

JOINT MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

March 2, 2010

ROLL CALL: The joint meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Community Relations Advisory Board was held at the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were members Dr. Laura Kressler, Bill Holland, Lou Vazquez, Jamie Krauk, Dea Zugby, Sherry Burks, Kevin Hammett, Daniel Hamlin, Janet Parker, Jackie Carrington, R. Ransom, Councilmember's Emmitt Jordan and Ed Putens, CRAB City Liaison David Moran, PSAC City Liaison Mary Johnson and Police Liaison Captain Tom Kemp. Also present was Brian Gibson, an Empirian Village Resident.

MINUTES: The minutes from the February 2 and February 16, 2010 meeting were read approved.

WELCOME: Dr. Laura Kressler, PSAC Chair welcomed CRAB and introductions were made.

NEW BUSINESS: Laura stated on January 11, 2010 the Council referred to the PSAC and CRAB a request that the committees review neighborhood issues in Empirian Village. Laura went on to state that she believed there are four main parts to the referral: review of neighborhood issues, solicit input from residents, determine types of actions or services needed, and report to Council.

It was decided that in order for all the members of PSAC and CRAB to have the same information that Rosemary Pezzuto, CEO, Camp Fire Girls USA and Code Enforcement be invited to the next meeting. Councilmember Putens suggested that the task force talk to the outgoing Fire Chief, the new Fire Chief and the Police Department. Discussion ensued that addition representatives from Spring Hill Lake Elementary School, Greenbelt Middle School, Recreation Department and Vivian Loundes, Community Relations for EV, CARES, corporate level EV, should be invited to upcoming meetings.

The Chair of CRAB said we need perspective on the complexity of EV issues. When CRAB/PSAC worked on Spellman Overpass the issues were narrow. The issues with EV are more complex. He stated that PSAC and CRAB working together are beneficial.

Captain Kemp stated that the majority of crimes at EV were crimes against persons and property. He stated that the Police have deployed their resources with such magnitude that it effects the rest of the City. He stated that a large Hispanic population at EV and they are good hardworking people. Many times they work multiple jobs and are paid in cash. They are walking to their apartments and are often robbed. They need our help. The Police Department is being proactive but there is a large amount of people. Captain Kemp also stated there are gangs at EV.

Laura Kressler stated the Jim Sterling, Assistant Director of Planning and Code Enforcement, spoke to the PSAC a few months ago. Mr. Sterling said that EV was not being well maintained. There are empty units, electrical and plumbing problems, fires on the property and broken windows. The EV maintenance staff is decreasing and contractors are not being paid. In terms of population at EV there is a middle class, section 8 housing, a transitional housing population and a large Hispanic population. One of the main problems is community apathy and getting the residents involved in community.

It was decided that PSAC and CRAB would meet on a frequent basis determined by need.

NEXT MEETING: There will be an interim meeting between our regularly scheduled meetings with the date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.