

Community Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Minutes:

01/14/11

Meeting to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Pastor Dwight Benoit gave the benediction

Followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dwight Benoit
Sandra Womack
Morline Guillory
William Sam, Sr.
Bart Owens
Ronald Bishop
Abe Roman
Belashia Wallace
Gene Bush
Glen Johnson
Paul Montes, Sr.

Police Department Staff in Attendance:

Chief Frank C. Coffin, Jr.
Lt. Jim Clay
Lt. Mark Pierce
Captain David Travis
Captain Glenn Durst
Captain Wayne Jeffcoat

Mayor Becky Ames: Hope that the persons in this new commission will be active and that this committee will be good for all citizens, police officers and the police department. She will be appointing a chairman and vice chairman to the committee. She welcomes feedback from everyone. She stated that if a member of the Committee does not feel like they would be able to take the Citizens Police Academy or if they do not feel like they will have the time to do everything asked of them, she said to let her know because there is so many people that would like to be on this Committee.

Chief Coffin: Today he will discuss what to expect during the meetings and hopes that this will be a positive experience for all persons involved in this committee. This type of committee has done well at different police departments. We will not be discussing discipline or complaints against police officers. It will give each and every person a better understanding of what goes on within the police department and how certain laws require us not to release certain information to the public. Also, we will discuss ground rules, and you will be introducing yourself and giving a sentence about what you expect from these meetings.

Next meeting the room will look differently it will be in the shape of a horseshoe so that we can have dialogue or discussion for a better experience for everyone.

These will be open meetings where the public can attend. Reporters may also be attending. There will be no discipline cases or personnel issues discussed. Everything else can be public record. We will eventually discuss how you can file a open records request at the city clerk's office. The meetings will start on time and end on time.

Sr. Staff was introduced:

Community Advisory Committee members were introduced.

Chief Coffin: The high points will be to assist police department with a greater understanding of police and community issues. The police department needs to be fully aware of what the issues are. We do not need to know every community issue. We are not going to tell you what to discuss at the meetings. And once a topic has been exhausted then we will move on to another. How often we meet can be changed if necessary.

Lt. Mark Pierce: Gave an overview of the Citizens Police Academy.

Each Person on the committee must attend the Citizens Police Academy per the ordinance. The next Citizens Police Academy starts on February 3, 2011 and it will run 13 consecutive Thursdays along with 2 Saturdays. It starts from 7:00 p.m. till 9:30 p.m. in the Training classrooms at the Beaumont Police Department. This class is used as an educational tool to show how the police department does things and why. Since its establishment in 1994, about 1500 people have cycled through it. Basically there are one to two topics covered in each class, such as defense tactics, emergency vehicle operation, mach traffic stops, crime scene investigation and a tour of the correctional facility. Each class usually has 30 people in all from around the County. This will help each committee member to get a better understanding and will be able to supplement that with how the Beaumont Police Department operates. At the end of the academy there will be a banquet. Members need to ride out as soon as you can. You have to fill a form out each time you ride out.

Chief Coffin: There will be two components to the committee meetings. First will be the training aspect or an explanation to why we do things the way we do them. Second, will be the discussion of a topic. The chairman will task you with top 3 issues that we need to discuss. The police department will not dictate what we talk about, the committee will need to do that.

John Flanagan was introduced to the Committee. He is in charge of the recruiting for the police department.

Suggestions and Topics:

Police Department needs to reach out to neighborhoods, churches and communities to educate citizens.

Would like phone numbers and email addresses if the staff members of the police department.

Would like to exchange committee member's personal contact information.

Meetings will be once a month and tentatively one hour.

It was agreed by the Committee that changing it to the 3rd Thursday of each month would be good.

We have 13 neighborhood associations and would like to see 26 associations with more people involved.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15 p.m.

**Minutes Taken by: Laurie Brack
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