

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Walter Earley  
Shelly Weil  
Sinam Al-Khafaji  
Annette Annechild  
Regine Celestin  
John Jackson  
Grace Maybee  
Joseph Ingram

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joshua Bressler  
Jose Herrera  
Jason Dollard  
Samuel Menard  
Jimmy Weatherspoon

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chief Anthony Strianese

**STAFF ABSENT:**

Cathy Kozol

**GUEST OTHERS:**

Sharon L'Herrou

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Mr. Shelly Weil, at 5:40 p.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS:**

No introductions were made at this time.

**3. APPROVAL AND/OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Ms. Annechild made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Al-Khafaji. Said motion passed unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2009:**

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

**5. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Citizens Police Academy Progress Report**

Board members who attended the Police Academy stated they had a good experience and enjoyed the classes thus far.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Budget Issues (Administrative Officer, Sharon L'Herrou)**

Mrs. Sharon L'Herrou gave an overview of the Police Department's budget highlighting the deficits. She advised that \$29,000,000.00 was requested and \$26,000,000.00 approved. Mrs. L'Herrou presented a graph explaining the percentage designated to each organization within the Police Department. She noted that most of the money budgeted is designated to personnel. She went on to talk about frozen positions, salary and overtime reductions due to budget cuts. Mrs. L'Herrou spoke about other budgeted operational necessities that were reduced such as tuition reimbursement, food needed for promotional events, the Criminal Justice Academy and for prisoners that are held at the Police Department for a certain period of time. Monies were recovered from some accounts but were needed to offset other areas that are not currently funded. Mrs. L'Herrou spoke of a \$50,000.00 deficit for contractual services of crossing guards at Atlantic High School.

Mr. Weil asked how the \$50,000.00 for the crossing guards will be obtained.

Mrs. L'Herrou stated that an officer completed a study and decided that 9 out of 25 crossing guard positions could be eliminated. The 9 that could be eliminated were stationed at Atlantic High School. Mrs. L'Herrou noted that other high schools do not have crossing guards because students at that age are mature and can cross the street without assistance.

Chief Strianese advised that there are no statutory requirements stating that crossing guards should be stationed at a high school. He went on to advise that the Police Department considered the current construction project in the area of the school and decided to retain 3 crossing guards until the end of the school year with the intention of having no crossing guards at Atlantic High School next year.

At this time, Chief Strianese spoke of current vacancies in the Police Department including positions where officers have left, employees who are injured or on Family Medical Leave Absence.

Mr. Jackson asked if the Delray Beach Police Department will be turned over to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Strianese stated that some candidates have expressed interest in turning over Police and/or Fire Rescue to the County. He noted that the change will bring about an initial savings but will cost more in the future. Chief Strianese keeps in touch with the community and does not feel that the same service will be given by the County.

**B. School Crossing Guards**

Discussed in Item 6A.

**C. Discussion of Origination of Delray Beach Study Groups and Exploring How Its Furtherance Through our Police Advisory Board Will Continue to Benefit Delray Beach**

Mr. Weil stated that the City has initiated a number of study groups primarily to discuss race relation issues. He attended a study group and thought it very beneficial and encouraged the Board members to attend as well. Mr. Weil then suggested organizing a study group to discuss security and safety in the City.

Chief Strianese expressed interest in the group and spoke of getting the Police Department involved.

Mrs. L'Herrou stated that she attended one of the study groups and found it enlightening. The group was able to bond and discuss different issues.

Mr. Weil will find out the dates for the upcoming sessions and notify the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Jackson said that he received a possible racial complaint from an individual regarding an officer and wanted to know the response that should be given.

Chief Strianese stated that the individual can visit the Police Department and speak to a supervisor.

**D. Reminder – Get Out And Vote!**

Mr. Weil encouraged everyone to vote in the Municipal election on March 10, 2009.

Board members spoke of the relocation of some voting precincts due to the FCAT testing.

**E. Major Crime Incidents Since 02/09/09 (Chief Strianese)**

Chief Strianese advised that there was a 2% overall reduction in part one crime. There was a 19.3 % reduction in January and February. He went on to talk about the recent crimes which included an armed robbery, burglaries and undercover surveillances. Chief Strianese stated that the response times for Priority 1 calls, which are serious calls in nature, was 3.3 minutes. Priority 2 calls which are less serious calls in nature but still an emergency were responded to in 5.2 minutes. Priority 3 calls which are non emergency calls were responded to in 8 minutes.

At this time, Chief Strianese produced pictures of decorated handguns being displayed on the internet. He advised that these guns are working weapons and should not be considered as toys. Chief Strianese stated that he attributes the reduction in crime to the weekly crime meetings where all commanders meet for one hour each Wednesday. He went on to talk about shift changes where officers are working 12 hour days, deploying based on calls for service, and time of day and day of week.

Mr. Joe Ingram spoke about 3 vacant homes in Chatelaine, where he lives, where pools are accessible though an open gate. Mr. Ingram is concerned about the safety of the children.

Chief Strianese asked to be provided with the addresses so that Code Enforcement can respond to the locations and board the homes up because they are possibly foreclosed.

**7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

- Monthly crime statistics
- Summer Camp

**8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Al-Khafaji asked if staff at the Police Department were asked to determine if it's cost efficient to turn over Police and Fire services to the County. He also asked if there were examples where this change has actually taken place.

Chief Strianese stated that the Police Department is not involved in the decision making process. He also noted that he is sure that there are examples where Police and Fire services have been outsourced before. He stated that it is difficult to repurchase the agency because of the expense.

Ms. Annechild stated that the personal response when having a community Police Department is what makes the City great. She went on to talk about being more observant and noting peculiar incidents where a strange person was seen in her neighborhood.

Mr. Jackson asked if the young man that he spoke about can come to a Police Advisory Board meeting if he is not satisfied with the answer provided.

Chief Strianese stated that he would prefer to have an opportunity to resolve the issue. Thereafter, the individual can visit the Board if he is dissatisfied. He also stated that he can be reached by telephone.

Chief Strianese thanked Ms. Celestin and Ms. Maybee for volunteering in the Paint Up Delray program over the weekend.

Mr. Weil gave an update on the scouts working on the eagle project having to do with lighting, stating that the City and Florida Power & Light are discussing the cost.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Jackson made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Ingram. Said motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Mr. Weil, Chairperson, declared the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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 March 9, 2009, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Venice Cobb, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

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