

## **MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY CITY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS, JUNE 16, 2011—MINUTES**

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**—at 6:36 by the Chair, Matt Noako. Present: Katie Cohen, Marva Miller, Matt Nosko, Charlotte Sagi, Jackie Womack and Kathy McGinnis. Excused: Dave Olander. Also present, staff Liaison, Brandon Drake.
- 2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING AND AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING WERE APPROVED.**
- 3. CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLES ADAMS:**

Chief Adams joined the meeting, and the first topic of conversation, initiated by Marva Miller, was an update on the situation with youth and the Loop.

The Chief said that the Loop is a meeting place for young people from all over the St. Louis area. That's been true for at least three years. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was a Teen Party at the Pageant. Those who couldn't get in were out walking on the streets. Only a small number of the kids caused any trouble. There have not been any real incidents since then. U. City and St. Louis city have put extra officers in the area from Thursday through Sunday nights. Commission members were positive about more officers in the Loop. The Chief said it is a strain on their staffing capabilities. U. City has an earlier curfew than the city of St. Louis. After 9 PM, some youth go east into the city. The Chief also said that the width of the sidewalk makes things difficult in terms of people walking where there are tables.

Marva also asked about the idea of community service within U. City for U. City youth who go through the courts. The Chief said that the Family Court decides this for the young people. The police are not consulted. Marva asked that there be a specific unit in U. City to set up for community service opportunities for the young people.

Jackie asked the Chief about what he was doing to make sure that officers treat people fairly. The Chief said that he looks for officers who understand diversity. Jackie also asked about "embracing our kids." The Chief responded that much of this starts in the home.

Matt ask about efforts for positive interactions between police and kids. Chief Adams said that they do walk-throughs at the schools. They also work with at-risk kids in a mentoring program.

The police also meet monthly with a group of citizens, similar to a focus group. The Chief reiterated that they realize they need to be both proactive and reactive.

Matt asked about how people address discrimination. The Chief said that would be a federal referral. The job of the police department would be to maintain peace in a conversation/dispute around alleged discrimination.

Kathy asked if the police do community mediation. The Chief said they do do it as best they can.

Kathy asked what is the procedure for a citizen who had a grievance against the police. Chief Adams said that comes to his office. There is also a Police Inspector. The City Manager would handle a complaint against the Chief. An employee could appeal to the Civil Service Board. There would be consultation with the City Manager and the Personnel Department. There is no Civilian Review Board for U. City. Police.

#### **4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **a. JUVENILE COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

Our conversation included asking the Police Chief to go with us to the Family Court to speak in favor of a system being set up in U. City. We realize that the Parks Department does something like this; that some kind of record keeping system would have to be set up. We also talked about a restorative justice model in which the service could be done for the victim of the offense.

**MOTION: The motion was made and passed that Matt, Marva and Brandon would begin the work on this and bring it back to the next meeting.**

##### **b. CONVERSATION WITH A SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE:**

**MOTION: The motion was made and passed that we spend time at next month's meeting talking about exactly what we want to ask the schhol representative and whether or not the superintendent is the person we want to talk with.**

(We know that part of the conversation will be on what programs that have set up in the schools that foster an environment of respect for everyone, and how effective was the training that they recently had.)

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. We discussed whether there are areas in U. City where groups of people don't feel welcome. The decision was that we should all talk to people we know , as well as the Council members who appointed us and see what the perceptions of residents are about this question.

**MOTION: The motion was made and passed that we have this discussion at the August meeting and that Brandon email people to remind them about talking to others to get some information for the discussion.**

- b. Matt was congratulated on his picture in the paper.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7: 56.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy McGinnis

Acting Secretary for June meeting