that the parents should be more involved in the lives of their children. He feels that the churches, community, and parents should be involved in the rehabilitation of the youth that were incarcerated. He does not feel that public schools are the cause of the problems with the youth. Mr. Herrera feels that it would be beneficial for adults involved in the community to talk to the youth. He feels that the target age should be children that are ten years old. He then suggested having summer Olympics to keep the youth involved. Mr. Herrera inquired as to whether the Life Skills program is being introduced to individuals that were incarcerated.

Mr. Ridley does not believe Life Skills is being introduced to the youth that were incarcerated. He went on to state that one method of positive reform is to have core teams meet the individuals when they are released.

Mr. Herrera stated that he does not feel it is the responsibility of the justice system or the school system to provide programs for the youth. He believes that it is the responsibility of the community to provide the programs.

Ms. Annechild suggested implementing a marketing element where residents dedicated one hour to the youth.

Mr. Weil offered to lead a scouting program for the youth.

Mr. Weatherspoon agrees with Mr. Herrera's statement regarding parents being more involved in the lives of their children. He feels that the youth are not being supervised by their parents.

Mr. Ridley stated that re-establishing and creating support systems at the family and community level was discussed by the community. He also feels that parents should become involved.

Ms. Annechild feels that parents are not involved because of their way of life throughout their generation.

Ms. Annechild and Ms. Austin believe that there is a lack of motivation in the children because of boredom.

Ms. Annechild made a motion for the Police Advisory Board to endorse the community's plan, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Said motion passed 8-1. Mr. Herrera dissented.

The Board members would like to coordinate a workshop between the Public Art Advisory Board, the group from the "Thou Shalt Not Kill" program and the City Commission to discuss their efforts.

Chief Schroeder will coordinate getting the Police Advisory's Board on an upcoming workshop agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Traffic Proposal Outcomes-Officer Jacobson

Officer Richard Jacobson discussed driver education and awareness. He discussed how the Police Department identifies traffic problems. He spoke of instances where drivers traveled over the speed limit in the area of SD Spady Elementary School. He advised that a radar unit was installed on a telephone pole which is used to measure the number of vehicles traveling in a particular area, as well as, the speed the vehicle is traveling. Officer Jacobson stated that numerous officers are being stationed at a particular area for enforcement purposes. He then spoke about the possibility of flashing lights being installed at the start of school zones.

Ms. Austin inquired as to whose responsibility it is to prune the foliage from the school signs.

Officer Jacobson advised that that the City is responsible for the median area. He then advised that he will find out who is responsible for the sign close to the sidewalk area.

Mr. Weatherspoon wanted to know if there was a difference in the speeding results after the radar equipment was installed in the area of SD Spady Elementary School.

Officer Jacobson stated that the results have not yet been read.

Ms. Annechild spoke of an instance when she saw children holding "no speeding signs" in the area of their school zones.

Officer Jacobson advised that there will be traffic enforcement on East Atlantic Avenue by the railroad crossings.

Mr. Herrera wanted to know how traffic is handled during a major event which causes traffic to be backed up. He also wanted to know if permits are obtained by business owners if they are going to have a gathering at their establishment.

Officer Jacobson stated the business owner would be required to obtain a permit under those circumstances.

7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

Discussion led by Chief Schroeder regarding the Police Department's tip line.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Finst feels that students should be screened upon entering first grade.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson, Charles Ridley, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27 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 May 14, 2007, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the Board on _____.

Venice Cobb, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

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S/City Clerk/Boards/Police Advisory Board/minutes