

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Crime Advisory - SUB Committee Meeting

Thursday, 7/23 – 3:00pm

City Hall – 3rd Floor

Committee Members Present: Whitney Lanning, Teresa Parks, Danielle McGaughy, LaTonya Williams, Denice Moore, Marchel Turner, Eric Protzman, Keith Dudley, Mickey Roberts, Mike Cazel, Marco Dudley, Ramadahn Washington

Call to Order: Whitney Lanning called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Mission Statement: Whitney reviewed the purpose of the sub-committee meeting and introduced Teresa Parks and Danielle McGaughy as co-chairs of the committee. Teresa and Danielle reviewed the goals that had been established for the sub-committee.

Goals: 1. Engagement/Membership, 2. SJSJ Positive Practices, 3. Recommendations

Those in attendance discussed the need for additional programs, services, and resources in the Midtown Neighborhood. Attendees discussed the lack of youth services and the lack of information available to local residents.

Marco Dudley discussed the need for youth sports and the need for resources. Mr. Dudley stated that the interactions with SJSJ have been improving. Mr. Dudley discussed the poor condition of the Bartlett Center, also known as Horace-Mann, building.

Marchel Turner, Executive Director of the Bartlett Center, stated that updates had been authorized to improve the condition of the Bartlett Center through the CIP process, but those updates had been pushed to the last of the CIP list. Mr. Turner stated that air conditioning and other improvements would not begin until 2023. LaTonya Williams, Youth Director at the Bartlett Center, stated that it was currently very hot in the building where pre-school services take place. There was much discussion about the lack of suitable air conditioning. Mickey Roberts and Mike Cazel asked the group if they'd brought their concerns to the City, to which the attendees stated they had several times over several years. One attendee stated that some years ago the local citizens had coordinated contractors, volunteers, and donors to help repair the building; they brought the information to the City, but never received approval to move forward.

Mike Cazel stated that there needed to be a remedy to the air conditioning issue and that it needed to be moved up in the CIP list as a priority. He stated that he would reach out to City leadership to schedule a meeting to discuss.

Ramadan Washington stated that an influx of funding and services are needed to include outreach workers and youth services. Mr. Washington discussed former programs, to include Weed and Seed.

The attendees discussed the history of programs and services, by consensus they stated that more meetings to address the disparities need to happen, action needs to be taken rather than just discussed, and more resources are needed in the Midtown neighborhood to effectively improve opportunity and reduce crime. The attendees talked about using the downstairs of the Bartlett Center for more programs and services, improving communication and interaction with SJP, and improving the condition of the building were high priorities.

Public Comment: There were no other comments from attendees.

Adjourn

The group adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30pm

Next Meeting: TBD

Prepared by: Whitney Lanning

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