

304:

"Center offers campus to budding musicians"

Subtitle: Campus community interaction and initiatives

"Mo' Betta" "Center offers camps to budding musicians"

Jazz

Brief description: Salem Baptist Church hosts the African American Culture Center's budding musicians program. The camp began June 7th and ends on the 12th. The Developing artist's camp another program from the above mentioned sponsor starts August 9th and ends on the 14th. The camp is for low and moderate income student.

"Mayor's remarks remind of slavery" By: Emma S. Bridgwater

Subtitle: Civil Rights

The author of the letter to the editor, responds to Mayor Schweighart's racist remarks about our president and relates them to Champaign- Urbana's racist past. She also comments on her deep roots in the Champaign-Urbana history.

"Unit 4 explores other options for gifted education" On Champaign school's, By: Jodi Heckel

Subtitle: Primary/Secondary School Education and Discrimination

Unit 4 wants to apply for federal magnet school grant to remedy the lack of funds for gifted programs at selected schools.

Council member speaks out regarding employee discipline in Kiwane Carrington incident

Stephanie Tussing Web staff Contact me

Updated Posted: April 22nd, 2010 - 11:09 AM

Updated: April 26th, 2010 - 3:53 PM

Tagged with: Eddie Adair, Holly Nearing, John Freese, Kiwane Carrington, Kiwane Carrington, Police officer Daniel Norbits, shooting, Steve Carter, Tamara Cummings, undefined, undefined, undefined, Champaign-Urbana

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Police Officer Daniel Norbits has been suspended for 30 days by City of Champaign City Manager Steve Carter due to his actions in the fatal shooting of Kiwane Carrington Oct. 9, 2009.

The decision was determined by review of the Internal Investigation Report by Deputy Chief Holly Nearing, a report from the Champaign Police Department's Firearms Discharge Review Board and an External Review Report by retired Judge John Freese and retired Urbana Chief of Police Eddie Adair.

## Also See

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State's Attorney's Report on Death of Kiwane Carrington

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Kiwane Carrington's death an "accident"

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Charges dropped against youth in Kiwane Carrington incident

The review determined Officer Norbits violated Police Department policy when he failed to maintain control of his weapon. Carter's decision was made in recognition of the act as unintentional and one which was affected by other circumstances, including the confined area of the incident and failure of Carrington to obey the command of a police officer.

Carter stated that it has been a difficult time for the entire community and that no action on behalf of the city could make up for the loss of Kiwane Carrington.

According to its press release, The Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council is "extremely disappointed" by the decision of the City Manager that any discipline against Officer Norbits is appropriate, let alone a penalty as severe as a 30 day suspension.

"While the death of Mr. Carrington is a tragedy," the release noted, "It is a tragedy that was brought about by Mr. Carrington's own actions and not by any fault on the part of Officer Norbits."

Tamara Cummings, legal staff with the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police, doesn't know for sure yet if the labor council will appeal the suspension.

"As far as I know (the suspension) is final," she said. "But we are considering appealing it, which might lessen (Officer Norbits' suspension time), or eliminate it."

City council member Will Kyles disagreed with Norbit's penalty saying, "Based on the fact that two out of three additional reports revealed that there was a policy violation, with that policy violation being a contributing factor in death, I do not believe that the discipline is severe enough."

Kyles continued, "Saying that, I believe that IFOP's press release was one-sided, did not take all factors into account, and paints the Champaign Police Department in a light that hampers and hinders any hope for better Police-Community relations. Beyond that, my deepest hope is that the Champaign community digs deep, police officers included, and fight to change perceptions and realities for a better tomorrow."

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Champaign Unit 4 adopts desegregation plan in hopes of winning MSAP grant

Christina Bongabong News staff writer [Contact me](#)

Posted: April 12th, 2010 - 11:43 PM

Updated: April 12th, 2010 - 11:47 PM

Tagged with: Arthur Culver, Beth Shepperd, Champaign community unit school district 4, David Tomlinson, U.S., United States, Washington, Champaign-Urbana

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The Champaign Unit 4 school district passed the resolution to adopt the desegregation plan. They hope their efforts toward desegregation will increase their chances of winning the Magnet Schools Assistance Program, or MSAP, grant from the U.S. government for the 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 school years.

