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Man robbed, shot in Champaign

Tue, 07/05/2011 - 9:41am | Mary Schenk

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5

CHAMPAIGN — Champaign police are looking for a man who shot a man near public housing early Tuesday.

Champaign Deputy Police Chief Troy Daniels said about 2:40 a.m., police were notified a man had been shot in the 1100 block of Dorsey Drive at the Joann Dorsey Homes.

The 41-year-old victim was conscious and able to speak to officers, Daniels said. He told them he was outside in the 1100 block when he was robbed of an undisclosed amount of cash and shot.

He was taken to Carle Hospital, where his condition was not known.

The shooting occurred just a few blocks to the east of where another man was shot about four hours earlier on Hedge Road.

A description of the shooting suspect was not immediately available.

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Categories (2): News, Courts, Police, and Fire

Location (3): Champaign County, Champaign, Local

Tags (3): shooting, Mary Schenk, Joann Dorsey Homes

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bremax wrote 1 day 2 hours ago

#1

My god! How many people have been shot in Champaign so far this year?!

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Great Impasta

vnconn wrote 1 day 1 hour ago #2

That housing project needs to be torn down, along with some of the dilapated houses around it, the City of Champaign needs to do more to diffuse the problems over there! It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the fourth of July would be the most oportune time for someone to use a gun considering all the fireworks going off all over the place, who is going to notice gunfire?!? not to mention all the officers that were taken off the streets so they can route firework traffic and chase spectators off side roads. Ridiculous.

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Marti Wilkinson wrote 21 hours 42 min ago #3

Dorsey homes is slated to be torn down and the plans are to build townhouses in the area. As for the houses in the area, the county can take action if any of the places are being rented out to someone who holds a Section 8 voucher. Any family that is seen to be a source of trouble can have their vouchers revoked, and be evicted from the property. Now if the property is owner occupied there isn't much that the local law enforcement or county officials can do. However, many people who own property in the area do have a vested interest in what's going on.

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djames354 wrote 21 hours 42 min ago #4

do you know for a fact that the people involved in this live in the housing are or surrounding area and even if they did it should all be destroyed for a few bad apples

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personali wrote 1 day 1 hour ago #5

Should be something to think about before considering to reduce police staffing levels.

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worldgoesroundincircles wrote 1 day 46 min ago #6

Agreed, we should not be reducing our resources. I find it interesting that we didn't seem to have this many issues when the fireworks were displayed in the previous location.

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Sandy wrote 1 day 10 min ago #7

The traffic mess created by choosing to have the fireworks at Parkland definitely doesn't help anyone's disposition. I wish they would show them at the UI again.

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ronaldo wrote 22 hours 47 min ago #8

Wow, the fireworks contributed to this?

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sameeker wrote 18 hours 7 min ago

#9

No need to increase the police force or even keep all of the deskbound bureaucrats. Simply make the cops put down their ticket books, get out from in front of the tavern, grow some courage and start going after these thugs. granted, it won't make money for the city, but I will make things safer.

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personali wrote 17 hours 55 min ago

#10

You obviously have no idea what occurs in this city. Champaign PD is not DUI hungry like it could be. Compare Champaign DUI numbers to other jurisdictions of similar size and those with college campuses. "Grow some courage and start going after these thugs" - makes me sick that you can make such a statement. Do you personally know any police officers in Champaign? Are you close to the police department or familiar with it in any way? What gives you the strength to make such a statement? Obviously I do not know your occupation but maybe you should consider becoming a police officer since you seem to have courage to make that assumption.

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Flavia wrote 1 day 13 min ago

#11

The crime rate is getting ridiculous in Champaign! Our new Mayor needs to get on the ball and increase our police force, get those Chicago thugs out of our City! Crack down on the attacks, the robberies, the shootings.... Make Champaign a good place to live in again! Send the thugs to jail!

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ronaldo wrote 22 hours 37 min ago

#12

Good thing he was on stage playing guitar with Capt. Rat last night. Remember, good guitar licks = great qualifications for a mayor.

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Iga wrote 22 hours 8 min ago

#13

So... the mayor should have been out on patrol last night? That makes no sense whatsoever.

Your mayor bashing gets pretty old, ronaldo - especially when these stories have nothing to do with what he has done in the mere 8 weeks he's been in office. Don't look now, but your sour grapes are showing.

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ronaldo wrote 14 hours 10 min ago

#14

That da best ya got?

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Marti Wilkinson wrote 21 hours 40 min ago

#15

The new mayor tried to raise liquor taxes in order to avoid cutting staff at the front desk, and that didn't fall through. The irony is these budget cuts were approved of under the watch of the former mayor, who used to be a cop.

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ronaldo wrote 22 hours 40 min ago

#16

Doesn't surprise me one bit. This is about 100 yards from where Keontae Campbell popped a cap in that guy last week and left him for dead in the middle of Bradley. How about we put some unemployed construction workers back to work bulldozing that cesspool of a neighborhood?

