

REGULAR MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
February 2, 2010

ROLL CALL: The regular meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee was held at the Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were members Laura Kressler, Bill Holland, Darrin Washington, Lou Vazquez, Cindy Comproni, City Liaison Mary Johnson and Police Liaison Captain Tom Kemp and MPO Kelly Lawson. Also present was Brian Gibson, an Empirian Village Resident.

MINUTES: The minutes from the January 5, 2010 meeting were read approved.

WELCOME: Laura Kressler, Chairwomen, welcomed Mr. Darrin Washington to the PSAC Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: PREPAREDNESS MONTH – Bill Holland said that he is having difficulty getting people to commit for the CERT Public Safety Fair in April 2010. It was suggested that he stay flexible with the date. Cindy Comproni suggested that it coincide with Shred Day which is May 10, 2010. Cindy asked Bill to e-mail her available dates.

NEW BUSINESS: On January 11, 2010 the Council referred to the PSAC and CRAB a request that the committees review neighborhood issues in Empirian Village, solicit input from residents, determine what types of actions or services are needed and report back to Council.

A discussion ensued concerning what needs to be done to establish a comprehensive plan. This plan would include fact finding, with Planning and Code Enforcement, public forums with residents including schools, fire, police, Cares and corporate level EV.

Darrin asked what was the goal of this fact finding mission. He also said that due to the bleak real estate situation EVs answer might be to file bankruptcy.

Captain Kemp stated that sometime in the time in 1999 – 2001, Catholic Charities and CASA gave questionnaires to every unit at Springhill Lake. They asked the residents to fill out the questionnaires and attend a meeting. Approximately 20 to 30 residents attended. Captain Kemp went on to say that a large population of EV is transient. He also asked what is the scope of the PSAC? Public safety is only part of the problem. He went on to say that this project would entail a lot of work and he was not sure that this recommendation would be a good fit.

Brian said EV is a diverse community and perhaps from census records we could make a list of questions to “pick their brains”. Brian went on to say that he would help identify EV residents who are available.

Cindy said that perhaps we could approach the schools. Lou suggested that we have a Spring Forum/Community Fair/Block Party.

Cindy asked what are the problems at EV? Captain Kemp said quality of life, crime against property and persons. There were no homicides in EV in 2009 which was down 200% from the prior year.

MPO Lawson said that she believes that this would be an enormous undertaking for the PSAC. She also asked where does it leave the PSAC and the City if recommendations are made and the problems aren't fixed. Brian stated it is our job to propose then the City's place to act. He also went on to say that P.G. County is a disaster in terms of landlord/tenant law.

Captain Kemp suggested that perhaps the PSAC should go back to Council and create a broader based task form. Laura said that was a good idea and suggested that the PSAC meeting together again to discuss the further formation of a task force.

It was decided to hold an interim meeting to discuss Council's referral.

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 8:50 p.m.