If the district wins the award, they will receive \$2.5 million each year for three years to support the implementation of magnet programs in three of the district's elementary schools: Booker T. Washington Elementary, Garden Hills Elementary and Stratton Elementary.

"The resolution affirms commitment to what we're already doing," said Beth Shepperd, Champaign Unit 4 assistant superintendent.

MSAP grants aim to help schools with voluntary desegregation efforts to eliminate, reduce and prevent the isolation of minority groups in educational programs while enabling them to meet challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards.

As part of its previous desegregation efforts, Champaign Unit 4 adopted a Consent Decree outlining educational equity in January 2002, which expired at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Key points in the Consent Decree included racial fairness, parental choice and increased capacity in schools, a parent information center and community involvement.

"We will continue our commitment to educational equity and fairness in the district, and we will continue to hold the superintendent and his staff accountable for implementing the board's policies," said David Tomlinson, school board president.

Under the voluntary desegregation plan, Champaign Unit 4 will consider socioeconomic factors, such as gross family income, when assigning students to schools. The school district has also created the Educational Equity Excellence Committee to oversee efforts in promoting equal education opportunities.

The three elementary schools will have magnet programs installed in their existing educational systems.

Booker T. Washington Elementary School's magnet program will adopt a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) theme while Stratton Elementary School's magnet program will adopt a MicroSociety-esque theme. Garden Hills Elementary will implement the Primary Years Programme, an International Baccalaureate program for primary grades.

"Our staff, our board and our community have shown their commitment to the goals of the Consent Decree, and we will not be turning the clock back and losing the lessons that we have learned in the past seven years," said Arthur Culver, superintendent of Champaign Unit 4. "We will definitely continue the policies, practices, systems and programs and the processes that have led to where we are today."

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Urbana considers constructing new community center

Avani Chhaya News staff writer Contact me

Posted: April 4th, 2010 - 11:00 PM

Updated: April 4th, 2010 - 11:00 PM

Tagged with: Champaign-Urbana

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A draft resolution for constructing a community center for Martin Luther King, Jr., Elementary School will be put to a final vote at its Monday night Urbana City Council meeting.

The elementary School is located in north Urbana, 1108 Fairview Avenue, said Alderman Brandon Bowersox of Ward 4 in Urbana, east of Crystal Lake Park near Goodwin Avenue.

The resolution would construct a community center for the neighborhood adjacent to the elementary school. The community space can be used by the school during the day for assemblies or play practices, said Charlie Smyth, Ward 1. He added that the surrounding neighborhood can use the space for community dinners, civic meetings or adult classes, including tutoring.

"The community around King School has been trying to get some meeting space for over 20 years," Smyth said. "The idea is to have a place where neighborhoods can have a space for community activities. There are lots of ways to use that common space. The community room will have lots of different uses."

Smyth added that the discussion to construct a community center in this particular neighborhood was brought to the city council's attention in the early 1990s.

According to the memorandum, the project will cost about \$400,000 from the Tax Increment Finance funds, or TIF, an account for property taxes, said David Gehrig, Ward 2. The school property falls within the boundary lines of the district and is qualified to receive the funding from the finance account. Bowersox added that the balance of the TIF account by the end of June will be \$1 million, of which \$400,000 would go toward the project.

Gehrig said the city considers two things when approving a Tax Increment Finance district: where the border lines of the district are and how long it will remain. The fund for the Martin Luther King Elementary School district will expire in 2013.

“They define a boundary of a community that needs improvement,” he added.

Property taxes of a particular community are frozen at a certain amount. If there are any increases from this amount, the difference goes into the finance account.

“The money that is put into this special fund is to improve that particular area,” Gehrig said. “The sunset is approaching. I think the main thing is to create a good meeting space to pull a community together. Anything that we can do to draw the community together is a good thing.”

He added that it is for the community to decide what it wants to see in the community center. Gehrig added it is important to get input from everyone in the neighborhood for this community space.

Bowersox said the school district has a long-term goal of attaching a community center to every elementary school in Urbana. During the evenings, the neighborhood will be able to utilize the community center. While the rest of the school will be closed for the night, the community space will still be open for the neighborhood.

“A community room has been an idea that has been talked about for many, many years. It has been talked about and hoped for,” Bowersox said. “Finally, it’s going to be a reality.”

