

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016, IN THE SCHROM HILLS PARK MEETING ROOM.

The meeting began at 7:21 p.m.

Members present were: Rick Ransom, Dea Zugby, Kevin Hammett, Daniel Hamlin, Jamie Krauk, Janet Jacobs Parker, Edward Putens, Council Liaison and David Moran, Staff Liaison.

Other City Officials present were: Chief James Craze and Deputy Chief Tom Kemp.

Also present were: Reverend Ray Raysor, Renee Raysor, Lois Rosado, Bob Rand, Katie Pugliese, Carolyn Lambright-Davis, and Bill Orleans.

#### Welcome & Introductions

Rick welcomed everyone. The Community Pledge was read and there were introductions.

#### CRAB Table at Labor Day Information Day

Dan reported it was a windy day and there were not a lot of people stopping by. He noted there weren't any suggestions submitted about the police/community forums. Rick reported the same experience. Some people asked the question "what is CRAB?" The Community Pledge and the Peace & Non-Violence Brochure were distributed at the table.

#### Council Referral – Forum/Community Discussion

Rick stated that Council had referred this issue to CRAB. He believed it was based on incidents elsewhere in the Country. Rick expressed the hope that Greenbelt could hold some forums before there was an incident in Greenbelt.

Rick distributed a handout entitled "Purpose of Forums." Rick read the five purpose statements (a-e). He cited a personal example from his youth when a friend was beaten up by a police officer. The matter went to Council and CRAB, and ultimately that officer was removed.

Jamie liked Rick's list of purpose statements. She believed the list fell into several categories: Awareness, Fostering Relationships/Relationship Building and Taking Actions. Jamie stated the forums needed to be the start of an ongoing process to improve race relations in the long-term and that this would fall under the "Fostering Relationships" category.

Dan stated that purpose needed to be a general broad statement. He suggested an overall purpose of "to prevent excessive use of force by Police and ensure an orderly response by Police and citizens when Police do use force." He liked items a & b as a way of accomplishing this. He noted Greenbelt Police are going to have to deal with residents who have had experiences with other police forces. He wanted to listen to the community and be as open as possible.

Kevin stated the key purpose was to listen and encourage conversation and dialogue. He wanted to bring people together to talk and hear; to encourage people to talk to each other. Kevin reported on leadership and wanted to create “safe spaces” for people to come together and talk and hear/listen.

Katie believed the moderator was important. She stressed the key was a good/experienced moderator who knew how to run the forum and help determine the type of forum, format, etc. She did not want to jump to problem solving or rebuttal.

Bob believed a fundamental question was is policing fair in Greenbelt, particularly for people of color. He asked what does equitable policing look like in Greenbelt.

Jamie wanted to know that this process was leading to something in the future and not stopping at listening. She hoped the forums would lead to an over-arching vision about race and community relations.

Katie expressed concern about making this effort too big. She noted this could spawn a larger issue.

Ed believed there could be speakers that may draw people and stated this was just a beginning. He indicated that CRAB should be hearing from both sides. Ed noted there were cultural issues involved. He cited an example of a foreign resident who was afraid of police because of the uniform and the resident’s prior experiences.

Janet relayed an example of a Riverdale Park resident getting hurt while crossing a busy road in traffic because they didn’t understand crosswalks and traffic lights.

Carolyn indicated we must do something and believed the facilitator would control the dialog. She observed CRAB was going to hear a lot, including some things they might not like. Carolyn encouraged CRAB to set a date and get started. She said prevention and dialog were needed now. Carolyn believed we could build on what was heard at the forum.

Lois stated that encouraging dialog and preventing excessive force were laudable goals. Lois relayed an incident that happened in Greenbelt where a student was afraid of police. She encouraged CRAB to follow the purpose statement, get the facilitator and schedule the forums.

Kevin appreciated the comments and stated that he and CRAB take the Community Pledge seriously. He believed everything CRAB talked about should focus on the Pledge.

Katie stressed that Greenbelt needed to be proactive and she was concerned about equity in policing in the various areas of Greenbelt. She didn’t want to lose sight of what equitable policing look like.

Lois stated that Chief Craze had indicated he was there to listen. Lois asked if the police officers receive the Pledge when they are hired. She stated that every person hired by the city needs to get a copy of the Pledge.

There was consensus that the Pledge should be given to every resident and every employee.

Dan wanted to put the purpose statement into positive terms. Lois suggested starting with the opening phrase of the Pledge.

Rick asked about 3 forums in each of the three areas of the city. Kevin liked the idea of 3 forums.

Katie referenced involving young people. She suggested holding a forum at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. There was discussion about a different format for these forums and that some youth might want confidentiality.

There was discussion about a facilitated dialog with listening between the community and the police.

Lois reiterated the need to involve the youth.

Dan summarized that there may be a fourth forum for youth. He stressed it was a beginning not an end. Dan believed we were in a position to begin interviewing facilitators.

Jamie agreed that we needed to get a facilitator and get a date on the calendar.

CRAB scheduled their next meeting for October 11. [Note: This meeting was rescheduled to October 18 due to Yom Kippur.]

Dea referenced a *Washington Post* announcement about a 9/27 program at Busboys & Poets in Hyattsville.

Rick shared information about the upcoming Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) security camera forums.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.