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Marti Wilkinson wrote 21 hours 31 min ago

#17

I would say don't judge an entire subdivision based on what happens in a few isolated areas. I've lived in this area since 1997 and have not had any issues with the neighbors or anyone else. Personally, I wish they would move the 4th of July fireworks back to Memorial Stadium. Between the noise and the congestion I have taken to pretty much staying inside my house on the 4th.

FYI: Joanne Dorsey homes is slated to be torn down, and townhouses will be build in the area.

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jmh910 wrote 16 hours 54 min ago

#18

Don't judge the neighborhood by certain isolated areas?

I think you're living in denial about the neighborhood and what goes on. I lived there for 20 years and can't recall how many violent crimes, robberies, vandalism, and other crime that has occurred in that area. The crime spans the entire neighborhood.

It's definitely not a nice neighborhood that you can safely walk the street at night. Tearing down the Joanne Dorsey Homes won't make it any better.

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Marti Wilkinson wrote 14 hours 9 min ago

#19

My family lived on Holly Hill in the early 70's and chose to leave the area due to activity on Hedge Road, so when I was shopping for a home I was reluctant to consider buying a place in Garden Hills. What I did was consult with the Champaign Police Department before making an offer on my home. If I had reason to believe that my safety, or my daughters safety, would be compromised I would never have moved back to this area.

In any municipal area such as Champaign I don't consider it to be wise to walk around alone at night, and wouldn't be willing to do so in Cherry Hills. A couple of years ago I talked to a UIUC student who did an analysis of METCAD calls and found that campus had a higher rate of calls than other parts of Champaign. I would be more concerned about living on and around campus than Garden Hills. Now if I wanted to live in an area where people keep their doors and cars unlocked I would move to one of the rural communities.

Garden Hills is an area that has been subjected to bad urban planning over the course of at least 40 years, and any solutions are not going to come about overnight. You can put more police on patrol, but that is not going to address the issues that are seen on Hedge Road and the Dorsey homes. Personally, I think it would be wise if the city were to consult with the Urban Planning department at the University of Illinois. However, I've talked to people who are employed by the University, who live in town, but who have

encountered resistance in trying to get involved in the community. It's as if a person has to be here for at least 15 years before his/her perspective is counted. This may be a reflection of a cultural disconnect, where the university is seen as being a separate island than the city.

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Richard Cranium wrote 22 hours 14 min ago

#20

My buddy heard this crime on the scanner and the description on the scanner was a "BLACK MALE". WHY DO YOU HIDE THIS?

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djames354 wrote 21 hours 45 min ago

#21

why is it necessary to report race if there is no other description

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John O'Connor wrote 21 hours 15 min ago

#22

Because some people are psychologically vested in the idea of rampant black crime -- it literally underpins their worldview and justifies, in their minds, their racist attitudes. Read the comments in any NG article where an alleged criminal is black; it also happens when some commenters mystically determine that the alleged criminal is black. Some racists only have the courage to imply their racist allegations; others, as above, come right out and say it, even if only anonymously.

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mankind wrote 20 hours 46 min ago

#23

Does Richard Cranium's comment really make him racist? I don't think that asking why the paper doesn't publish the race of a suspect who is still at large necessarily makes you racist. I think what makes some people -- even non-racists -- upset is that the paper is sacrificing public safety and awareness in the name of political correctness. I'll say that the N-G has done a much better job of publishing all available descriptions of criminals at large, lately, but there have been instances in the past where racial sensitivities have taken precedent over factual reporting. The UI Police handled it well when the issue blew up in their face. They continue to provide racial descriptions in their press releases about crime, but they always add some line that says they do so only in order to help apprehend the suspect and don't mean to offend or imply, etc. If the paper wants to be PC and preserve their credibility (both noble causes) that's what they should've been doing all along.

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Richard Cranium wrote 20 hours 17 min ago

#24

I'm surprised my earlier comment wasn't deleted....Whenever I use the word "BLACK", it's deleted within minutes and I'm banned and forced to start a new account. The one thing the N-G needs to know is "I AM BLACK". I am also highly disturbed that the majority of the violent crimes are committed by my own people....BLACK PEOPLE! I'M not RACIST against my own people I am simply stating a fact that everyone is well aware of but yet hides behind words and scared to speak out. You think the man who robbed that fellow was like "excuse me sir, I'm going to please ask you to give me whatever you got?"

Thank you so much and oh yeah I'm so sorry but I'll need to shoot you now! Thanx again I hope I didn't offend you and you have a nice day...." Well I better stop before John O'coner gets offended. So So Sorry! NOW I"M PC..huh!

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John O'Connor wrote 17 hours 26 min ago #25

I have no way of knowing what your race is, but your comments align with many commenters who explicitly identify themselves as *not* black and who are obsessed with the NG supposedly engaging in a PC conspiracy to not report race. If such a conspiracy exists, why do they so frequently report the race?

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serf wrote 15 hours 55 min ago #26

Hi John,

The issue is not with race. It's with the NG's weird policy of (sometimes) holding back info that is given to them. Personally, it's confusing and irritating. We're all grown ups here (okay, most of us are). I don't need you to hold stuff back because you think I'll form some sort of irrational fear of certain types of people. I'm smart enough to form my own opinions.