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“What’s Black in the News” panel discusses violence, other issues in black community

Michael Maione, Contributing Writer

Posted: February 24th, 2010 - 1:17 AM

Updated: February 24th, 2010 - 6:22 PM

Tagged with: Christopher Benson, Joycelyn Landrum-Brown, NAACP, NABJ, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Association of Black Journalists, Champaign-Urbana

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The National Association of Black Journalists, or NABJ, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented the second annual “What’s Black in the News” panel discussion Tuesday night.

The panel covered topics including black family dynamics, the relationship between local and campus black communities, coping with stress caused by racism, the reason for hate crimes and media influence on black children.

The co-president of the University’s chapter of NABJ, Erica McKinney, senior in Media and former Illini Media employee, introduced four faculty members to a nearly full lecture hall in the Animal Sciences Laboratory.

Christopher Benson, professor of African American Studies and journalism; Joycelyn Landrum-Brown, program coordinator for the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations; Jennifer Hamer, associate professor of African American Studies; and William Patterson, associate director of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center made up the panel. They discussed violence in the black community, a shift from last year’s topic regarding the media’s portrayal of blacks.

“We tend to think of hate crimes after the fact because that’s when they’re reported in the news,” Benson said. “They actually occur in a broader sense and are part of a systematic problem that involves power more than hate. Hate crimes are committed by people who are trying to retain their power through violence.”

The panel later discussed the image of black students on campus.

“Thug life is a powerful image,” Patterson said. “Such a powerful image that it came to campus. The collegiate thug looks like the thug on the block. He’s got his pants at his knees on the Quad, and he’s doing things like starting fights on Green Street. But if you really thought being a thug was legitimate, you wouldn’t be doing it on the Quad; you’d still be in the hood.”

The conversation opened up when the topic changed to the death of Kiwane Carrington, a 15-year-old who was shot and killed by a Champaign police officer in October 2009.

“If you look at the nexus of power and their connections to the police, you see why the people who are supposed to be doing something about this aren’t doing anything,” Benson said.

The panel also discussed the community’s reaction to the incident.

“(The Carrington shooting) was one of the first issues since the 1970s to mobilize the black community this much,” Patterson said. “I’m hoping his death will not be in vain, and that it will make young people come together to find the pump for change.”

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Krannert hosts annual MLK Jr. essay contest

Ariel Robinson News Staff Writer Contact me

Posted: January 24th, 2010 - 2:06 PM

Updated: January 25th, 2010 - 12:08 AM

Tagged with: Champaign-Urbana

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Krannert Center hosted the 8th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay contest Saturday.

The essay contest topics were focused on social injustice in the students' communities and the nation as a whole. Poetry or two page papers were submitted from nearly 300 students ranging from grades fourth through 12. Sixteen submissions were chosen as winning essays and seventeen were named honorable mention.

"They take on social justice issues in the form of a letter to [President] Obama or King," said Nathaniel Banks, chair of the MLK Planning Committee and staff member in the office of the University's Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement.

Some common topics chosen by students were poverty, violence and racism.

"I realized education was a pretty big problem we don't usually acknowledge," said Aishwarya Gautam, an eleventh grader from University Laboratory High School.

Each student who received honorable mention was awarded a certificate for participation at the ceremony and winners received gold medals, award certificates and \$50 gift certificates to the Illini Union Bookstore.

Excerpts from the winning essays were displayed on posters throughout Krannert's lobby. The winning students were allowed to choose which part of their essay to read aloud on stage in order "to give it more meaning to them and to the event," said Mildred Trent, coordinator of the essay contest and associate dean of the College of Education.

The essay contest was an opportunity to address the subject of unequal education opportunities as well as a way for Gautam to express herself, she said.

"I thought it was a good opportunity to express myself and to shed light on an issue that gets overlooked a lot," Gautam said.

In addition to presentations of awards, there was a series of performances during the event.

University performance groups Ominvov, Soul Premier, Inner Voices Social Issues Theatre and Chai-Town sang performed throughout the event.

Banks said the groups were chosen because they were students and had performed for other social justice and charity related events.

The essay contest is hosted every year at Krannert and is run by a 16 member planning committee. Over 60 departments from the University sponsor the event, Banks said.

“The planning committee thought to reach out to get students engaged in social issues,” Banks said.

