

Cedar Riverside NRP Safety Committee Meeting Minutes: January 5, 2016

Attendance:

Lynn Johnson, Mary Mellen, Hani Mohamed, Isse Mohamed, Lt Calvin Noble (Park Police), Abdirahman Mukhtar, Nan Zosel, Ryan Justak, Justin Teal, Afifa Abdi, Russom Solomon, Hussein Farah, Shaafi Ci Mohamed (spelling?), Abdulkadir Egal, Debbie Wolking, Peg Wolf, McKinley Bogan, Rob T Wantees, Burhan Mohumed (spelling?), Kaltun Jama, Ahmed Hassan and Carla Nielson (recorder).

Introductions, Past Minutes & Agenda approved:

Introductions were conducted, followed by corrections to December 1, 2015 minutes. Note name misspelled for Abdirahman Mukhtar (Brian Coyle staff). Agenda was approved. (Peg and __made motions) Minutes were then motioned for approval with correction noted by Lynn Anderson and Abdirahman Mukhtar. Minutes approved.

Neighborhood Crime Updates:

Ahmed Hassan provided an overview of the crime stats for November and December 2015. Part one crime for 12/1-31/2015 had a total of 40; Nov had 41 total; Part two crimes were 63 for Dec and were 70 for November. Yearend totals --Part 1 crimes 2015=406 and 2014=391. For 2014= 810 Part 2 crimes; and 853 Part 2 crimes for 2015. Carla covered larcenies that had happened in the past month, two of the incidents mentioned including liquor being taken from a business and a laptop from Nomad.

Concerns were raised regarding number of sexual assaults on the cumulative maps. Carla explained that often victims of these crimes may go to Fairview Hospital for services, though the rape or assault happened elsewhere; which increase the overall number of rapes/assaults in 1st Pct, though the incident may not have happened here. We have not had that many rapes/sexual assaults in the neighborhood. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the three Somali women over age 55 that were molested in December near parking ramp. A community alert was not sent out and attendees voiced their frustration about this. It was explained that some of the incidents fell over the Christmas Holiday and staff were off work. Carla also explained that there are different kinds of 'assaults,' molestations and sexual crimes and they have different codes assigned to them in the computer. (It was acknowledged that in the Somali language there is only one word for rape and sexual assaults). Carla will be working with the Cedar Riverside School and a personal safety program to arrange training for women and children in the next few months.

Others expressed the media and language divide, although there are neighborhood websites, Nextdoor neighbor and closed circuit TV station in some of the buildings here; numerous languages are spoken here and not all may be able to read a notice.

General Safety Concerns:

Russom voiced the need for two beat officers at night. Officer Ali is still working solo at night. Russom then continued and acknowledged there is concern among the bars and restaurants that all of the night beats go downtown, and this area needs police presence too. Bars here expect same treatment of having officers readily available if something happens. It was then mentioned that only Park Police were at the meeting and there weren't any sworn staff from First Precinct.

There are two beat officers, Officers "Lazer" Kevin Lazarchic and Aaron Hanson. Officer Hanson will be transferring back to the First Precinct streets on day hours soon in January and Officer Heidi Eisenbeis will be working with Lazer.

Lt Noble (Park Police) then discussed the Brian Coyle Basketball Tournament held during winter break. Staff from Brian Coyle stated that the mobile camera in the direct area was helpful during the Tournament. The Games were very well received with 1,000 young people; 10 teams of 10 players. Youth signed thank you cards for the departments. Complaint about youth was raised that 5 on 15 had had snow and rocks thrown at the new building after one of the night games. Abdirahman said he would follow up with Lt Noble to see if the camera caught any of this activity. It was unclear if 911 was called.

Another attendee commented that she and other community members see a rise in the number of people with mental illness moving into the buildings; there's concern about the rape of the child (Oct 2015), and now women, how to best take care of themselves. Perhaps services for mentally ill need to be more available in the community here. Brian Coyle staff have also had recent experiences of people coming in with these challenges and 911 had to be called.

Carla explained the MPD's Critical Incident Team (CIT). These are sworn officers who've received 40 additional hours in training on mental health and de-escalation skills. Carla suggested having Officer Ali come to an upcoming meeting to talk about it. Carla also informed the group that families have stopped by the Safety Center since it opened to inform MPD staff about family members with mental health challenges. Debbie stated that there is a Mental Health center on Franklin Ave and Minnehaha. Hennepin County had one in this area previously. Comment was made that perhaps Phill Kelly and the youth are working on this issue. Group continued discussing mental illness at length, their observations and experiences with community members; one recent suicide found on West Bank & Washington who jumped off Hennepin Ave. Lt Noble instructed attendees that the guidelines are that if a person is a danger to themselves or others, to call 911; instruct officers via 911 that is a "check the welfare" of someone, or is a "suspicious person," for example, someone is walking along and clearly talking with themselves.

Announcements:

Youth Resource Fair: Brian Coyle Center 1200-400 pm, Step Up applications will be there on site

Cedar Riverside NRP—has a newsletter, send info to Hani as Ryan is working on it.