

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008, 5:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Walter Earley
Shelly Weil
Joshua Bressler
John Jackson
Grace Maybee
Joseph Ferrer
Annette Annechild
Vanessa Francois
Jose Herrera

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sinam Al-Khafaji
Joseph Ingram
Jimmy Weatherspoon
Samuel Menard

STAFF PRESENT:

Cathy Kozol
Chief Anthony Strianese

STAFF ABSENT:

None

GUEST OTHERS:

Wayne R. LaPorte
Priscilla Harris
Mickie Claxton

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mr. Shelly Weil, at 5:35 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

Police Chief, Anthony Strianese, introduced himself. Guests in attendance introduced themselves as well.

3. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Mr. Earley made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Herrera. Said motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ms. Annechild made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 9, 2008, seconded by Mr. Jackson. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Summer Camp Report

Ms. Annechild presented photographs taken by the children attending the summer camp. She spoke of the upcoming mock trial and pizza party on July 29th which is also the last day of camp. She spoke about hosting the back to school drive for the give-a-way of school supplies at the Police Department on August 15th. Ms. Annechild advised that school supplies and clothing was donated to the summer camp program.

Ms. Herrera stated that he hopes volunteers will be recruited at an upcoming mentor program at Florida Atlantic University.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ms. Priscilla Harris – 9-1-1 and Security in Neighborhood

Ms. Priscilla Harris spoke of an incident that occurred where no police officer arrived at her home even though a 9-1-1 call was made. The police officer inadvertently went to the incorrect house and cleared the scene afterwards. Ms. Harris also stated that an officer did not arrive at her neighbor's home after a 9-1-1 call was made. Ms. Harris expressed her concerns regarding incidents where the Police Department was called but the incidents are not listed on the neighborhood website that list all service calls. She also voiced her concern regarding the lack of police visibility of police officers on patrol in her neighborhood.

Mr. Weil suggested that the matter be investigated by the Police Department before being addressed by the Police Advisory Board.

Board members agreed that matters such as these should be first addressed by the Police Department. In the event of no resolution, the Board members will be available for an open discussion.

Chief Strianese will complete an investigation and present the results to the Board members for review at the next meeting.

Mr. Earley advised that, being the president of Sabal Lakes III, he was contacted by Ms. Harris. He recommended that she either speak to the Police Department or attend a Police Advisory Board meeting regarding her concerns.

Mr. Ferrer commended Ms. Harris on her report. He then suggested that she contact the president of the Lake Ida neighborhood regarding strategies for working with the Police Department to make her neighborhood safe.

B. Introduction and Conversation with the New Chief

At this time, Chief Strianese introduced himself. He stated that he is committed to the Police Advisory Board and is aware of the challenges ahead. He advised that there will be no loss of service to the community due to budget cuts. He then noted that he has ideas to implement but they will be contingent on the approval of the budget.

Mr. Herrera wanted to know whether or not there will be a loss of educational opportunities for officers.

Chief Strianese stated that he is unsure as to whether or not tuition reimbursement for police officers will be affected. He went on to advise that he is not in favor of discontinuing tuition reimbursement.

Mr. Herrera asked if the Police Department is recruiting new or certified officers.

Chief Strianese stated that certified and new officers will be hired. He noted that they will also recruit from the Criminal Justice Program at Atlantic High School.

C. Short and Long Term Goals

Mr. Ferrer wants the Board to be more involved in knowing what happens at the Police Department. He does not feel that the members should know first hand via the press as they did regarding the Police Department's budget.

Mr. Weil stated that the ordinance states the purpose of the committee. He does not feel that the Board should get involved in managing the Police Department. He feels that he is not knowledgeable enough to give recommendations regarding budgetary issues.

Mr. Ferrer does not want to manager the Police Department. He stated that he feels the role and function of the Board is to discuss what information needs to be conveyed to the community.

Mr. Weil does not feel that visiting various service clubs should be a role of the Police Advisory Board. He then noted that only one individual came to the meeting due to the ad that was published.

At this time, Mr. Weil read a letter drafted for distribution to the service clubs of Delray Beach.

Mr. Herrera feels that the role of the Police Advisory Board should be to be educated on changes or policies at the Police Department which should then be disseminated to the community. He does not feel that the Board members should visit service clubs.

Ms. Annechild is in favor of conveying information to the community by way of the letter drafted by Mr. Weil and Mr. Bressler.

Mr. Ferrer advised that the Police Chief needs help communicating to the City Commission and residents of Delray Beach.

Chief Strianese feels that there is a need for a Police Advisory Board. He noted that some individuals do not like to visit the Police Department as the building can seem to be intimidating to some. He then stated that incorrect information provided by the Budget Task Force is being discussed.

Mr. Herrera inquired about establishing a survey for residents to express what they feel the role of the Police Department should be in their community.

Chief Strianese advised that there is an annual survey done by the City.

Mr. Herrera suggested a short on-line survey which would be more convenience being that the annual survey contains over 300 pages.

Mr. Bressler stated that surveys are usually created to accomplish a specific goal. He feels that that objectives or goals have to first be determined.

Mr. Ferrer suggested having a special meeting to discuss long and short term goals, as well as, what new and old members are to expect as a member of the Police Advisory Board.

Mr Herrera will be the chair person for the committee discussing long and short term goals.

Mr. Weil would like to discuss whether or not the Board members will attend service clubs or homeowners association meetings.

Mr. Bressler stated that the letter drafted by him simply explains the function of the Board and announces its presence. The letter also invites residents to attend the meetings. Mr. Bressler does not recommend attending service clubs or homeowners association meetings. He noted that the text regarding the Police Advisory Board will be inputted on the back of the City's water bill and an article will be advertised in the Hometown Connection. He feels that input from the community should be discussed prior to deciding the long and short term goals.

D. Approval of Letter to Associations and Service Clubs

Board members approved the draft letter to be distributed.

Mr. Herrera made a motion to distribute the drafted publication to residents, service clubs and Homeowners Association but not attend their meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ferrer. Said motion passed unanimously.

Chief Strianese advised that it is possible to have a portion of the letter read on the Police Department's rolling voicemail for the public to hear when they call and are placed on hold.

7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

Chief Strianese will give an update regarding Ms. Priscilla Harris.

Long and short term goals will be discussed.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Board members spoke about the selection of individuals to the Police Advisory Board. They also spoke of their term expiration date.

Mr. Herrer feels that a non-biased individual should be involved in determining the long and short term goals.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Herrera made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Ferrer. Said motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairperson, Mr. Shelly Weil, declared the meeting adjourned at 7:03 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 July 14, 2008, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the Board on _____.

Venice Cobb, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

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