

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007, 5:30 P.M.
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jose Herrera
Jimmy Weatherspoon

STAFF PRESENT:

Cathy Kozol
Chief Larry Schroeder

STAFF ABSENT:

None

GUEST OTHERS:

Arete Friedman
Renelda Mack

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Charles Ridley, at 5:34 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS:

Board members introduced themselves to the guests in attendance.

3. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Chief Schroeder asked that Item 5A under New Business be removed.

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2007:

Mr. Bressler referred to page 2 under new business. He stated that the word "now" should be "no".

Ms. Annechild made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 13, 2007, as amended, seconded by Mr. Bressler. Said motion passed unanimously.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Renelda Mack (State Attorney's Office)

Mr. Weil introduced Ms. Renelda Mack from the State Attorney's Office.

Ms. Mack spoke about a Civil Rights Unit that was implemented at the State Attorney's Office approximately ten years ago which focuses on bias oriented crimes. She spoke of bias oriented crimes such as murder, criminal mischief, and simple batteries. Ms. Mack explained that the mission of the State Attorney's Office is to determine how to prosecute and punish, as well as, rehabilitate and educate the individuals who commit crimes. She went on to advise that community resources are used to assist in the process. Ms. Mack spoke about Mr. Shelly Weil who is actively involved with the Boy Scouts and the Israeli Scouts. Mr. Weil and the Scouts visited the Juvenile Detention Center and shared through song and dance. The kids shared information in small groups. Another resource that is utilized is the Norton Museum of Art. At times, the individuals that commit bias oriented crimes are required to meet at the Norton Museum of Art with their parents and the Director of Cultural Affairs. Ms. Mack then spoke of an incident where individuals who defaced a family restroom at the Town Center Mall, a Judaic Store, as well as, cars parked in the parking lot. After entering pleas of guilty to the court, the individuals were required to meet with a holocaust survivor, as well as, the victims and have a family group conference. The defendants were able to better understand the impact of their wrong doing. The victims also had the opportunity to ask the defendants questions. Ms. Mack went on to state that she also works with Mr. Flip Shelke, an internationally acclaimed photo journalist, for educational purposes. She advised that people often think that someone being called a vile name or spewing hate is committing a bias oriented crime. She noted that the First Amendment provides for the freedom of speech. Therefore, spewing hate or calling someone a vile name cannot be pursued in the courtroom.

At this time, there was discussion regarding the criteria that has to be met in order for an incident to be considered a bias oriented crime.

Ms. Mack stated that to be considered a bias oriented crime a person has to personally select a victim because of a particular characteristic. She also noted that a crime that does meet the criteria to be considered a bias oriented crime may meet the criteria to be considered criminal mischief.

Ms. Annechild inquired as to whether an elderly person being taken advantage of by a caretaker is considered a bias oriented crime.

Ms. Mack stated that it does not meet the criteria to be considered a bias oriented crime but noted that there are State Statutes that prosecute crimes in which the elderly has been taken advantage of. She then noted that most offenders are required to watch a history of intolerance in America via a video titled "A Shadow of Hate".

6. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bressler feels that certain places in Delray Beach where vehicles are known to be unattended are targeted for criminal activity. He feels that cameras being installed would

reduce or eliminate criminal activity. He also feels that having store owners and business owners make efforts to monitor the parking lots would be beneficial as well.

Ms. Arete Friedman stated that crimes seem to occur at a fitness center parking lots or establishments where people may leave something of value in their vehicle. She then noted that in some case, this results in identify theft.

Mr. Bressler wanted to discuss a type of deterrence that would be a nominal cost to the City.

Ms. Allen inquired as to whether utilizing lockers at fitness centers to store valuables was an option.

Ms. Friedman stated that the theory is that valuables are left inside vehicles when someone parks at an establishment where they are not needed. She feels that there should be some type of security in the parking lots. Ms. Friedman feels that the business owners or the owner of the shopping centers should be made liable for what occurs in the parking lots.

Grace Maybee inquired as to whether more women than men are being targeted.

Chief Schroeder stated that women are not being targeted. He went on to state that the dog park, the beach and gyms are areas that are being targeted due to the fact that people tend to leave their valuables in their vehicles.

Ms. Austin stated that vehicles are often burglarized at daycare centers as well.

Mr. Ferrer stated that most of the business owners rent the building they occupy and are not responsible for what takes place there. He also stated that personal items should not be left in vehicles. He added that he feels that cameras are beneficial. Mr. Ferrer then suggested mandating business owners to install sufficient lighting and cameras in the parking lots before a building permit is approved.

Ms. Annechild stated that it is a personal responsibility when deciding to leave valuables in a vehicle and when attending an establishment that is not safe. She then noted that there have been burglaries that have been undetected by cameras.

Mr. Bressler suggested publicly acknowledging businesses that cooperate in the attempts to make their parking lot safer.

Ms. Friedman spoke of an incident in which a vehicle was vandalized in a gym parking lot. She notified an employee at the gym who was not helpful and did not attempt to contact the owner of the vehicle.

Mr. Bressler suggested implementing a program called "we watch the lot" in which a red sticker would be placed on the door of an establishment. Employees of the establishment would be asked to contact the Police Department when suspicious activity is seen.

Chief Schroeder stated that he will discuss the concept of the "we watch the lot" sticker in an upcoming Department Head meeting.

7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

None

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Ms. Austin noted that she saw police officers utilizing radar guns for the first time in Delray Beach.

Chief Schroeder stated that the use of lasers is common in Delray Beach.

Ms. Annechild spoke of an incident involving a delivery personnel and a resident. She noted that the police officer that responded showed gentle authority and took control of the situation.

Mr. Ferrer inquired about the Police Department's budget.

Chief Schroeder stated that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the department's capital purchases was reduced. He also advised that five vacancies for police officer positions have to be maintained.

Mr. Ferrer asked for a copy of the capital purchases.

Mr. Ridley thanked Chief Schroeder and Ms. Annechild for their leadership in implementing the summer program.

Mr. Ridley advised that the educational conference has been rescheduled for a date in October.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairperson, Charles Ridley, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:51 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 September 10, 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