I agree with you that some people will use this information to reinforce their own biases and prejudices, but those are also the same people that also see pictures of the virgin mary in a piece of toast. Regardless of reality, they will find a way to feed their own biases.

Don't lump me in with the crazies. I'm grown up enough to see past the hooplah. Just give me (all of) the news.

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True Story wrote 19 hours 58 min ago #27

Who is hiding what??

The description on the scanner was "Black Male" because the suspect was a Black Male. I suggest you get a scanner yourself so you can start having an informed conversation about crime in CU. When the suspect is a white male have you heard them say "a person" as the description? I think not. Have you never heard them say "White Male?" Of course you haven't. I'm not going to say the police are not 100% unbiased. Institutionalized racism does exist. However they are accused of it far too often. They still have a job to do and they can't help who commits the crimes. A man shot someone. They went after him. End of story.

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ChampaignChicagoan wrote 18 hours 24 min ago #28

dosent matter. housing projects NEVER work. i grew up in Robert Taylor in chicago. and hell im 24 years old and remember the DAILY shootings that would happen there. yes they need to be torn down. all this section 8 bull is crap. look i understand people need help but why not help them get their high school education so they can get a job and better themselves? when you have a housing project put together sure all is well. but then a bunch of people who lay on their butts dont take caare of their kids. their kids grow up doing stupid stuff and things like this happen. growing up in chicago has taught me one thing. theres a reason why chicago is segregated from north side to south side. because all the idiots are on the south side. and they are trying to make that better by getting rid of the bad areas. the same needs to happen in champaign. get rid of

those crap areas. like Scottswood and Market St. and if people dont wanna help themselves or their family then they deserve to be out in the street as the city grows into a better place.

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ChampaignChicagoan wrote 18 hours 21 min ago

#29

and i to am also black. and im starting to hate my own race. primerally because of all the bull that goes on gives us a bad rap. i live on campus and get stared at at night. people cross the street when im on the same side as them. so yeah. i am not racist by any means but i cant believe that i have to be in the same category as these idiots.

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yeahokay wrote 14 hours 38 min ago

#30

It's a real shame that you have to go through that. In 2011 it shouldn't be like that. Unfortunately "do-gooder" groups like CUCPJ and IMC do nothing but bolster the racism in our community. By being as vocal as they are, and playing the race card like they do they create immense political pressure. Political pressure that causes city leaders to prevent law enforcement officers from actually doing their jobs because it might offend someone. However since those groups believe that they're acting with noble intentions, they will not back down. In a perfect world, they may be correct in their actions, but this world isn't perfect. The race card doesn't do anything but move our society backwards.

People need to let the police do their jobs so that 5 years from now we're not still dealing with this crap!

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jdmac44 wrote 14 hours 10 min ago

#31

Just saw the latest report on WCIA and one "man on the street" opinion. He said (and this was a white man speaking) "If this were a white neighborhood, this would have been taken care of. But because it's a black neighborhood, it's not taken care of."

Excuse me? What do you mean "taken care of"?? You think they have some magic wand to make violent individuals who have not manifested themselves to go away? Think about what you're saying before you open your mouth. These shootings have happened because there are people who have problems controlling their temper. I was going to say, unless you want everyone to live in a cage...but even in prison killers find ways to fashion weapons to kill one another. I'm sorry that you're stuck next door to these people, try to do something about it and get away from them. What else can I say?

Oh, and I will say that the abolition of the death penalty has probably alleviated some fears of homicide charges. I do have problems with the death penalty, too many innocent people have been put to death, but it is also a good deterrent. Laws passed and repealed by men with their own security details and the affluence to live far away from the problems they supposedly address.

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Residents ask Champaign council to release police names

Tue, 07/05/2011 - 9:32pm | Tom Kacich

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CHAMPAIGN — More than half a dozen Champaign and Urbana residents Tuesday night encouraged the Champaign City Council to turn over to The News-Gazette the names of police officers against whom citizens have filed complaints.

- Champaign FOIA letter

The newspaper has filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the full information. Earlier the city released five years' worth of complaints against officers but redacted the names of the officers against whom the complaints were filed.

Council members did not respond to the pleas made at Tuesday's council meeting, although City Manager Steve Carter responded that "we do provide a lot more information regarding city complaints that we ever have before."

Carter said that "what we're doing currently is the standard practice" among comparable cities in the area.

"It's not like we're an aberration," he said. "This is a case where the law is evolving and so it's something we follow in terms of what's happening. And it's something we intend to make sure that we're consistent with what the law of the land is."

Stuart Levy of Champaign asserted there is a "cloud over police-community relations."

"I hope that the city will decide that they should go in favor of transparency and should release the records that The News-Gazette requests."

Aaron Ammons of Urbana told the council, "Do we have to keep coming and asking nicely, Hey, please do the right thing? The power is with the people. It will always be with the people. So if that's what we have to go back to, I guess that's what we have to go back to. I thought there was some change coming to this council, so we'll see if it is or not."

Conrad Wetzel of Champaign said the council should be committed to freedom of information.

