

**Mayor's Blue Ribbon Crime Advisory - SUB Committee Meeting**

9/30/2020 – 12:00pm, Bartlett Center

**Committee Members Present:** Whitney Lanning, Teresa Parks, LaTonya Williams, Denice Moore, Eric Protzman, Mickey Roberts, Dan Radke, Bill McMurray, Chief Chris Connally

**Call to Order:** Teresa Parks called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

**Updates Since Last Meeting:**

Crime Updates: Chief Connally provided updates on crime and crime statistics.

Dan Radke stated that he had reviewed the most recent annual crime report that Chief Connally prepares and stated that he saw where there were significant disparities in the searches and arrest of black citizens compared to white citizens. Mr. Radke stated that 32% of marijuana searches were performed on black individuals, despite black citizens comprising only 6-8% of the local population. Mr. Radke also stated that black males age 18-29 were pulled over, arrested, or ticketed at 47% of the total. Chief Connally stated that in order to better understand the data you have to consider high risk behavior. Chief Connally stated that we have to look at each other's similarities and not just our differences.

Mr. Radke brought up the concept of decriminalizing marijuana. He stated that he had done research and found an ordinance that Kansas City had adopted that would reduce the fine and jail time for marijuana possession; Mr. Radke discussed the benefits of decriminalizing marijuana.

Mickey Roberts interjected Mr. Radke's discussion on decriminalizing marijuana and asked what the point of the subcommittee is. Mr. Roberts stated that SJPD is accredited and that Mr. Radke doesn't understand the data. Mike Cazel added that after all the discussions and meetings it's clear to him that there is no systemic racism in St. Joseph.

Ms. Lanning, Ms. Parks and Mr. Radke responded with examples of how systemic racism is very present in our community. Ms. Lanning described the delapidated condition of the Horace-Mann building and the fact that people of color had asked for improvements for years, but it took a group of white male's to get that to occur. Ms. Parks discussed the hurt and lack of trust that is manifested by the lack of attention to communities of color; she provided personal experiences to validated her point. Ms. Lanning stated that the subcommittee is not getting anywhere because some of the members do not believe there is an issue and that at each meeting people of color are required to "perform their pain" and illustrate how disparities affect them on a daily basis in our community. Black members of the committee described the local government as being poor communicators, they stated there's a lack of funding and resources allocated to neighborhoods of color, and stated that the City is still very segregated.

The subcommittee discussed how to better improve relationships between the City (to include SJPD) and people of color, especially within the Midtown Neighborhood. The subcommittee discussed the need for more polices, mental health providers, and community resources.

There was much discussion about body cameras and how information is tracked and logged when individuals are pulled over.

The committee settled on recommendations to take forth to the City Council: 1. Body cameras for all police officers, 2. Additional mental health providers to address nonviolent crime, 3. More police officer allocations and the implementation of merit or tenure based salary increases.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Next Meeting Date and Location:** To be determined.

**Adjourn:** The group adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:30pm

Prepared by: Whitney Lanning

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CITY CLERK