

Meeting: Community Leadership Council on Gun Violence Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

Location: New Birth Tabernacle of Praise

In attendance: Chief DeLeo, Eva Mannings, Annie Harris, Gloria Pugh, Rudy Ferguson, Edward Clark, Ken Tucker, Akhenaton “AK” Thomas, Wilson Barnes, Nancy Daniels, Reggie Bouthillier, Rick Flagg,

Absent: Buck Chambers, Betsy Henderson, Pam Hightower, Twanetta Rollins, Heather Mitchell, Steve Harrelson, Jack Campbell,

Chief DeLeo called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

Chief DeLeo has selected Akhenaton “AK” Thomas to chair Education & Youth subcommittee.

The Communication subcommittee is the only group to meet since the last Council meeting.

The letter discussed at the last meeting has transitioned into a report that will be presented to the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, and Private Sector. The report will include background information, current statistics, recommendations and a request for funding.

The revised campaign will be a human campaign that targets the human issue of gun violence. The new logo will be ready by the next meeting for the Council's approval.

Ms. Pugh provided a summary on Dr. Slutkin’s Cure Violence initiative. Dr. Slutkin argues that gun violence is a social disease and should be treated by addressing the underlying problem. The cities that have implemented this initiative have seen great results.

Chief DeLeo has spoken with a cure violence representative. The estimated startup cost to come to Tallahassee is \$350,000. Approximately \$75,000 would be for the Cure Violence initiative. The remaining \$250,000 will stay in the community by employing citizens in the neighborhoods to be the interrupters of violence. There is a two day orientation session in Chicago this June that will provide additional information on the Cure Violence initiative. The only cost associated with the orientation will be travel, lodging and food.

The first areas to evaluate will be our two high incident areas and if it's effective in those locations, we can spread into other areas of town.

As a Council, we need to be more actively engaged in the community. We need to start planning neighborhood walks and/or festivals. Once dates/locations are determined the communications subcommittee will assist with flyers. The Police Department can assist by providing resources from the Community Relations Unit.

An official motion was made at 4:20 p.m. to endorse the Cure Violence initiative. All members in attendance agreed.

Each subcommittee will need to provide recommendations for the report. Subcommittee recommendations are due to Angie by March 20, 2015. This information will be used to produce a report to present to the City Commission on April 8, 2015.

The Faith Based and Neighborhoods subcommittee will meet with other pastors in town and start coordinating neighborhood events.

Community Input:

Dean Pugh is willing to participate in the neighborhood walks and will bring people to participate.

Christine Nieves is a new resident in town and has worked with the CeaseFire organization. She would like to know if there is expected pushback from the Cure Violence initiative and what the neighborhoods are doing. Ms. Harris explained that the Faith Based and Neighborhood subcommittee has invited the pastors to their meetings and she believes they will support the initiative.

Mr. Tucker will notify the Council if there are grants that would help the Council with funding.

The next meeting will be at Jack McLean Community Center on March 26th at 3:00 pm.

Important dates to remember:

March 20 – Subcommittee recommendations due to Angie

March 26 – Next Council meeting

April 1 - Community Forum at the Lincoln Neighborhood Center

April 8 – City Commission meeting presentation

April 20 -Community Forum at Jack McLean

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.