"There are many forces in government that want to keep information secret," he said. "That should not be a description of Champaign City Council. Your stance should be a dedication to openness. There's nothing to lose."

While council members ignored the request for releasing the full police complaint records, two of them criticized Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing — although not by name — for withdrawing funding for the Champaign County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We are facing the prospect that the city of Urbana is going to no longer contribute to that effort," council member Tom Bruno said. "I'd like my fellow council members to start giving some serious thought about how we will need to modify our efforts in response to that withdrawal of support."

He noted that Savoy, Mahomet and Rantoul "contribute to countywide convention and visitors bureau support. But if we face a future where we're riding on a bicycle built for two and the person in the back

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seat isn't pedaling, we have to rethink how much longer we can carry them along."

Bruno said that "we owe it to the taxpayers of Champaign that if we're going to spend their hard-earned tax dollars promoting convention and visitor bureau activities, that we direct them first and foremost to those communities that are contributing to the effort. We can't carry Urbana on our back."

Council member Marci Dodds called Urbana's withdrawal "short-sighted" but said it could present opportunities for Champaign.

"The ability to promote Champaign as a destination, to promote our downtown, Champaign's Boneyard, Champaign's arts, Champaign's Eberfest, the IHSA, our marathon, our streeffests, our restaurants, retail businesses and hotels, even perhaps a future ball field," she said. "I think that's a possibility that we should explore and look at."

Also Tuesday, council members agreed to reject bids for the city's portion of the Big Broadband technology infrastructure project. The lowest bid came in \$1.7 million above an engineer's estimate. City officials hope to renegotiate with Western Utility Contractors, the low bidder on the project that proposed to install approximately 158 miles of fiber conduit in the city.

The council also unanimously approved designating Baytowne Drive from Boardwalk Drive to Prospect Avenue in north Champaign as Clint Atkins Drive. Mr. Atkins, a major developer in Champaign-Urbana, passed away April 24 at the age of 65. He was a cofounder of Plastic Container Corp. and developed North Prospect Avenue in Champaign and the Stone Creek Golf Course and subdivision in Urbana, among other accomplishments.

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Categories (3): News, Courts, Police, and Fire, Politics and Government

Location (3): Champaign County, Champaign, Local

Tags (4): Champaign City Council, Tom Kacich, Illinois Freedom of Information Act, police complaints

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ronaldo wrote 14 hours 35 min ago #1
"More than half a dozen Champaign and Urbana residents Tuesday night encouraged the Champaign City Council to turn over to The News-Gazette the names of police officers against whom citizens have filed complaints."
Wow, more than a "half dozen"? A half dozen is SIX. Was it seven? Eight?
The population of Champaign and Urbana is about 120,000, and seven people want the names released?
Champaign, don't do it. If there was a legitimate reason, perhaps. But it's a matter of harassment plain and simple.

Bra adamant wrote 12 hours 46 min ago #2
Yeah, you have no right to know if the people YOU (and me) are paying are doing their job or not... I gave a reason we ALL should know, now give me a reason we SHOULDN'T

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know. Do you really want government on ANY level keeping secrets from you? I know I don't. There are rarely GOOD reasons to keep ANY secret. Although, if I was a cop that had ANY valid complaints filed against me, I wouldn't want anyone to know either. Secrets are exceedingly close to lies, but not always.

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ronaldo wrote 3 hours 30 min ago

#3

Normally I don't waste my time responding to self-indulgent, nonsensical posts, but I want to make one thing perfectly clear that you don't seem to understand. This has NOTHING to do with criminal complaints that are/were/have been filed and upheld. It has EVERYTHING to do with the inordinate amount of clearly frivolous complaints that have been filed. You know as well as anyone that a *mere accusation* - no matter how untrue, yet made with malicious intent - can stain someones reputation permanently as that seed of doubt has been planted in the minds of those who badly want to believe it. Therefore, there is NO legitimate reason other than to belittle, harass, or otherwise take cheap shots at those who have sworn to protect us. Contrary to what you think, you gave no good reason, and your comment "*There are rarely GOOD reasons to keep ANY secret.*" is clearly an opinion (although not stated as such) and a clear indication that we are thinking on two entirely different plains - reality vs. utopian fantasy.

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True Story wrote 2 hours 12 min ago

#4

If this was facebook I would "LIKE" your comment. I couldn't agree more Ronaldo. Well put.

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areader wrote 7 hours 3 min ago

#5

I agree with your comment 100% There are so many people out there who have nothing better to do than "knit pick" at law enforcement. And for all those who think they need to just find fault with specific police officers, get over it and move on--do something more positive and productive! As this fellow reader indicated, it's a matter of harassment plain and simple!

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serf wrote 14 hours 33 min ago

#6

Politics makes strange bedfellows.

The NG has historically been more than happy to castigate Ammons and his crew based on their 'far out' stances. But when it suits their fancy, they'll run a front page story about how citizens (all 6 members of AWARE) are asking for the same thing they're asking for.

