

**Mayor's Blue Ribbon Crime Advisory - SUB Committee Meeting**

9/16 – 12:00pm, Bartlett Center

**Committee Members Present:** Whitney Lanning, Terresa Parks, LaTonya Williams, Denice Moore, Marchel Turner, Eric Protzman, Keith Dudley, Mickey Roberts, Mike Cazel, Dan Radke, Bill McMurray, Chief Chris Connally, Drew Brown

**Call to Order:** Terresa Parks called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

**Updates since last meeting**

**a. Community Resources:**

- i. City Resource Allocation – Dan Radke reported that he has collected some data and that he is currently reviewing it. Mr. Radke referred to addressing blight in low-income areas as a way to combat crime. The committee discussed the Land Bank Committee and the possibility of working through that group to address vacant houses and blight. Chief Connally stated that the next meeting of the Landbank Committee is scheduled for 9/28 at 12:00pm.
- ii. **Rental Inspection Update** – There was limited information available as to the status of the Rental Inspection program. The subcommittee agreed that more information is needed regarding the number and locations of the rental units inspected, to include the pass/fail rate.

During the conversation about rental inspections, Mickey Roberts inquired as to what this information had to do with crime and the subcommittee. The attendees then began a discussion about systemic racism and disparities in resource allocation in communities of color. Some members of the committee stated that they did not believe that there were issues with racism in the police department or any other areas within the City government. It was stated that members of low-income neighborhoods “don’t care” and have limited attendance at community meetings and aren’t involved in applying for CIP projects. There was much discussion from other members of the committee about why people of color are often lesser represented at community meetings, on boards, and in positions of authority in the community.

There was much discussion from members of the subcommittee that have experienced racism and microaggressions when dealing with local government. These subcommittee members discussed how being a person of color in St. Joseph affects them on a daily basis and the types of opportunities they’d like to see made available. Community members stated that voting registration, educational services and tutoring, youth services, credit repair programs, and better communication from local government is all needed. There was much discussion about the lack of effective communication from the City to those in the community. City Officials acknowledged that many of the City departments are silo’d and encouraged members of the community to call the Chief or Mayor directly. There was much discussion about the lack of feasibility for all members of the community to contact City leadership, rather than work through frontline staff effectively.

The subcommittee agreed to focusing on identifying and helping to implement additional resources to the Bartlett Center.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Next Meeting Date and Location:** September 30, 2020 – 12:00 p.m. – Bartlett Center

**Adjourn:** The group adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30pm

Prepared by: Whitney Lanning

CITY CLERK  
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