

# MINUTES - Community Advisory Committee

Jon Reaud, Chairman

Shawn Javed, Vice-Chairman

Meeting Date: January 19, 2022

Dwight Benoit  
John Dean  
Roy McGrath  
Rodney Robichau  
Alma Hodge  
Sohaib Jabbar  
Carlos Hernandez

Glen Johnson  
Bill Sam  
Thomas Sigee  
John Stafford  
Mary Williams

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**Call to order by Community Advisory Committee Chairperson Jon Reaud:** A regular meeting of the Community Advisory Committee was held at the Police Training Room on **January 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Members in attendance:** Rev. Dwight Benoit, John Dean, Shawn Javed, Glen Johnson, Roy McGrath, Jon Reaud, Rodney Robichau, Bill Sam, Thomas Sigee, Mary Williams

**Members not in attendance:** Sohaib Jabbar, John Stafford

**Members of the Police Department in attendance:** Chief Singletary, Assistant Chief Plunkett, Assistant Chief Jeffcoat, Captain Ocnaschek, Captain Schuldt, Captain Tyler, Judi Rawls, and Emma Nelson

**Guests in Attendance:** Joe Evans, City Manager Kenneth R. Williams, Councilman Getz, Councilman Neild, Michael Cooper

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence dedicated to Karl Duerr and a prayer for the Duerr family led by Pastor Benoit

Roll Call – Vice-Chairman Javed

Chairman Reaud opened the meeting by introducing Joe Evans, BISD Trustee and mentor. Evans was invited to address crime within the school district and how the public can support positive change.

Evans addressed an audit of BISDPD around 6-8 months ago that revealed some clear shortcomings. They are aware that BISDPD's hands are tied because of the educational system. That being said, violence has gone down on campuses, especially with the supplemental support of BPD.

One of the main issues is not having the resources or legislation to have proper consequences and rehabilitation for the youth. Mr. Johnson asked where these kids were taken. Evans answered that they are taken to Minnie Rogers for 10-30 days. He said that the Juvenile detention centers are overly full. He hopes for a bootcamp program to be created. Often, the decisions of these facilities are based on staffing more than beds. Chief Plunkett pointed out that Jefferson County is limited. Probably 90% are on probation because there is not room. Evans also added that many of these juveniles burn through their family connections and end up homeless with nowhere to go. So much of the problem is legislative.

Mr. Sigee asked if the lack of BISDPD officers was for pay or opportunity. Evans said both. They are currently doing a study with the goals of raising pay and attracting LIT students and officers with children in school.

Councilman Getz addressed the need for groups to communicate so that services and resources are not duplicated. City Manager Williams mentioned that there were several good models throughout the state for youth and school discipline. Mr. Cooper asked if the school volunteers were mostly elderly and if they were afraid of Covid. Evans said volunteers are not returning because they are afraid of the students. Mr. Johnson said the teachers are on the battlefield, and that is why they are all leaving the profession. Chairman Reaud said

that the public is uneducated about these topics. If citizens understood *why* the issues are happening, kids aren't being punished, etc., they would have more grace. Leadership has their hands tied and the public doesn't know. Mr. Cooper pointed out that Judge Giblen has stated that he will make the juvenile issue a main focus. Also, some of the kids have undiagnosed mental issues. Mr. Hernandez stated that somehow we have to get parents involved, especially in the elementary years before the issues arise. Mr. Evans said that they had to do more with less, and renew faith in BISD. The conversation then shifted to the legislation issues. They discussed the need to contact your representatives.

Chief Singletary expressed appreciation for Mr. Evans and all he does for BISD. He recognized the difficulty of holding that role within such a broken system.

**Benediction:** Pastor Dwight Benoit prayed for Alison Getz

**Meeting Ended:** 2:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes Taken by:** Emma Nelson/ Community Relations Specialist  
Beaumont Police Department/Administration Division