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Marti Wilkinson wrote 13 hours 55 min ago

#7

If the comments came about during the public session of the council meeting, then it's not within the format of the city council to formulate a response. As it is, a recent case in Springfield pretty much established that complaints regarding police misconduct is a matter of public record.

<http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x1595581211/Judge-again-rules-that-polic...>

The City of Champaign will probably be legally forced to release these records at some point.

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twonthewind wrote 12 hours 23 min ago #8

I think the police department has bigger problems to deal with. What good is going to come from this anyway? Is the NG going to publish it so every anonymous person on the internet can bash officers by name? Let the city and the police department focus on the real issues like combating the sudden spike in violent crimes while facing reduced budgets and staffing levels.

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Yatiri wrote 6 hours 48 min ago #9

The issue here is trust.

I don't trust Champaign Police to meaningfully discipline officers who behave unprofessionally.

Or I do trust the police to watch itself.

I think releasing the names and educating the public about the complaint process would help build trust.

There seems to be a great deal of ignorance about the process.

Evidently someone even thinks frivolous complaints can be anonymously filed, which of course is ignorant. Nobody can file a complaint without giving name and address can they?

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IU1977 wrote 4 hours 53 min ago #10

Up until 3 yrs ago you absolutley could file a complaint anonymously, you didnt even have to witness the event, you could have just "heard about it". Now you do have to fill out your name etc and the City has made these complaint forms available in NE Champaign (but not SW Champaign for some reason).

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Yatiri wrote 1 hour 17 min ago #11

So that was 3 years ago.

What is relevant is what is the rule today. Surely one must use name and address to file any complaint.

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jeharmon wrote 5 hours 40 min ago #12

I agree, no more secrets, publish the names, cops, welfare people, deadbeats not paying child support, criminals regardless of age and include descriptions to a T, oh wait some people don't want that info released because then they would be caught cheating the system !!!

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IU1977 wrote 4 hours 55 min ago #13

This is just the usual band of suspects who do nothing but complain against CPD... Same song, different voices. Why are they (and the NG) not asking for this information from CCSO, UPD and UIPD?

Marti you are dead wrong. The Council can and DOES respond to citizens during their portion of the meeting. When Mr. Miller gets on his rants, they sometimes respond to him, as the CM did several weeks ago with CM Bruno. However, why the allow him to give his

address as General delivery when the rest of the citizens are required to give their complete address, is beyond me.

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bluegrass wrote 3 hours 42 sec ago

#14

Bottom line is if the people spending so much time and energy trying to disparage the police dept would use that time working to keep people they're trying to protect from having run-ins with the cops in the first place, we probably wouldn't be having all these 'relationship' problems.

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bremax wrote 2 hours 27 min ago

#15

Many of these citizens filing "complaints" are the very same people engaging in the violent crime spree across Champaign and Urbana, or defending those criminals. They bash the police because they want free reign to continue hurting us. I say "NO!" Do not give thugs the power to go after our men and women in police uniforms.

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Residents: Housing authority should help more with move

Wed, 07/27/2011 - 11:15am | Patrick Wade

Like 4

CHAMPAIGN — Asked to leave their homes, Section 8 residents who say they cannot find new rentals have set up outside the Housing Authority of Champaign County headquarters on Wednesday to ask the agency for more help.

"We're kind of out there alone trying to find places," said resident Margaret Neil, who also serves on the housing authority board.

She feels the agency promised more assistance in the transition, and on Wednesday the group sent a letter to the board asking for "respect and equal treatment."

Meanwhile, the executive director of the agency, which is leading the redevelopment of Dunbar Court and Joann Dorsey Homes where the residents currently live, says he would be happy to meet with them, but claims the agency has done all it can to help with their transitions.

In total, 93 families are displaced by the redevelopment, said executive director Ed Bland, and nine of them have found new quarters since the authority issued Section 8 vouchers last month. The redevelopment aims to improve the living conditions at the two affordable housing sites, both of which were built in 1952.

The agency will give the residents all the time they need to move out, Bland said.

"Until the last family has found a place, the housing authority will not start the demolition," he said.



Photo by: Vanda Bidwell/The News-Gazette
Margaret Neil (in wheelchair) and other residents protest outside the Housing Authority of Champaign County on Wednesday in Champaign. Residents of Dorsey Homes are being displaced by a new development and feel the Housing Authority is not delivering on its promise to help them find new living accommodations.

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bremax wrote 4 hours 30 sec ago #1

Rantoul and Danville have some great housing opportunities.

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tigersy2k3 wrote 3 hours 51 min ago #2

Who would have thought, people living in Sec 8 housing want more assistance. I persohally like the sign "Voucher (does not equal) Home". I guess this is the kind of thing that happens when you are living on someone elses dime

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Utowner wrote 3 hours 40 min ago #3

I'm a liberal, and I support subsidized housing for those whose income does not allow them to put a roof over their family's heads, but being able to protest in front of the CCHA during a Wednesday morning with a plethora of baby strollers is a perfect illustration of why our public assistance policies must be redeveloped. Rather than incremental solutions we need total reconstruction to encourage education, personal financial management, and rational family planning strategies.

