



PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2005

PSAC Attendees:

Sam O'Conner
Mark Mew
Robin Birkedal
Chuck Springer
Precyous Council
Elsa Sargento
Anthony Piper
Linda Zaugg

Also attending:

Heather Handyside
Terri Martin
DC Audie Holloway
Craig Goodrich

6PM: Meeting was called to order by Tony Piper, acting chair.

Approval of minutes – Minutes were approved subject to minimal changes.

Introduction of Sgt. Cindy Stanton – Sgt. Stanton is the new lead staff for community councils and community-based issues. Will act as a resource for the PSAC.

Old Business: Youth Violence Project

Heather Handyside provided the group with an update on the community events planned for the week of March 14th. Though the events are coming together in terms of logistics, funding and speakers, there was concern that the Anchorage School District has not embraced Mr. Jennings as a speaker and schools are not interested in organizing an assembly for Mr. Jennings.

The group discussed ways to address this issue including a direct appeal to Carol Comeau, one-on-one meetings with school principals and specific requests from student government. Ultimately, it was agreed that a letter would be written (attached) to Superintendent Comeau to request her assistance with this effort. The letter was to be written in an informational manner and in a way that would not be threatening to principals who may have already refused to host the event.

Members expressed concern about the quality of the presentation and whether or not the PSAC should be associated with the speaker without having seen his work. The general sentiment of the group seemed to be that an endorsement from the Mayor for Mr. Jennings was sufficient to merit PSAC endorsement.

The group also discuss ways to inform the public about Mr. Jennings events. Suggestions included flyers, posters, radio spots and outreach to cultural communities. Heather Handyside agreed to produce flyers, to distribute them and to follow-up with cultural communities.

Fairview Community Council public safety concerns

The group discussed issues brought up at the January meeting regarding criminal activity at 13th and Gambell. After input from several members and Deputy Chief Audie Holloway, it was determined that the PSAC should first become informed on the topic before determining whether or not to pursue the issue. To that end, Heather Handyside agreed to invite appropriate speakers to the next meeting to address the issue.

Future Projects

Chuck Springer expressed an interest in bringing up new topics for the group to address and to potentially holding a team building/mission building exercise for the group. The group remained open to these concepts but requested that the PSAC remain firmly focused on Youth Violence at least through April 2005.