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King's dream hits close to home

Jack Vebber News staff writer [Contact me](#)

Nora Ibrahim Assistant news editor [Contact me](#)

Posted: January 17th, 2010 - 11:54 PM

Updated: January 20th, 2010 - 9:01 PM

Tagged with: Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace, death, help, Keith Harris, King, Kiwane Carrington, McKinley Church and Foundation, MLK, Patsy Howell, progress, Champaign-Urbana

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Pastor Morris Lockett and his granddaughter Janiyah Gareer, both of Champaign, listen to a musical performance by Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, professor of music at the University, during the 9th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Countywide Celebration in Champaign on Friday. Wesley Fane The Daily Illini

Almost 42 years after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death in 1968, citizens of Champaign-Urbana reflected on the progress Champaign County has made in achieving his dream.

Keith Harris, associate pastor for McKinley Church and Foundation, remarked on the basic changes in equality since segregation ended.

“Externally, a lot of things have progressed. I, as an African American, don't need to worry about where I shop or eat,” Harris said. “But I still think there are a lot of barriers we still need to break.”

Like Harris, Patsy Howell, Urbana resident, said there is still more that needs to be done to alleviate the inequality against African Americans in the community. Howell and other community members think of Kiwane Carrington, a 15-year-old African American who was shot in an altercation with a Champaign police officer last October.



“If Dr. King were here, I’d imagine he’d fight for the truth in (the Carrington) case,” said Carol Ammons, member of Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice. “Carrington’s death will always haunt this community.”

On campus, others honored King at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday evening, where speakers reflected on King’s ideas and awarded scholarships in his name to local high school students.

The service included gospel readings and lively performances by a community choir made up of members from local churches.

Also See

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Books by Martin Luther King Jr. to be republished

His leadership and insight is much deeper than we can see. What you’ll hear on his birthday is ‘I have a dream,’ but it’s too bad because he said more than that.”  
patsy howell, Urbana resident

Keynote speaker James Anderson, head of educational policy studies at the University, told the audience why Americans observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which has been a federal holiday since 1986.

“Dr. King’s vision is best described by the call for deep structural changes in our economic and political life,” Anderson said. “Changes that demand great economic costs and reordering of our priorities.”

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice Committee handed out eight scholarships to students from Centennial, Central and Urbana high schools. Kanitra Keaton, who received a scholarship in 1999, said her education and success was helped by King’s work and the scholarship.

“He believed that everyone should be given a chance to prove themselves worthy of living in a society that oppressed and opposed those who were different,” she said to the audience.

Menah Pratt-Clarke, interim assistant chancellor and director for the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, said the programs helps students further King’s dream.

Because the University is an integral part of Champaign County, Harris, the community pastor, said community members are more open-minded today than they have ever been.

Howell said though King was known for his “I Have a Dream” speech, his ideals should be looked at more completely and taken into practice.

“His leadership and insight is much deeper than we can see,” Howell said. “What you’ll hear on his birthday is ‘I have a dream,’ but it’s too bad because he said more than that.”

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King’s message still resonates in C-U area

Lane Smith News staff writer Contact me

Posted: January 19th, 2010 - 12:36 AM

Updated: January 19th, 2010 - 12:36 AM

Tagged with: Aaron Ammons, Aaron White, Carol Ammons, Federal Aviation Administration, Lacey Simpson, Martin Luther King , Jr., Nathaniel Banks, William Patterson, Champaign-Urbana

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Will Patterson, of Urbana, speaks to a crowd during the Youth Speak Out at Douglass Community Center, 512 E. Grove St., in Champaign on Monday. The event honored Martin Luther King Jr. and applied his goals to C-U.

Michael Stein The Daily Illini

The Frederick Douglass Community Center, 512 East Grove St. in Champaign, hosted the Youth Speak-Out program in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday. With many students and community members in attendance, the program focused on both civil rights issues and the need for communities to take adequate actions to prevent violence.

The program was hosted by the University’s Office of Public Engagement to represent what King’s goals mean for the Champaign-Urbana area, said Nathaniel Banks, director of community initiatives for the Office of Public Engagement.

“He (King) was all about bringing people together and about positive solutions, so we wanted this event to focus on strategies for moving past conflict and negative issues,” he said.

