

Public Safety Advisory Committee
City of Greenbelt
July 10, 2018
7:05 p.m.
Greenbelt Police Station

ROLL CALL:

Committee Members Present: Stan Zirkin, Eunice Pierre, Dr. Kressler, and Cindy Comproni.

Liaison(s) Present: Captain Gordon Pracht and Mary Johnson.

A resident from Greenbelt East was in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair, Cindy Comproni

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

AMAZON DROP BOX – Cindy Comproni reached out to Beltway Plaza and forwarded the information concerning an Amazon Drop Box. Amazon told Cindy Comproni that they will get back to her but with some inquiries they do not contact people

VAGRANCY UPDATE – Captain Pracht stated that Tabitha is being held in Upper Marlboro due to her biting a Greenbelt Police Officer. Tabitha was removing political signs and when confronted she swore at the Police Officers and bit one of the Officers. Consequently, she was arrested for disorderly conduct and for assaulting a Police Officer. She is scheduled for a mental evaluation. If she accepts medication there is a chance she will be free to go. Captain Pracht reported that Tabitha is doing much better in the structured environment of the jail.

Eunice Pierre thinks vagrancy problems are something that PSAC needs to address with guidelines in place for these types of situations. Stan Zirkin stated that according to vagrancy statutes it is not criminal and is not eligible for arrest. Eunice Pierre stated this is an uncomfortable subject but PSAC needs to give recommendations from a public safety standpoint. Eunice Pierre thinks we need to address this subject in a dedicated meeting.

Captain Pracht stated he received a letter from a citizen who lived across the street from where Tabitha stayed. The citizen complained because she was not able to take her child outside in her own yard. She sold her home because of the living conditions which were created by Tabitha's swearing and yelling. Captain Pracht would like to see the City take a stronger stand. Community members are saying they want to help but when it affects the quality of life, we need to take a more aggressive stance. Captain Pracht stated that often the Police Officers were coming out every 30 minutes to check on Tabitha.

Eunice Pierre thinks that we as a Public Safety Advisory Committee should address the issue. Perhaps signs that stated "no sleeping on benches after dark".

Cindy Comproni thinks that the Police and Council should handle these types of situations. Eunice Pierre will come up with ideas for PSAC to consider. Cindy Comproni will add the item to the next agenda.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – August 7th – Cindy Comproni brought packets for National Night Out for PSAC members. Cindy Comproni will be at the Roosevelt Center. George Matthews typically sends a list of locations and Cindy Comproni will forward the list. The time for National Night Out is 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

GEAC Letter and Crime – Eunice Pierre is concerned about the crime statistics and inquired if the crime statistics are correct.

Captain Pracht said the crime statistics mixed some years and the crime reduction of the past few years is now starting to rise. Captain Pracht is researching the information and is trying to come up with correct information. He stated the statistics are overall correct. Captain Pracht went on to say that Greenbelt as a whole is safer than most areas in Prince George's County.

Cindy Comproni stated PSAC recommended security cameras based on violent crimes. Greenbelt West had priority. However, the City first has to revitalize the current system, i.e. storage history, etc.

Cindy Comproni said there were a number of recommendations for Greenbelt East. A resident of Greenbelt East spoke and said none of the proposed recommendations were accepted. Her concern is the crime statistics state we don't recommend that you live in Greenbelt East due to crime. She also stated there are no security cameras and an uptick in crime – what can we do if we don't have money or cameras? What is a good approach? Is there money for Greenbelt East for the next 5 years in the budget?

Cindy Comproni asked Mary Johnson to invite Dale Worley, I.T. Director, Jeff Williams, City Treasurer and Silke Pope, Councilmember to PSAC's next meeting.

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL – On Saturday, Dr. Kressler will run the booth and will send a link for sign up times. Cindy Comproni will be working the Center.

ELECTIONS - Elections will be held at the next scheduled meeting on August 14th for Chair and Vice Chair.

7:50 p.m. adjourned