

It's time to make a difference...



Community & Police Forum

Monday
March 15, 2010
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Hawthorne Suites
101 Trade Center Drive
Champaign

TO ADDRESS

Police-Community Relations and Youth Issues

Students

Parents

Educators

Local Law Enforcement

Community Members

Attendees will:

- Work in small groups
- Identify Issues
- Address pre-identified focus questions
- Share your thoughts with other forum participants
- Develop ideas for workable solutions

We invite you to attend this forum, your input is important.

Space is limited. Please register by Wednesday, March 10, 2010, to attend.

To register, contact:

**City of Champaign Community Relations Office
(217) 403-8830**

Co-Sponsored by: Champaign City Council, Human Relations Commission, Champaign Community and Police Partnership, Champaign Unit 4 School District, State Senator Michael Frerichs, State Representative Naomi Jakobsson

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
102 North Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 403-8830**



DATE: Monday, April 5, 2010
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Champaign City Building, Council Chambers, 1st floor
102 North Neil Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2010**
- III. Correspondence/Announcements**
- IV. Staff and Committee Reports**
 - a. Community Relations Office Monthly Activity Reports – Garth Minor
 - b. Public Education – Mary Ann Royse
 - c. Youth Programs – Bill Glithero
- V. School Resource Officer Annual Report – Lt. Joe Gallo, Dr. Michael McFarland**
- VI. Audience Participation**
- VII. Commissioners' Comments**
- VIII. Adjournment**

The City of Champaign strives to ensure that its programs, services and activities are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you are an individual with a disability and require assistance to observe or participate, please contact the City of Champaign Information Desk at 403-8700 (or TDD 403-8736), at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date. Agenda and Minutes are now available on our website at www.ci.champaign.il.us/government/

**CHAMPAIGN HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES
OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED HRC MEETING**

Monday, March 1, 2010

5:30 P.M.

**Council Chambers
102 North Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820**

Commissioners Present:

Mark Aber
Jamar Brown
William Glithero

Beverly Jackson Lacy
Danis Pelmore
Mary Ann Royse

Staff Present:

Joan Walls
Garth Minor
Carrie Brown

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Aber at 5:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2010

Commissioner Royse made a motion for approval of the January 4, 2010 meeting minutes. Commissioner Glithero seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion carried.

III. Correspondence/Announcements – Joan Walls

Joan Walls announced that Commissioner Sengsavanh sent a letter of resignation to the Commission, effective immediately. Ms. Walls stated that individuals living in Champaign who are interested in applying for the vacancy may obtain information through the website or the Mayor's Office. Citizens will be required to complete an application and Council will appoint the replacement. Commissioner Aber stated that any of the current Commissioners will be happy to speak about their experiences serving on the Commission if anyone has any questions.

Ms. Walls announced that the Community and Police Forum will be held on Monday, March 15, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Hawthorne Suites, 101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign. This is an opportunity for citizens to talk about police-community relations and youth issues. Students, parents, educators, law enforcement and community members are invited to attend and work together to answer pre-identified questions, share thoughts, identify some of the issues and move forward as a community. The goal is to develop ideas for workable solutions. Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

Coordination of transportation is not yet confirmed. Ms. Walls encouraged the registrants to indicate if they have a need for transportation.

IV. Staff Reports

a. Community Relations Office Monthly Activity Reports – Garth Minor

Garth Minor presented the staff reports for January and February. He stated that in January, there was 1 case carried over from the previous month, 0 cases added, leaving a total of one case open at the end of January. In February, this case was dropped by the complainant and no cases were added. February closed with no open cases. There were 2 police complaints for the month of January and none for the month of February, for a total of 11 police complaints for the fiscal year.

b. Public Education – Mary Ann Royse

Commissioner Royse stated that the subcommittee meets on March 10th, 4:15 p.m. to look at a number of initiatives including outreach to organizations/individuals as well as education around the subject of diversity geared towards youth. They will also talk about research sub-groups to address specific needs of various constituencies in the community. This committee is aimed at furthering the connection of the HRC with the public. Ms. Walls reminded the Commission that if more than 2 Commissioners attend the sub-committee meetings, they have to be posted as a special meeting of the Commission.

c. Youth Programs – William Glithero

Commissioner Glithero presented a proof of the brochure. Mr. Minor, Community Relations Specialist, stated that the brochure is designed to provide suggested guidelines with regards to contact with police on the street, at your door, in your car and if you are arrested. Commissioner Glithero stated that they will target distribution to high school and middle school students through different venues.

d. 2010 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Countywide Celebration – Commissioner Pelmore

Commissioner Pelmore stated that the event was held on Friday, January 15, 2010 with a reception immediately following at the Hilton Garden Inn. The theme was *Embracing Brotherhood; "Rising Above Personal Confines"*. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ronald Jackson II from the University of Illinois. This event was attended by more than 400 people.

