

2020 SEP -9 AM 9:40

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Crime Advisory - SUB Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 9/2/2020 – 12:00pm

Bartlett Center

Committee Members Present: Whitney Lanning, Terresa Parks, LaTonya Williams, Denice Moore, Marchel Turner, Eric Protzman, Kim Warren, Bill McMurray, Keith Dudley, Chris Connally, Mickey Roberts, Mike Cazel

Call to Order: Whitney Lanning called the meeting to order at 12:15pm.

GOALS

Whitney reviewed the goals of the committee; she stated that at the last meeting the goals had been refined to include identifying best practices for community policing and the identification of resources needed to reduce crime. The committee discussed the items associated with the goals.

Best Practices

Whitney asked Dan Radke to provide more information as to his findings related to local funding allocations. Dan reported that he found that there are no current maps or listing of funds spent by neighborhood or district. Chief Connally reported that street maintenance is conducted via a priority point system, which included the age of the street, use of the street, etc. The committee discussed the potential benefits of knowing what resources are deployed to which areas or districts, to include ensuring equity. The group discussed the creation of maps that identify where funds are allocated throughout the city.

The committee discussed how decreasing blight positively impacts neighborhoods. Questions regarding the current status or progress of the rental inspection program were asked; Chief Connally said that Clint Thompson with the City would have more information and could provide an update at the next meeting.

The committee discussed educational resources in low-income neighborhoods. The committee wanted more information on how funding is allocated to schools, especially elementary schools. LaTonya Williams offered to look into how SJSD allocates funding to each school.

Whitney brought up Dan's initial suggestion that all police participate in a psychological evaluation upon hire and also annually. She informed the group that she'd spoken with the HR Director at the City and had been informed that the City does not have a formal EAP program, but instead the City pays for three visits per employee per year. SJPD Officers stated this was not correct and that they have a specialized counselor in Kansas City that their officers see. After much discussion it was determined that more information about this process is needed before any recommendation could be made. Whitney agreed to follow up with the HR Director.

Whitney stated that one of Dan's initial suggestions was to also reduce police responsibility for nonviolent crimes. Commander Protzman stated that parking complaints require a great deal of time for police to respond to and address. He stated that calls related to homeless individuals downtown, as well as mental health and substance abuse take up considerable time for the police to respond to. Whitney asked if parking related calls could be re-routed to another department, after much discussion, it was determined that those calls could be sent to another entity, if the receiving department had the capacity to accept and address those calls. Whitney also asked if calls related to homeless individuals who are not committing violent crimes or who are just being a public nuisance could be routed to another entity. After much discussion it was determined that if another entity had the capacity to deal with the issues, those calls could be routed elsewhere. There was additional discussion about the significant benefit SJPD has experienced with having a full-time social worker on staff to respond to calls and issues; the need for additional funding to create additional social work allocations was discussed. Whitney agreed to follow up regarding the logistics of having other entities address parking, homeless issues, and additional funding for social workers at the police department.

Resources

Whitney stated that at the last meeting there was a lot of discussion about the types of resources available necessary to prevent crime. The last meeting also included discussion about the need for better representation of the black community on boards and committees. The committee discussed the importance of people of color being on local boards, to include the Board of Education and via elected official positions. Denise Moore stated that she'd found that the City has a list of boards and committees, as well as an application process for individuals to complete to be added to those boards and committees. The committee discussed the need for cultivating leaders in the black community, especially among the

youth, to start the process of taking open leadership positions. The committee also discussed the need for youth services, to include mentorship, athletics, and arts activities.

Whitney stated that the committee had discussed the need for youth services at the last meeting and the need for local resources to be in the communities they serve, rather than having people seek out services. She stated that Marchel was able to gain access to the basement of the Bartlett Center and that the group would take a tour to see if there is the possibility of bringing more resources to the Midtown area. This process would then be replicated in other areas of need.

The group adjourned the meeting, so that they could tour the basement of the building.

Public Comment: None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 9/16, 12pm; Bartlett Center

Prepared by: Whitney Lanning