

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007, 5:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

L'Tanya Allen
Jose Ramirez
Shelly Weil
Joshua Bressler
John Jackson
Sharon Austin
Annette Annechild
Joseph Ferrer
Charles Ridley
Jose Herrera

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jimmy Weatherspoon
Altanese Jean-Louis
Karen St-Fort

STAFF PRESENT:

Cathy Kozol
Chief Larry Schroeder

STAFF ABSENT:

None

GUEST OTHERS:

Major Craig Hartman

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Charles Ridley, at 5:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mr. Jimmy Weatherspoon, Altanese Jean-Louis and Karen St. Fort were absent.

3. INTRODUCTIONS:

None

4. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Police Chief, Larry Schroeder, stated that he would like the Board to view a DVD recording regarding gang violence. He noted that the Education Board will also be present to view the recording.

Mr. Herrera made a motion to amend the agenda to reflect the viewing of the DVD, seconded by Ms. Annechild. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Herrera made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 11, 2006, seconded by Mr. Weil. Said motion passed unanimously.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Holiday Projects

Police Chief, Larry Schroeder, spoke about the toys that are packaged by the Police Department and donated to families.

B. Annual Report

Chief Schroeder distributed the 2006 annual report for the Board members' review. He spoke about the first annual Run for Pun, a charitable motorcycle event. He also spoke about the nine-member Honor Guard which is officially in service.

Mr. Ridley asked Chief Schroeder to elaborate on the Police Department's goals which are noted in the annual report.

Chief Schroeder spoke about the efforts of the Coalition for Community Renewal formerly known as Weed and Seed.

C. Gang Violence Video

At this time, the Police Advisory Board and the Education Board members viewed the video about gang violence.

A member from the Education Board stated that it has to be determined how young adults can be deterred from joining a gang.

Commissioner Fetzer inquired as to whether steps are being taken involving all municipalities to address gang violence.

Chief Schroeder stated that County law enforcement is involved and is assisting with solving the problem.

A member from the Education Board inquired as to where the gang members are getting guns and ammunitions.

Chief Schroeder advised that guns and ammunitions are obtained from burglaries and robberies. He also stated that they are purchased as well.

A member of the Education Board wanted to know where the guns are being sold.

Chief Schroeder stated that the guns are sold at different locations and are easily obtained.

Ms. Kaiser from the Education Board explained the role of their Board. She explained that the three categories they focus on are literacy, parental involvement, and community partnerships. She stated that half of our children live in poverty and feels that there is strong correlation between poverty and crime. Ms. Kaiser feels that the poverty cycle may be broken through education by mentoring. She added that a survey was sent to the schools regarding mentoring. There were 2000 replies stating that mentoring was needed. She would like to see a Delray Beach mentoring program implemented.

Ms. Meeks inquired as to whether there is a program similar to D.A.R.E that educates the youth about gangs.

Chief Schroeder stated that Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) have been implemented in schools. He noted that he is unsure as to whether it is a Palm Beach County School District program.

Ms. Annechild states that she has seen young adults wearing gang attire at the bus stops. She inquired about the current school dress code.

A student member of the Education Board stated that they are able to wear any type of attire as long as it is covering.

Chief Schroeder stated that a lot of the youth that are in gangs are not in school.

Mr. Herrera inquired as to whether there is a community court in Delray Beach.

Chief Schroeder stated that there was a community court held on Saturday some time ago. It was beneficial for a while but was not successful. He then noted that the County has a community court in West Palm Beach.

Police Legal Advisor, Cathy Kozol, spoke about a Code Enforcement Hearing Board that may be implemented but will not be a municipal court.

A student member of the Education Board inquired as to whether anything is being done about the students who utilize gang signs.

Chief Schroeder stated that they would have to know what the signs mean before anything can be done.

A member of the Education Board asked if there is a gang unit in the Police Department.

Chief Schroeder stated that there are detectives and officers who focus on gangs.

Mr. Ridley spoke about the individuals from different community groups who attended the last Board meeting and the outcome of their discussions. He feels that the awareness should be increased and that residents should not be afraid of what is happening in their neighborhoods. He noted that a community forum will take place on Saturday, January 13, 2006, at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, located at 125 SW 8th Street in Delray Beach.

Mr. Weil spoke about the Anti-Defamation League and how this organization is making a difference with the youth.

Ms. Austin stated that she is concerned about the reality of the situation, as well as, the stereotype.

Ms. Annechild feels that there is an affiliation between the clothing someone wears and individuals that are gang members.

Chief Schroeder stated that some individuals think it is cool to appear to be a gang member but is not.

Mr. Ferrer inquired as to whether gangs are afraid of the police.

Chief Schroeder stated that they are not afraid of the consequences of their actions. He also noted that it has to be determined how to stop the youth from looking to gang members as role models.

Ms. Annechild agrees that early intervention involving mentoring is beneficial.

Mr. Ferrer inquired as to whether family counselors get involved in domestic related problems.

Chief Schroeder stated that family counselors do get involved in domestic related problems.

8. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

Traffic Issues

9. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Herrera is concerned about individuals crossing the railroad tracks to visit the Bru's Room Restaurant.

Chief Schroeder stated that it is FEC's responsibility to construct a fence.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson, Charles Ridley, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:07 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 January 8, 2007, 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.
S/City Clerk/Boards/Police Advisory Board/minutes