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tigersy2k3 wrote 3 hours 28 min ago #4

They do have it figured out, maybe we are the ones that need to be educated by them. The more babies you have and the less income you make the more public aide you get. Why work for your money/benefits when the government is willing to give it to you for staying home, or whatever it is these people do during the day.

I say an easy solution is. If you are welfare you get money for you, not your kids. have 0 kids or 10 kids, that is your decision, but you are still only getting enough money to support yourself. But these people know, more kids equal more money.

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ghost1355 wrote 3 hours 24 min ago #5

The fact that it exists in the first place will always encourage abuse and misuse. Of course, people that are truly using it to better their situation, they are out there. But most of the time, a free ride system encourages laziness and complacency, even if the environment is less than ideal. No matter how many times you change the "system" of free meal ticket, you are not effectively addressing the inherent problem of the premise, which is removal of the need to survive.

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betchabygolly wrote 3 hours 10 min ago #6

A couple changes that should be made that are the same for working class...drug tests for

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everyone who is on section8/subsidized housing/government help. In the working world a new applicant has to pass a drug tests and if injured on the job has to submit to a drug test. Some jobs have random drug testing all the time. Also, government help needs to be the same for 1 child as it is for 10, it shouldn't matter how many kids one chooses to have and the help should only last as long as that first kid would be at home so there is an end in sight to the government help. This performance that is happening is over the government wanting to improve subsidized housing areas and these people are complaining that they have to move. Will they be going back to the new and improved housing when its completed? Wish someone would ask me to leave and redo my house.

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tigersy2k3 wrote 2 hours 44 min ago

#7

Florida actually just passed a law that people receiving public aide through the welfare programs must pass a drug test and people were protesting that this was evasion of privacy. this is the country our politicians have created, and Obama wants another \$1.6 trillion to give out. Probably because he knows that the people he is giving public aide to are the ones voting him into office. Its like he is buying votes.

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novanut wrote 3 hours 3 sec ago

#8

Give me a break.....this is what a free ride gets us...more having babies = cash! Im tired of workn 10 hr day to pay for this.The fed gov. wants to cut ...i can tell you where to start.

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cxz0202 wrote 2 hours 54 min ago

#9

.

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wantsthe truth wrote 2 hours 44 min ago

#10

I thought Urbana loved section 8 people, why can't they move there?

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Olu1981 wrote 2 hours 40 min ago

#11

The question I have is: what more assistance do they want? It isn't as if the demolition is going on around them while they scurry to find new accomodations. They just got the vouchers last month. They clearly have free time during the day to house-hunt. I just moved, and it took me almost six months to find a suitable, affordable place for myself and my family....oh, wait....

Their letter demands "respect and equal treatment?" Equal to what?

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News_Junkie2 wrote 2 hours 26 min ago

#12

I agree with everyone!!!! I am so sick of the these welfare reciepiants acting like everything must be handed to them. For crying out loud us Real working would be glad for someone to pay our light bill.

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personali wrote 2 hours 7 min ago #13

How about during the winter when they crank the heat up and open the windows...thats great too.

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personali wrote 2 hours 13 min ago #14

If they want help leaving, it would be great to assist. Go somewhere else to complain!

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chumberley wrote 1 hour 44 min ago #15

It seems to me that perhaps all of you supposed hardworking people should be concentrating more on your jobs, since you have nothing better to do than criticize the less fortunate in the middle of the day on work day. Perhaps before you jump on here making brash accusations based on incorrect and ridiculous stereotypes, you should do a little bit more to educate yourself about the welfare system and the low-income population.

You want to complain about the money subsidized to welfare recipients, but you are okay with the money subsidized to corporations and the wealthy, which cost the taxpayers of this nation far more than welfare does. Perhaps if these people had the opportunity to have decent jobs that payed enough to support a family, they wouldn't need welfare. The Walton family can sit around in their multi-million dollar estates, paying the CEO of Wal-Mart more in one hour than their average employee makes in a year, all while paying ridiculously low wages and offering outrageous health care premiums so that their employees will have no choice but to go on welfare.

Face it, these people are not the enemy and they are not the root of all this countries problems. Instead, they are the poor victims of a system that is designed to make them failures at some wealthy corporation's expense. They are not the cause...they are merely the symptom.

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mankind wrote 1 hour 20 min ago #16

Nor are they props for political slogans. They are individuals with free will and easy access to at least 13 years of education. Both the right and the left use stereotypes of the poor to advance their party platforms.

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chumberley wrote 47 min 42 sec ago #17

I was not making a political slogan and I didn't claim to be affiliated with any political party. I am merely trying to offer some support for these people in a sea of negativity, while perhaps being able to enlighten some misdirected people about where to focus their anger. By focusing on the people at the bottom of the totem pole, you redirect the attention from where it belongs...on those who hold the money and the power that create the situation that puts these people at the bottom.

