

MINUTES - Community Advisory Committee

Mr. Jon Reaud, Chairperson

Mrs. Sandra Womack, Vice Chairperson

Meeting Date: August 16, 2018

Rev. Dwight Benoit

Mr. John Stafford

Ms. Alma Hodge

Mr. Jesus Abrego

Mr. Karl Duerr

Mr. Roy McGrath

Mr. Roy Steinhagen

Mr. Shawn Javed

Mr. Glen Johnson

Mr. Jonathan Owens

Rev. Vernon Tubbs

Rev. James Reed

Call to order by Community Advisory Committee Chairperson Jon Reaud: A regular meeting of the Community Advisory Committee was held at **Beaumont Police Department Training Room**, 255 College Street, Beaumont, Texas on **August 16, 2018**. The meeting convened at **1:03 p.m.**

Members in attendance: Glen Johnson, John Stafford, Karl Duerr, Alma Hodge, Rev. Vernon Tubbs, Rev. James Reed, Jon Reaud, Roy Steinhagen, Jonathan Owens and Jesus Abrego.

Members not in attendance: Rev. Dwight Benoit, Roy McGrath, Shawn Javed and Sandra Womack.

City and Police Department personnel in attendance: Officer Haley Morrow, Captain Jason Plunkett, Captain Tim Ocnaschek, Judi Rawls, Assistant Chief Jim Clay, Assistant Chief Wayne Jeffcoat, Chief James Singletary, Councilperson Virginia Jordan and Councilperson Bill Sam.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Invocation: Rev. James Reed

Roll Call-Sandra Womack

Minutes for June 2018 were approved via acclamation.

Mr. Reaud started out by saying that there are things going on in our city this year that the media thrives on. They put out the negative and not the positive. He said that the Chief will speak on the good and the bad and share with us the positive things to help keep our community safe. He said that we do not want to lose our mission as a committee and that we are not to be a marketing billboard or a regulatory committee for the police department. We need to be a conduit between the public and the police department.

Chief Singletary spoke about violent crime issues. He said Officer Haley Morrow is following social media real well. He wanted committee to convey to their communities that we do have violent offenders in Beaumont. Age of the offenders committing these crimes are juveniles and young adults. These juveniles have no remorse. We have several programs to try to get people involved in what the police do. We have a reading program, explorer program, Lamar Criminal Justice program and a police academy for citizens.

Rev. Reed said there is value in doing a public service announcement letting the community know about if police solved a case or what we have done. Chief Singletary likes the idea about PSAs. Officer Haley Morrow said they have their own social media page where the police department can put things out that do not get twisted. She said that when they interview with a news station, they do not air everything we are trying to say. They are constantly battling with the media. Mr. Steinhagen asked if a representative of the media could be at the meetings. Rev. Tubbs said that the Council Meetings are televised, so couldn't the police department do the same to get their message out. Mr. Reaud said that it would be detrimental to let the media into our meetings because they edit to build on reactions and manipulate the stories. Councilperson Bill Sam also expressed concern about letting people from outside come to the meetings.

Mr. Abrego said that the Hispanic community is being ignored and that there are no places for young kids to go. 30% Latinos are in the BISD school district. There are also no after school or church based programs. He said there is no councilperson that is Hispanic either. Councilperson Sam asked if Charlton Pollard Resource Center offers anyone that speaks Spanish or volunteers to work with parents. Mr. Abrego also mentioned that Latinos do not report crimes. Ms. Hodge asked if addressing TEA would help. Councilperson Sam said we need to improve from here.

Mr. Steinhagen would like the Neighborhood Association Meetings published. Mr. Reaud said that the committee should be attending these meetings. That the committee needs to build a relationship with that neighborhood. Suggested the committee attend meetings with bullet points from the Chief. Officer Haley Morrow said that more patrol officers and sergeants are starting to come to the meetings so that the citizens get to know the officers in that area. Councilperson Sam said that at the Charlton Pollard Neighborhood Association meeting Sgt. Brinkmeyer and Officer Riley talked about issues. Sgt. Brinkmeyer introduced himself as a new sergeant and assured the community that they were there for them. Councilperson Sam said we need to partner with Exxon Mobil and accomplish goals and let the community know what is going on in that area.

Mr. Reaud spoke about the Patriot Day Ceremony that will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Event Centre on September 11, 2018.

Mr. Reaud thanked Councilperson Virginia Jordan and Councilperson Bill Sam for attending.

Invocation: Rev. Vernon Tubbs

Meeting Ended: 2:19 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes Taken by: Laurie Witterstaeter
Administrative Assistant/Administration
Beaumont Police Department
255 College Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701