The night began with encouraging words from undergraduate and graduate athletes at the University about the importance of higher education, community service and goal setting to further King’s dream of equality. These athletes included Lacey Simpson, a graduate student and member of the Illinois women’s basketball team and CeCe Marizu, a senior in Media and member of the Illinois women’s swimming team.

Simpson discussed the importance of goal setting and higher education while Marizu addressed community service and poverty.

Aaron Ammons and his wife Carol Ammons, members of Champaign Urbana Citizens and Peace and Justice, said repeatedly to the crowd, "There are no evil people, but there is a need for good people to let their light shine."

The couple showed a clip from the Hip Hop documentary, "Beef."

Aaron Ammons recited multiple poems about drugs and violence to highlight the need for individuals to actively counter these problems to create better communities.

Next, William Patterson, associate director at the University's African American Cultural Center, spoke about the importance of using the post-Civil Rights culture of Hip Hop to reach those in less fortunate communities and reducing violence.

Patterson asked audience members about the kind of "Hip Hop," or legacy, they were leaving behind for the community.

Following this presentation, there was a breakout session titled "Dealing with Grief through Art," during which Aaron White, junior in FAA, led a group dance session about the five stages of grief.

"I think this program and programs like these are very important because my goal is to reach youth: to guide them and to let them know there is a greater future for them," White said.

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Groups continue investigating October shooting death

Nora Ibrahim Assistant news editor Contact me

Posted: January 14th, 2010 - 11:35 PM

Updated: January 15th, 2010 - 12:24 AM

Tagged with: Carrington, Champaign Police Department, Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice, Durl Kruse, FBI, Kiwane Carrington, Price McCarty, R.T. Finney, Steve Carter, Champaign-Urbana

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Champaign and Urbana residents hold signs at a rally outside the Champaign County Courthouse on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009. The rally was held asking Champaign County to drop its case against Jashaun Manning-Carter, another teen involved in the Carrington murder.

Joshua Beckman The Daily Illini

The FBI and Champaign city officials are carrying out two separate investigations concerning the Champaign Police Department and the Kiwane Carrington case.

Kiwane Carrington, a 15-year-old Champaign resident, died last October by gunshot when police were called for a burglary on Vine Street in Urbana. Julia Rietz, Champaign County state's attorney, concluded last December that no charges should be made against the Champaign officer who shot Carrington.

The Carrington case, which is being reviewed by the Springfield Division of the FBI, was filed by R.T. Finney, chief of Champaign police, said Price McCarty, media representative of the Springfield division of the FBI.

McCarty said the review will be filed to the FBI's main headquarters in Washington D.C. after the Springfield division finishes overlooking the case. From there, officials at the Washington branch will determine if there is a cause for investigation.

"At Washington, the case will be looked at objectively," McCarty said.

However, Urbana mayoral candidate and Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice member Durl Kruse said Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice think that might not be the case. He added that his main concern is the neutrality of the investigation may be compromised.

"The officers at the FBI have had many occasions where they work with the Champaign police in other suspected crime activities and such," Kruse said. "We are not confident (the review) is really objective because it is police investigating police."

Also See

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Kiwane Carrington's death an "accident"

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Community seeks answers in Carrington case

Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice is working on a report in response to updates on the Carrington case and the investigations that are being carried out, Kruse said. In this report, Rietz's decision not to file charges against the officer who shot Carrington will be addressed. Kruse said the organization hopes to make the report available to the public by the end of February or the beginning of March.

"We've always called for an outside investigation by any appropriate FBI outside of the area or the Department of Justice," Kruse said. "They have been working on responding to this, but we don't see that it has gone far enough."

In a press release issued by the Champaign Police Department, the city outlined six initiatives to address community concerns and foster stronger relations between the police force and residents in the aftermath of Carrington's death.

Among these initiatives is a commitment to following through on changes made to the use of force policy and bringing in “persons from outside the city structure to review the investigation report to date and direct further investigation if needed, making recommendations to the city manager for improvements to policy and training.”

Champaign City Manager Steve Carter will carry out the internal police investigation, “which will focus on compliance with police department policies and training,” the release said. Eddie Adair, retired Urbana police chief, and John Freese, retired judge, will advise Carter and review the investigation conducted by the Champaign County Multi-jurisdictional Investigative Team.

