

MINUTES - Community Advisory Committee

Jon Reaud, Chairperson
Sandra Womack, Vice Chairperson
Meeting Date: August 20, 2015

Dwight Benoit
John Stafford
Alma Hodge
Jesus Abrego
Karl Duerr
Douglas Rathgeber

Roy Steinhagen
Irmalyn Thomas
Glen Johnson
Rev. Robinson
Gene Bush
Calvin Williams, Jr.

Call to order by 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 20, 2015**. The meeting convened at **1:00 p.m.**

Members in attendance: Jon Reaud, Sandra Womack, Dwight Benoit, Roy Steinhagen, John Stafford, Irmalyn Thomas, Alma Hodge. Glen Johnson, Jesus Abrego, Rev. David Robinson and Karl Duerr

Members not in attendance: Gene Bush, Douglas Rathgeber, Calvin Williams, Jr.

City and Police Department personnel in attendance: Chief James Singletary, Asst. Chief Wayne Jeffcoat, Assistant Chief Jim Clay, Judi Rawls and Cindy Bloodsworth

Invocation: Dwight Benoit

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Minutes from the July meeting were accepted via moved for approval by Sandra Womack, seconded by Roy Steinhagen and passed.

Chairman Reaud discussed the idea of having Rev. Benoit serve as the committee's chaplain and as the committee's representative in the BPD Clergy and Police Partnership. There was consensus that these dual roles complement each other and Rev. Benoit was extended a request to serve. Rev. Benoit agreed.

Chairman Reaud announced appointment of the newest Community Committee Member, appointed by Beaumont City Council woman Robin Mouton. **Rev. David Robinson** ministers at Douglas Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church and is employed with the Beaumont Independent School District.

Rev. Benoit distributed a draft of the revised by-laws that were developed by committee members Jon Reaud, Irmalyn Thomas, Gene Bush, Jesus Abrego and Rev. Dwight Benoit, Committee Chairman. Co-Chair Irmalyn Thomas reviewed each element of the draft. The following revisions were discussed:

Update Attachment 1 with new committee member information

Sec 2.02.093 – 6. Amend ride-along policy as follows: Required to attend the Citizens Police Academy, *participate in at least one “hands on” activity per year with the Department. (i.e., ride-alongs, work sessions within individual units, or observation of specialized training sessions such as canine, SWAT, etc.)* and attend monthly and/or announced committee meetings.

Sec 2.02.093 – 7. The Committee shall provide a written Annual Report to the Mayor and City Council of Beaumont *that is prepared by the Chair and Co-Chair and approved by the committee. The annual report shall reflect the committee’s success, opportunities for improvement and advised goals to be achieved in the next year. This report is due prior to Jan 31 of the following year.*

Sec 2.08.294 – 1. Committee members must attend a minimum of 75% of the monthly meetings during a calendar year, and may not miss more than two consecutive monthly meetings unless excused by the Committee Chair or Vice Chairpersons. *With approval of the appointing council person, violations of the attendance requirement may be grounds for removal of the committee.*

Other miscellaneous items discussed that will be considered by the committee include policy/procedures that address the following:

- Allowing a committee person to serve a full 2 year term
- Providing for proxy voting on actionable items for an absent committee member
- Assuring that committee members are provided complete information about the commitments required prior to being appointed (currently Jon and Sandra are available to meet with prospective members)

Police Legal Counsel, Judi Rawls, will review the By-Laws document for any legal issues

Rev. Benoit said that the by-law committee will re-convene to continue work on the by-laws and submit an amended draft at the next meeting of the Community Advisory Committee.

Mr. Johnson suggested that committee members take a pro-active role in recruiting friends and colleagues to participate in the Citizens Police Academy as a way to promote better understanding of the demands of law enforcement.

Chairman Reaud recommended that committee members work to improve awareness of the committee’s work with City Council. Options discussed were: inviting city council members to

the committee's monthly meetings and committee members sending email updates to the city council member that made their appointment.

Chairman Reaud gave an update on the KBMT "Good Deeds Officer of the Month" campaign: Two officers have been highlighted to date. Sgt. Cody Guedry will work on securing an officer to highlight each month. Chairman Reaud explained that he is designing a plaque or certificate to present to each officer recognized in this project. Two ideas for presentation were discussed – either presenting it to them at a meeting of the Committee or making a presentation at a meeting of city council. It was also suggested that officers highlighted in this campaign also be recognized at the Department's Annual Banquet.

Chairman Reaud delivered a report on the ride-along in which he participated last month. Karl Duerr reminded committee members to call him to schedule a ride-along if they wish.

Committee members will contact Cindy Bloodsworth about their availability to volunteer at the Department's Cops & Kids Carnival slated for August 22.

Jesus Abrego reported two instances of receiving complaints from Spanish-speaking citizens who were put on hold for extended periods of time (up to 30 minutes) on a call to 911. Chief Singletary stated that he would have this issue investigated.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Benediction: Dwight Benoit

Meeting ended at 2:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes Taken by: Cindy Bloodsworth
Administrative Assistant/Administration
Beaumont Police Department
255 College Street
Beaumont, Texas 77701**