Yes, they do have access to at least 13 years of education...in a system that is biased against them and has already determined that they will not succeed before they even start. Then once they finish that 13 years of education, they are qualified to do what? Work for minimum wage? Minimum wage is not enough to support a single person, let alone a family. It's no wonder some of them don't work...by not working at least their kids have a roof over their heads and food in their bellies. This is more than will come from working low paying jobs. Perhaps then, they should go to college right? Sure, after they have gone through 13 years in a system that failed to prepare them for college they'll get accepted right into a technical

program that will cost them thousands in student loans that they will then have to pay back after they receive their certificate and elevate themselves to the lively wage of \$9 per hour. Once again, all while the CEO of the company that is paying them that \$9 an hour is making millions a year.

Perhaps if that CEO only made \$200,000 a year or the owner settled for \$1 million a year in his bank account instead of \$25 million, the rest of it could be spent on decent hourly wages for the working people. Then perhaps there would be no need for subsidized housing and welfare because every person would be able to make a living wage and support their family. Just food for thought...maybe it's not laziness on the part of the low-income, but instead it's the lack of decent paying jobs and affordable housing. Hmmmmm.

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tigersy2k3 wrote 28 min 21 sec ago

#18

Now chumberley, we know you aren't a hard working person since you just criticized all of us for being on here during the middle of the day. So where does that leave you, did you post these comments using free internet at some public library? or are you just someone who supports these people because it is the humane thing to do? Bottom line is the rich do more for this country than the poor or middle class for that purpose, which is why they get breaks and what not. Much like a star athlete you give them special treatment because they do a lot for the club. The wealthy do a lot more for this country in terms of economy than someone's collection welfare (that is just how it is).

Once they finish that 13 years of education they are qualified to do whatever they want. If they want to flip burgers at McDonalds or go to college it is up to them. Nobody said poor people are stupid people, so what keeps some 18 year old from a poor family from going to school? Don't say money, because there are plenty of scholarships out there and grants for low-income students. It comes down to they don't try hard because most of them saw mommy and daddy get by on the system and they got a degree in Streets 101.

I like your argument though, so disregard the very first question I ask you. You also have a degree in Streets 101. I will summarize everything you said for everyone: They can't go to school because they are poor, their parents shouldn't work because they are poor and the government will provide for them. Since they are poor the schools treat them differently, since they are poor they shouldn't take a chance at getting college student loans and paying them back like most college students do. So since they shouldn't do anything, what do you purpose they do?? Live off the system, raise kids, and since they will too be poor all their kids will now have to live off the system. Your attitude is a perfect example of this mentality.

And the rest of your argument is bunk. Who should as you stated Mr. Walton, or any successful business men/women have to take all the risk to start a business and put their families money on the line so when it turns into a success they can give it to everyone else. Nothing is stopping those people in the picture from coming up with the next best idea to make millions other than the Maury Show, Judge Judy, and whatever else they watch on TV during the day.

Your opinions are kind of sickening. At least Obama knows he has one vote coming

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ghost1355 wrote 17 min 50 sec ago

#19

@ chumberley

Please read Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged. You are suggesting the very opposite of the principals of which this country was founded. Sadly, any system of society/economy will create a poor class and wealthy class. To steal from the innovators and creators to provide for the masses doesn't work, as has been proven multiple times in history. No government can legislate human work ethic or try to artificially provide for people through subsidies as it is a contradiction, at best, a break even endeavor. Thinking like yours is what created this welfare state we live in. If you want to donate your

time and money to help these people, be my guest. But my taxdollars should not be, and the more we give, the worse the recession/depression will get. Simple economics, you have to create to benefit.

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mankind wrote 11 min 4 sec ago

#20

I don't dispute your points, chumberley. Odds are if you're born poor in this country, you'll stay that way. I'm just saying that there is still enough freedom left that with straightforward choices like staying in school, working hard, avoiding gangs, etc. you can rise out of the cycle of poverty. Solving this problem should be a mix of national policy and also individual education, both of which have been seriously lacking.

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freechampaign wrote 58 min 41 sec ago

#21

What A JOKE! And when it come to Mr Walton, he and his wife mortgaged and took loans out against everything they owned to take a risk and start a business. Even when other tried to stop them. His family has earned the right to do whatever they wish with the company. Maybe if this country had more people willing to work as hard to achieve a goal as Mr. Walton did the country would not be in the condition it is.

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djames354 wrote 1 hour 44 min ago

#22

maybe a requirement as those on unemployment that to remain in public housing they must be actively looking for a job. in addition who helps people who aren't on aid find apartments or housing oop's that's right they look themselves.

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EdRyan wrote 1 hour 21 min ago

#23

All people should be required to have a license to have a child and that limited to no more than two. License holders should be required to pass random drug and alcohol screenings at any time in order to keep their licenses. Further, all those tax deduction and credits for having children should be removed from the tax code. Children cost society a great deal of money and I'm tired of having to pay higher taxes to support your children. People who want to have children should not be subsidized by the government.

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ohmy1861 wrote 16 min 4 sec ago

#24

I just searched craigslist and found plenty of housing that said it would accept Section 8. How come these people don't know of this nor how to do searches? Okay, you might say they don't have the internet. Does the library not offer free internet/computer use anymore? They can be using their time much more wisely then standing out in front of building with signs. So for them to say they can not find anything, what have they done to find something? Start working for what you want, instead of demanding that others do it for you!