V. Mediation of Police Complaints – Mark Aber, Chair

Commissioner Aber stated that the Commission should work very hard to use the Human Relations Commission Meeting as a vehicle for bringing information to the public that is relevant to the issues raised by the community and has come to light in the aftermath of the death of Kiwane Carrington. He was contacted by Mr. Durl Kruse who is a trained mediator and wanted to address the Commission about his thoughts about mediation. Commissioner Aber stated that this is information he felt important for the Commission and citizens to know about. This is an alternative procedure to the normal course of how citizen complaints against police might be handled in our City. He stated that City Manager, Steve Carter, has organized a group of people to review the police complaint process.

Mr. Durl Kruse is a retired public school principal. He also is involved in the CU Citizens for Peace and Justice. He stated that his interest in this topic has grown as a result of his volunteerism in the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) which is a court diversion program sponsored by the County Board that offers an alternative for juveniles who have committed some type of crime. The victim and the offender are offered the opportunity to have mediation in which they try to find restitution for what was done. He stated that mediation can be a positive way to resolve conflict in the community.

Mr. Kruse presented a model of the Denver program which was implemented in 2005 and a copy of Urbana's brochure on their Citizen's Review Board which includes their mediation process.

He reviewed the process now in place for the City of Champaign. He stated that based upon recent events that have occurred in Champaign, people are looking for other ways in which conflict can be addressed within the community and to understand and build relationships between parties in which incidences occur.

where is the proof
wrong message

was this done

He stated that the most important thing to understand about mediation is that it is strictly voluntary and that it is a win-win situation if it is available to people, as both parties must be interested. He stated that mediation is an alternative to the traditional complaint process and gives the citizen an opportunity to resolve his/her conflict with a police officer. It is a voluntary, confidential process, where a professional mediator helps the citizen and police officer talk with and listen to each other. The mediation focuses on problem solving and some reconciliation or agreement of understanding. If one or the other does not agree that something amicable can be agreed to, the mediation will cease and it will enter into the formal complaint process. A mediator is there as a non-prejudice person who does not take sides or advocate positions. They are there to facilitate discussion of perspectives that the two parties are sharing.

He stated that citizens choose mediation to be heard and understood. They may also choose mediation to speak directly to the officer and get their feedback. He also stated that he thinks dialogue with an officer can change the perspective about policing.

He stated that police officers want to participate in mediation for the same reason...to be understood. He also stated that complaints through the current system go through the disciplinary process and will end up in the officer's personnel file. Under mediation, if resolution of the conflict is achieved, the conflict is resolved.

He stated that mediation is one component that can be available to help do something for the community that the current complaint process completely lacks.

He stated that the Human Relations Commission seems to be suitably placed to become the type of public body to say "we recognize these incidents occur in our community and we need to deal with them in a different way". He stated that we cannot do things the way they have always been done in the past and that we need to forcefully and meaningfully look at ways to make our community better, as the current process is not working in the minds of many people and changes need to be made. He encouraged the Commission to press this issue forward to the committee that City Manager Steve Carter organized to review the process.

Commissioner Aber stated that this may not work for all complaints but would be a topic worthy of continued discussion and study. He stated that this is envisioned as one of multiple potential tools available to our City to try to change the nature of the relationship of police and citizens and to think about modifying the complaint process. Commissioner Aber stated that he is interested in learning about and studying the kinds of cases that are appropriate for mediation and those that are not.

Commissioner Brown stated that complaints can also be filed through the Community Relations Office. Those complaints are then forwarded to the Champaign Police Department to follow the process in place. Commissioner Aber stated that he will bring this issue back to the Commission for more discussion. He stated that other Commissioners may want to join him in a more formal review of different models that are out there.

VI. Audience Participation

None.

VII. Commissioner's Comments

* Commissioner Royse thanked Commissioner Glithero for the information on "Inclusive Illinois", a diversity round-table discussion on the state of blacks at Illinois, held at the University of Illinois. She stated that she learned that African-American enrollment at the University of Illinois has dropped somewhat and there are a number of issues that might be the cause.

Commissioner Brown stressed to the Commission and the citizens on the importance of attending the Community and Police Forum that will be held March 15, 2010 at the Hawthorne Suites from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. He stated that this is a time for the City to hear the community's solutions to the issues between the community and police.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Aber called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Glithero made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Jackson Lacy seconded the motion. Without further discussion, ***the motion carried.*** The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Carrie Brown
Transcribing Secretary