

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

April 6, 2010

ROLL CALL: The joint meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. Present were members Dr. Laura Kressler, Cindy Comproni, City Liaison Mary Johnson, Police Liaison Captain Tom Kemp and MPO Kelly Lawson. Also present were Brian Gibson, Empirian Village resident, John Voight, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Council members Silke Pope and Ed Putens.

MINUTES: There was not a quorum to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 meeting.

WELCOME: Dr. Laura Kressler welcomed John Voight, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department to our meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Laura reviewed the Council's referral to PSAC/CRAB and presented a summary of goals:

- a) Review of neighborhood issues
- b) Solicit input from residents
- c) Determine types of actions or services needed
- d) Report back to Council

Laura stated that we have invited Rosemary Pezzuto to attend the PSAC/CRAB meeting but are waiting to hear from her. Laura requested that Jim Sterling, Assistant Director of Planning be invited to our next meeting.

Discussion ensued as to what roll the Greenbelt Fire Department plays at Empirian Village. John Voight, GVFD, stated that Greenbelt is not responsible for fire and ambulance service at Empirian Village. First responders would be Berwyn Heights Fire Department, followed by Branchville Fire Department and then Greenbelt Fire Department.

Cindy Comproni suggested that we talk to Berwyn Heights Fire Department. Mr. Voight explained that Berwyn Heights F.D. would only be able to say that they responded to a call. Prince George's County Fire Department would have the data. The Fire Department is prohibited by law to share data outside of their parameter.

Mr. Voight said that all EV apartments are equipped with alarms but they don't go directly to 911, it is not a monitored system.

Discussion ensued and it was felt that the Council work session with EV management didn't accomplish much. It has been rumored that EV is laying-off their maintenance staff and contractors are not getting paid. There has been a 160% increase in complaints from E.V. It has also been rumored that EV has told their staff not to talk too much about the issues at EV.

Laura felt that EV management listening to PSAC/CRAB is exceptionally slim. Silke Pope suggested that perhaps we hold an open forum and invite someone from each City department to attend. Silke also stated that it might turn out to be a gripe session.

Laura expressed concern over little or no attendance if PSAC does hold a public forum. She went on to say how MPO Lawson has had events at EV and not one person attended. Laura stated that the PSAC will try to reach out to the EV residents but doesn't know how far it will go.

NEW BUSINESS: Laura stated that Lou Vazquez called her concerning the Spellman Overpass. As a result of their conversation, there is a perception that the criminal activity has risen in the Court adjoining the Spellman Overpass. MPO Lawson said she did not recall seeing reports on more problems at the Spellman Overpass. Laura said that Lou was upset and he described it as multiple problems but it might be a perception of problems.

Ed Putens went on to say that something is going on and he does not like it. Mr. Putens stated that the City needs to do its part. Laura stated that it was her impression that Lou was concerned about tire slashing and alleged that this is not the only incident. Lou went on to say that the residents believe that they are being targeted as complainants and retribution is occurring.

Laura said Lou stated there was a petition to close the overpass and that there is another petition but not sure what that petition states. During their phone conversation Lou also stated that there were complaints that the Police Dispatch Operators were rude. Laura stated that maybe it was a misunderstanding between Dispatch and the resident. Or the resident did not feel that the response was sufficient.

Captain Kemp that he was disappointed that Lou did not bring this issue to the PSAC. MPO Lawson stated that complaint procedures are in place and the Police can not fix the problem if they don't know about the problem.

Ed Putens stated that these problems arose at the GHI Board meeting and started to snow ball. Laura stated that if she receives any such phone calls again, she will reemphasize to contact the Police Department.

Di Quinn-Reno, Community Center Supervisor, will be at the next PSAC meeting from 7:00-7:30 to discuss the Community Center Emergency plan.

NEXT MEETING: The PSAC will invite CRAB to our next meeting in May 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.