

JOINT MEETING OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD  
May 4, 2010

ROLL CALL: The joint meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05p.m. Present were Dr. Laura Kressler, Cindy Comproni, Lou Vazquez, Timothy Overby, Darrin Washington, Harris Maclay, George Moore, and Brian Abbons. Also present were City Liaison Mary Johnson, Police Liaison Captain Tom Kemp and Assistant City Manager David Moran. Also present were Council members Silke Pope, Emmitt Jordan, Di Quynn-Reno, Community Center Supervisor, Rosemary Pezzuto, CEO, Camp Fire Girls and Jim Sterling, Assistant Director of Community Planning & Development.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved for the March and April 2010 meetings.

WELCOME: Dr. Laura Kressler introduced and welcomed Mr. Timothy Overby to the PSAC.

OLD BUSINESS: Di Quynn-Reno, Community Center Supervisor reviewed the proposed Lockdown/Emergency Plan for the Community Center. Discussion ensued and the PSAC approved of the plan.

Dr. Kressler 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

Rosemary Pezzuto, CEO, Camp Fire Girls attended the meeting. Ms. Pezzuto stated she would not answer questions concerning E.V. management issues. It is her goal to give E.V. residents a voice. To that end she started a youth group at E.V. to involve them in their community and teach leadership skills. Ms. Pezzuto would also like to bring the community as a whole together to voice their concerns.

Ms. Pezzuto stated that transportation is a problem for E.V. residents to come into Old Greenbelt. She said that there was not regularly scheduled transportation and E.V. residents have expressed their concerns. Due to this problem, Ms. Pezzuto believes there is a disconnect from the City. Jim Sterling said that the Greenbelt Connection serves E.V. and EV residents would be able to access this service.

Ms. Pezzuto said that approximately 70% of the children at E.V. at latch key kids. She is concerned about their safety walking to and from school. She stated due to cultural differences they often walk in the streets which has caused concern.

Ms. Pezzuto is looking into Child Care Programs offered through P.G. County. Ms. Pezzuto hopes that her children's advocacy group helps improve the quality of life at EV

and will get families involved in their community. She said the programs that she has offered have been a success. These programs include ethnic nights and kids camps.

Ms. Pezzuto stated that poverty is a problem at E.V. 100% of students at the elementary school receive free lunches. She estimated that approximately 60% of E.V. is working poor. The population at E.V. is a highly dense population with much diversity. There are little resources at E.V. Ms. Pezzuto feels that in order to promote change it needs to be internal. She is providing a camp for kids this summer. She will also provide the PSAC/CRAB with a list of activities she will be hosting at E.V.

Ms. Pezzuto stated that some of the major problems at E.V. were the children are not supervised causing unsafe conditions. Many E.V. residents are new to the country and don't know how to access services and are often afraid too.

Jim Sterling stated that during the last 6 months E.V. has had a lot of criticism. Mr. Sterling stated that E.V. renter's license was suspended as stated in a previous meeting. After dialogue an agreement was reached concerning all outstanding violations and an agreement to pay the fines.

Mr. Sterling stated that the compliance rate in terms of violations has now increased. He stated that there is very little done in terms of preventive maintenance and there has been a decline in the property in the last 4/5 years. Mr. Sterling believes that E.V. is experiencing financial issues.

Mr. Sterling went on to say that there were no complaints about overcrowding. He believes the problem does exist but people are not complaining. He also said that the laundry room doors need to be locked. E.V. said that they would police the property, but that has not occurred.

Mr. Jordan asked if the City could be more aggressive in promoting Greenbelt at E.V. in order for the residents to know of the services offered.

Mr. Vazquez stated that we could reach out as a community as a whole.

Captain Kemp stated previously Catholic Charities, the City and CASA visited every single unit on the property and conducted a survey. He stated that when the City conducted meetings there was a poor turnout.

Dr. Kressler stated we need to get out into the community and go to E.V. and listen to their concerns. Dr. Kressler asked Captain Kemp to e-mail the prior survey to Mary Johnson for distribution. Dr. Kressler asked that all members of CRAB/PSAC review the survey and e-mail any suggestions.

Mr. Jordan asked CRAB how they would want to proceed. Perhaps joint meetings at E.V. open to the public tied into Mrs. Pezzuto's meetings.

Mr. Overby suggested that the meetings at E.V. be tied to “Ethnic Nights”.

It was decided for all to review the survey which will be provided by Captain Kemp and discuss how to proceed at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next joint meeting will be held on June 1, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.