

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009 5:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Walter Earley
Shelly Weil
Sinam Al-Khafaji
Annette Annechild
Samuel Menard
Regine Celestin
John Jackson
Jimmy Weatherspoon
Jason Dollard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joshua Bressler
Grace Maybee
Jose Herrera
Joseph Ingram

STAFF PRESENT:

Chief Anthony Strianese
Cathy Kozol
Captain Thomas Mitchell

STAFF ABSENT:

GUEST OTHERS:

Cameron Buntin
Joe Petri

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mr. Shelly Weil, at 5:36 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

Guest and staff were introduced at this time.

3. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. Annechild wanted discussion on crime added to the agenda.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded Mr. Al-Khafaji. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2009:

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

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Reminder of the Next Police Academy

Captain Thomas Mitchell spoke about the upcoming Police Academy advising Board members that the 10 week long program begins on February 18, 2009. He stated that the program will give them an overview of the operation of the Police Department.

B. Results of the Anti-Defamation League Selection of Officer of the Year for the State of Florida

Mr. Weil briefly spoke about the selection process and advised that Mr. William Daniels, Community Relations Specialist, for the United States Attorney's Office, was selected to receive the award by the Anti-Defamation League. Mr. Weil spoke further of ADL and their involvement with the Police Department and the Community.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Crime Statistics

Chief Strianese spoke of an incident that occurred two weeks ago where a 17 year old pregnant female was pulled into the bushes at SE 7th Avenue and raped. The male was tracked and apprehended in Cleveland Ohio. He went on to discuss another incident in the Target shopping plaza where a sixty-nine year old woman was thrown to the ground in an attempted rape. Two shop owners heard her screams and aided her by detaining the attacker. There was also discussion about a robbery that took place at the 2200 block of Seacrest Boulevard where arrests were made.

At this time Chief Strianese presented the Part One Crime Statistics which contained the arrest totals and breakdown of crime for December 2008.

Mr. Weil inquired about the location of sex offenders being placed in one area of the City.

Chief Strianese advised that there is a map that notes where the offenders are located.

Police Legal Advisor, Cathy Kozol, advised that they cannot live within 1500 feet of a bus stop or school.

Mr. Weil asked if residents have to be notified when offenders relocate to their neighborhood.

Chief Strianese explained that sexual predators and sexual offenders carry mandatory notifications regarding relocation.

7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Elimination of crossing guards at Atlantic High School.
- Budget Discussion.

- Monthly crime statistics.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Weatherspoon spoke of parents' concerns because of the loss of the crossing guards at Atlantic High School.

Chief Strianese stated that approximately 6-9 crossing guards throughout the City have been eliminated due to the budget cuts. He noted that crossing guards are usually not provided at high schools however the City will budget for one crossing guard at Atlantic High.

Mr. Weatherspoon stated that the parents are concerned about the potential danger to the children due to the major highway. He advised that the money to fund crossing guards at the school should have already been in the budget for the school year.

Chief Strianese stated that he will do research and discuss this issue further at the next meeting. He did note that the funding of crossing guards was not in the budget.

Ms. Annechild asked if volunteers could be responsible for the duties of the crossing guards.

Chief Strianese stated that volunteers cannot be crossing guards because there are statutory requirements for minimum training necessary to direct or redirect the flow of traffic. He also noted that the hiring of crossing guards is contracted out to a company and does not involve the City.

Board members discussed their intent on attending the next Police Academy. Members who plan on attending are Regine Celestin, Jason Dollard, Sinam Al-Khafaji and Walter Earley.

Ms. Annechild suggested members attend the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program at the Fire Department.

Mr. Menard stated that he met with his Pastor and Chief Strianese and discussed the rumors in the Haitian community and are working together to solve the problem.

Mr. Weil spoke about the map regarding diversity which is located at the library. He encouraged everyone to visit and enter in their information. The theme of the map is "A World of Diversity in a City of Harmony".

Mr. Weil spoke about the Israeli Scouts and their upcoming visit to the Palm Beach Juvenile Detention Center where they will sing songs. He invited Board members to visit with them.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Joe Petri thanked the members and stated that he was impressed with the Board discussion.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

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

There being no further business, Mr. Weil, Chairperson, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:28 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 February 9, 2009, 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