“I think the notion of the six initiatives is great,” said Fred Stavins, Champaign city attorney. “Some (initiatives) will happen faster and sooner, while others will require more time.”

Stavins added that the use of force policy was already changed last Tuesday at a study session of the city council. However, other initiatives, such as acquiring a more diverse police force, may take years to implement.

“It’s good to get the FBI to work on this,” Stavins said about FBI’s look into the Carrington case. “It is always good to hear the community’s feedback on what they think needs to be done.”

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After investigation, death of local teen ‘accidental’

Colleen Vest [Contact me](#)

Posted: December 15th, 2009 - 2:56 AM

Updated: January 13th, 2010 - 2:28 PM

Tagged with: [Champaign-Urbana](#)

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Protestors walk along University Avenue during a march against police brutality in Champaign on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009. The march, organized by Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice, was held in the wake of the fatal shooting of Kiwane Carrington, 15, a Champaign student, on Oct. 9.

Wesley Fane [The Daily Illini](#)

Editors Note: This story was published in the Fall 2009 semester in review edition.

The Oct. 9 fatal shooting of 15-year-old Champaign resident Kiwane Carrington has caused community members to question the Champaign Police Department’s use of force policy and the actions of its officers.

Carrington and Jashaun Manning-Carter, a 15-year-old Champaign resident, were approached by two police officers at 906 Vine Street, in Champaign, and a struggle ensued. The officers were called to the house after a neighbor reported a possible robbery.

Champaign police officer Daniel Norbits' gun discharged during the struggle, killing Carrington. Champaign Police Chief R.T. Finney was also involved in the incident.

For nearly a month after the shooting, the Champaign County Multi-jurisdictional Investigative Team, made up of police officers from Urbana, the University, Illinois State Police, Rantoul and the Champaign County Sheriff's office, investigated the incident before turning over their findings to State's Attorney Julia Rietz.

Community members attended Champaign City Council meetings after the incident to show support for Carrington's family and voice their opinions on the event.

At several meetings, community members called for Finney's resignation or for him to be fired.

The Oct. 20 city council meeting, the first meeting following the shooting, was filled to capacity, with some people asked to sit in the lobby and watch the meeting on TV.

A look back at events after Carrington's death:

Oct. 9 — Kiwane Carrington shot and killed

Oct. 14 — Hundreds attend candlelight vigil

Oct. 20 — Community members attend Champaign City Council meeting

Nov. 12 — Jashaun Manning-Carter, the other 15-year-old boy involved in the incident, appeared in juvenile court

Nov. 12 — State Attorney Julia Rietz received the report about the investigation

Dec. 8 — Rietz said in report that the incident was an "accident" and Norbits will not be charged

Jan. 19, 2010 — Manning-Carter will reappear in court for charges involving aggravated resisting of a police officer; the burglary charge was dropped

"Finney is central to the problem," said Danielle Chynoweth, Urbana resident and member of CU Citizens for Peace and Justice, at the Oct. 20 meeting. "That he would draw a gun on an unarmed child and let his staff do the same is unconscionable."

Chynoweth cited the Champaign Police Department's deadly force policy, which the department enacted on Oct. 1. She asked the council to re-examine it.

The city council called for a study session to discuss the use of force policy. A panel of police officers presented information on the policy at the Nov. 10 city council meeting.

"I think it is important for us to make a review, and then if we feel there are any changes that need to be considered, then we can direct the police department," said Karen Foster, Champaign council member-at large.

Rietz issued a press release Dec. 8 that said Norbits would not be charged with Carrington's death.

"The outcome of an event, regardless of how tragic that outcome might be, does not determine whether or not the event itself was a criminal act," Rietz wrote.

"Although Carrington's death is tragic, the evidence provided by the Illinois State Police investigation does not support the filing of criminal charges, and rather supports the conclusion that the shooting was accidental."

According to a Dec. 7 press release, Finney requested the FBI to investigate the event.

"This request allows an independent outside review of this very tragic incident," Finney stated in a press release. "We also understand the value of a third-party review in helping us learn from this incident and move forward."

As for moving forward, Champaign Mayor Gerald Schweighart said the city will "follow the six steps outlined by (Champaign City Manager) Steve Carter," which is a series of actions for increasing cooperation between the police and the community.

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