

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD METING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017, IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL ROOM.

The meeting began at 7:35 p.m.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Daniel Hamlin, Dea Zugby, Jamie Krauk, Sherry Burks, Rev. Ray Raysor, Alejandra Berumen, Edward Putens, Council Liaison and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Other City Officials present were: Silke Pope, Council Member and Thomas Kemp, Acting Chief of Police

Also present was: Michael Hartman

Dr. Rashawn Ray participated by phone.

#### Welcome & Introductions

Rick welcomed everyone. There were introductions.

Jamie explained that CRAB was holding a working session to plan the next forum.

Dr. Ray explained that he worked closely with Dr. Marsh who was now out of the country conducting research.

Alejandra read the Community Pledge.

#### Planning for next Police Community Forum

Dr. Ray discussed his research with the Prince George's County Police Department on implicit bias as well as interviews with Police and residents about use of body cameras. On the citizen side, he reported issues at strip malls and issues in Langley Park. Dr. Ray also reported on a body camera study being done in Prince George's County. On the Police side, he indicated officers felt that body cameras would help exonerate them.

There was discussion about the last forum. Rick asked about the small group tables.

Sherry thought people were more willing to express what they heard rather than what they experienced. She believed that there was not a good cross section from the community.

Silke asked how to get more people to participate. Sherry agreed that was a challenge.

Ray reported that Franklin Park had not disseminated information about the forum on their email blast.

Jamie identified five questions/issues to help plan the next forum:

1. Where – what geographic location/facility?
2. Who is the target audience?
3. Who are the influencers in that community?
4. When – date and time?
5. Format of forum?

Jamie suggested that CRAB continue to provide a listening opportunity. She indicated the small groups seemed to work well and suggested that Dr. Ray could provide some research examples to the groups to facilitate discussion.

Rick suggested Greenbelt East might be a good location for the next forum.

Alejandra believed that the youth forum had different target audiences among different groups of students. She indicated that CRAB needed to target the at risk youth.

Silke asked about CRAB's focus. Jamie explained that CRAB wanted to hold a series of listening sessions in all sections of the town. She indicated that CRAB did not want to pre-suppose any solutions.

Dan stated that forums were an opportunity to listen and ascertain what kind of tensions/difficulties/lack of cooperation might exist between the community and the police department. He indicated it was very important for CRAB to listen carefully and earn the trust of people. Dan believed the Greenbelt East forum should be done in March and the youth forum in April. He suggested Dr. Ray's research might help prime the pump for the discussion.

Dr. Ray stated co-sponsorship with different organizations may help with buy in and collaboration. He believed that giving a broader view of the issues can serve as a primer for those in attendance. Dr. Ray indicated that we already know what some of the concerns are and this might give more credence to the participants.

Rick stated that there is a perception/reality that different areas of the City are served differently by the police force and either way this is a problem. He noted that Police training procedures may be an issue that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Ray stated that people in those different areas can tell you how Police interact with them. He also noted the benefits of a citizen's academy.

Michael stated that if we are having a youth forum, youth need to be involved in the planning. He indicated that Police academy training, field training and also informal police culture were important areas to consider.

Alejandra stressed the need to reach out to student groups.

Jamie suggested aiming for the Greenbelt East forum in March.

Ed suggested reaching out to the Youth Advisory Committee regarding the youth forum.

Silke suggested contacting the Public Safety Advisory Committee since they had experience planning forums. She also suggested that CRAB set guidelines for the forum about participation by CRAB members. Silke stressed CRAB members needed to listen.

Ed suggested that CRAB talk to the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition about the Greenbelt East forum. He encouraged CRAB to use the community newsletters to advertise the forum.

Dr. Ray stated that CRAB needs to formally report out.

Sherry stated that CRAB may not be able to pull off the youth forum until the fall.

Rick stressed that CRAB not let the perfect be the enemy of the good regarding planning for the next forum. He believed the 11/29 forum was well planned and was successful.

CRAB agreed to try and focus on a youth forum in the near future.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.