



Citizens' Advisory Council Monthly Meeting

Metropolitan Police Department

Fifth District

Minutes for the Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting

May 28, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by Chairperson Robert Brannum followed by a moment of silence. Chairperson Brannum asked for an adoption of the agenda followed by his brief remarks.

Minutes from the CAC meeting of April 23, 2009 were **suspended**.

Commander Lamar Greene provided crime statistics. Year to date there has been a 4% reduction in crime District of Columbia-wide. A spike in crime across the city is due to theft. Within the 5th District, there were 18 homicides this time last year compared to 7 this year. Most of these crimes were domestic related. Robberies are down 5%. Rhode Island Avenue is known for high crime but most of these crimes are a result of crimes being committed across the Maryland line and continuing on into the District.

Vernon McCrea – age 19 was arrested. He was released and two (2) weeks later he committed 2 robberies with two (2) weeks. Since he was arrested again robberies have gone down. It is great to see police and citizens are working together as partners to solve some of the crimes being committed.

900 Block of Kearney Street, NE; Dwayne Thompson was arrested; 501 Bloomingdale, Bruce Kitt was arrested for theft from autos. Again, citizens and police partnered together for the arrest of Mr. Kitt.

Summer of Safety for Youth

Officer M.D. McCrea and Ms. Fayette Vaughn- Lee, Community Outreach Coordinator, gave a great presentation about what they are doing with the youth this summer. Some of the highlights of their presentations and the MAP they are following to get youth involved are: 1) they interact with youths in schools on a regular basis; 2) they create opportunities for young teens to interact and become more familiar and acquainted with the police officers; and 3) have different Police Officer outreach events and activities for youths that are very important to the development and maturity of young teens. NOTE: MPD – 5th District will not host a Summer Camp this summer due to a lack of funds.

U.S. Attorney's Office – U.S. Attorney Katrina Carrington 5D Community Prosecutor – (202) 514-7394. Attorney Carrington give a brief overview of her role as the 5D Community Prosecutor and how she can better serve the citizens of the 5th District with legal problems and concerns/cases. One of the main concerns that all of the attending citizens had was “how can a person that has been arrested be released so soon after the arrest”? She gave three examples of how a judge can release a person just arrested:

- 1) conditions for release are set based on the severity of the crime
- 2) released on own recognizance
- 3) released to the parents, guardian, etc.

Ms. Kathy Henderson spoke about the **5D Court Watch Program**. The gist of the program is to provide citizens an opportunity to impact a judge's decision when rendering a verdict in a criminal case by providing feedback on the case to the judge to make sure the defendant will receive the correct sentencing. The reason for this is to let the judge know that if the defendant is not given the proper sentencing it could impact the community in a very negative way. The main purpose of this program to make sure that judges hear our voices before a verdict is rendered. The judge could be notified by groups in writing, telephone calls, or even testifying when the case is presented. If anyone is interested, please contact Ms. Kathy Henderson or attend the next meeting scheduled for 6:30 PM, June 16, 2009 at the Fifth District Headquarters in the Community Room.

Councilman-At-Large, Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Public Safety and Judiciary Committee attended the meeting. Accompanying him was Mr. Mike Battle from his office. Ms. Mendelson gave remarks and explained some of the bill that he has presented for legislation. For example: Nuisance provisions for gang activity; change the standard for someone being arrested; establish a bill for car theft – unauthorized use of a car; and a penalty for a felon possessing a fire arm up to 10 years in prison; gun possession without a license would have to be registered for 2 years after completing time served for the crime; and seal police reports for violent crimes. Councilman Mendelson is committed to submitting these bills by the end of June 2009.

On June 30th at 6:00 PM there will be a **panel discussion with CNN** with Councilman Harry Thomas **at the District Building in Room 500**. Your participation is invited.

Mr. John Washington made a motion for the CAC to sponsor up to 10 children to Camp Brown this summer. Mrs. Alice Harper seconded the motion; the motion was carried. The CAC will sponsor 10 children to Camp Brown for the summer of 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Frances Penn

Note Taker

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Frances Penn