



Central District Police/Community Relations Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2008

Meeting location and time: Metropolitan United Methodist Church (8000 Woodward)
at 6:30 pm

- **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by President Rita Smith at 6:39 p.m.

- **Invocation**

- **Welcome**

President Rita Smith welcomed everyone and introduced the Council Officers present. Recording Secretary Jackie Sewell is still recovering from her heart surgery. Vice President Sonia Moore has resigned due to health issues.

- **Presentation and Approval of Agenda**

- **Welcome to Visitors and First Time Attendees**

- **Recognition of Government Officials/Representatives**

- **Approval of December 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes were distributed; motion to accept the minutes was made and approved.

- **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Wenonah M. Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report:

Balance 11/30/07	\$ 846.25
Expenses	- .00
Proceeds from Raffle 12/18/07	+ 11.00
Donation - Lucy Maddox	+ <u>10.00</u>
Balance 1/14/08	<u>\$ 867.25</u>

Brick Fund has \$14.00

Treasurer's Report was approved.

- **Change to Agenda**

President Smith announced that she was scheduled for additional eye surgery in February. Since Vice President Sonia Moore has resigned due to health issues, Ms. Smith would like the group to accept Mark Hansknecht to fill in as Vice President until the next election.

Motion was made to temporarily, on a one-time basis, supersede the bylaws and fill in the Vice President vacancy with out an election. Motion passed.

Motion was made to install Mark Hansknecht as Vice President. Mr. Hansknecht (pronounced *hands-connect*) accepted the nomination and described his work and community involvement in Corktown. Motion passed.

- **Central District Crime Report – Deputy Chief Shereece Fleming-Freeman**

Deputy Chief Shereece Fleming-Freeman was unable to attend and sent her regrets. Cmdr. John Serda (Patrol Operations) and Cmdr. Kenneth Williams (Central Events) presented the report.

Cmdr. Serda discussed a crack down on problems in the Midtown area (Alexandrine between Cass - Third). He described several other arrests in the District.

Question on when the district staff will move into the new building. Cmdr. Serda stated that the renovation was still in progress although several units have been able to move in to other areas of the building – Civil Rights, Liquor Licenses, Consent Decrees, etc.

Question if the building will be community friendly. Sgt. Quick pointed out that the new building will have a Community Relations room for our meeting. Cmdr. Williams pointed out that the Detroit Police Department, as well as many police departments nationwide, is becoming more community responsive and is expanding its Community Relations activity.

Question on reporting a crime. The Complaint Form has been revised and was pointed out to the group. They are available at the sign-in table.

Cmdr. Williams reported that all the districts will be having conversations with residents on quality of life issues. He is working to have cops back on bikes this summer. It involves intensive training and there are many issues (union, insurance, etc) to address.

Cmdr. Williams reported on the fantastic Auto Show and how wonderful Detroit looked to the world.

- **Central District Community Relations Officers Report**

Sgt. Quick announced that the District worked with Mr. Coker and gave new coats to five families. Thanks also to Ms. Maddox.

Turkey dinners will be distributed to needy family on January 21st (in a joint project with the Northeast District).

Off Johnson was introduced as a new officer in the Community Relations department.

- **Wayne County Prosecutor's Report – Mr. Michael Harrison**

Michael Harrison, the Central District's Representative in the Wayne County Prosecutors Office - Community Prosecution Unit, reported on his department's activities.

Question on problem with houses being stripped, cars stolen, and cable theft from buildings and schools. Mr. Harrison stated that the economy is bad which causes crime to increase. There are auto theft task forces working in the city. Cmdr. Williams reported that metal theft is a serious issue everywhere.

Question on prostitution in neighborhood houses. Cmdr. Williams stated that citizens need to complain so that the department can set up surveillance and get drug/vice squads involved. He also stated that residents should organize and establish rules that govern their neighborhoods.

Prosecutor Harrison stated that his office can go after houses/apartment buildings that have a record of arrests. He stated that Kym Worthy made a presentation to the group last year on the Nuisance Abatement and Forfeiture Programs. If his department sees three arrests from one house/building, they will contact the owner with a warning letter. They will do further action if the illegal activity continues including taking the property away.

- **Committee Report**

None

- **Executive Board Report**

Ms. Smith reminded everyone that the Council has:

- A web site through Neighborhood Link = www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/cdpcrc
- A phone number = 313-429-0700
- An email address = cdpcrc@hotmail.com

Ms. Smith is posting the Bylaws, Minutes, Treasurer's Reports, District map, and activities on the website.

- **Old Business**

Gail Philips thanked Off. Gibson for his prompt action to her complaint on the Brush Park dumpster.

- **New Business**

Resident would like the Mayor's Office to help his church address abandon homes in his neighborhood. We do get representatives from the Mayor's office periodically. Our main meeting theme is police/community relations but meetings to address other issues can be held in the Central District especially when the District moves into its new building.

- **Announcements**

Mr. Moore stated that at his block club meeting they address city issues. He announced his block club's meeting time and place (Third Thursday at the Family Place) and everyone is welcome.

Ms. Smith stated that the mailing list has grown to almost 500 names. To reduce mailing costs, February's meeting notice will state: "anyone who has not attended a meeting between June 2007 and February 2007 will be deleted from the monthly mailing". Any names removed will be re-added once that person attends a meeting.

- **50/50 Raffle**

- **Adjournment**

Minutes submitted February 7, 2008
Leslie R. Malcolmson, Secretary