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tigersy2k3 wrote 2 min 37 sec ago

#25

They are complaining that they are being forced to move... you know like can happen to anyone that doesnt own the place where they live. If I lease a place from someone and at the end of that lease the owner decides to demolish the property, can I as the tenant with an expiring lease protest this as it will displace me from my "home"??? Of course not, and if i did people would think i was crazy. However, as these peoples mentality shows, they are owed something and you cant just tell them to leave (even though they dont own any interest in the building), so they are protesting to the owners of the buidling and the ones who pay their bills (the government) that they shouldnt be required to leave.

The article says, they arent going to start demolision around people and are going to give everyone plenty of time to find a home. What they should have done is said. You need to be out by October 31st, demolision will begin November 1st, this gives everyone 3 months. If you dont get out by Oct 31st, your property in the house becomes part of the demolision site.... this happens all the time to seized homes, ect

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[Discuss] WILL 580 on Housing Authority protest

6 messages

Brian Dolinar <briandolinar@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 27, 2011 at 7:33 PM

To: discuss list <discuss@communitycourtwatch.org>

Public Housing Tenants Cite Challenges in Finding New Homes

Story date: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 from Illinois Public Media News

(With additional reporting by Pam Dempsey of [CU-CitizenAccess](#))

About a dozen residents from Joann Dorsey Homes and Dunbar Court protested outside of the Champaign County Housing Authority Wednesday to bring to light the troubles they have had finding a new place to live.

Earlier this year, the housing authority received federal approval to demolish the two apartment complexes as part of redevelopment plan to rebuild larger, mixed-income properties. The complexes have provided housing for low-to-moderate income residents and have been managed by the housing authority.

The properties make up about 90 units of the housing authority's public housing stock and are the oldest public housing properties in the area.

As part of redevelopment plans, the housing authority issued Section 8 vouchers to the residents in June. The vouchers, which provide subsidies for low income families and individuals, are used to rent properties nationwide from private landlords.

"We're out here today because one month ago we were given Section 8 vouchers, (yet) only five residents at Dorsey have been able to find housing," said Margaret Neil, a resident of Joann Dorsey Homes and a commissioner with the housing authority board.

Public housing residents said that finding a place to live under the new payment standards is difficult. Residents also say some landlords have ill conceived notions of people who live in public housing, and do not want to rent to those with Section 8 vouchers. They also say some housing units simply don't have enough space, or do not offer rent that is low enough to meet voucher standards.

"Most of the residents at Joann Dorsey I know that have found places, it's because their sister was renting from that landlord," Neil said. "They haven't gone out cold turkey and found a place. For most of the residents at Joann Dorsey and Dunbar, I think are from Chicago. So, they don't have those ties in the community."

Section 8 vouchers are known as "housing choice" vouchers and allow clients a chance to choose where they want to live. The vouchers cover application fees, security payments, and a certain amount of a tenant's rent based on income. For those with any type of income, the client is required to pay 30 percent of their monthly income toward housing costs. For those without income, the housing authority will pay 100 percent of the housing costs.

The client first finds a place and the housing authority then must approve the unit by calculating the client's affordability rate and then inspecting the unit.

"When we heard about, everybody was happy because they was going to tear (it) down and rebuild again," said Cleo Clay recently, president of the Joann Dorsey Homes resident council. "They were supposed to find relocation for everybody up here ... but the problem is houses we seem to be looking for is not affordable for us."

Clay has lived on and off at Joann Dorsey Homes for more than 20 years. It took Clay four tries before she found a place to live - which was pending approval from the housing authority.

"Everybody is getting frustrated and mad," she said, because the landlords are not accepting the vouchers.

The Champaign County Housing Authority has issued about 1,500 Section 8 vouchers and pay \$9 million annually in rent, said Edward Bland, executive director of the Champaign County Housing Authority.

Up until last year, the housing authority paid 110 percent of the fair market rent in the Champaign-Urbana area. To conserve money, however, the board voted to reduce that amount to 95 percent, Bland said.

"We want to make sure that we are being fiscally responsible," Bland said. "There have been several housing authorities throughout this country that have run into a financial situation where they had to take families off the program because they were over spending money in the section 8 program."

The fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Champaign-Urbana, according to federal housing standards is \$713. Under the new rental payments, the housing authority will only pay no more than \$688 for that apartment.

"As of June of last year, they effectively made it not feasible from a financial standpoint to rent to Section 8 (clients)," said local landlord Antwuan Neely.

Neely owns more than 100 properties in Champaign-Urbana - mostly single-family houses. He said he leases about one-third of his properties to Section 8 tenants.

At 110 percent, the former payment standard gave low-to-moderate income families more housing options, Neely said.

"But by reducing the payment standards, it seriously affected those families," he said. "Yes you still can find places in Champaign-Urbana, but with the economy as it is, now you have a lot more people looking for the same type of properties."

Of the 90 or so families in the two public housing complexes, 20 of them have found new places to live, Bland said.

"We will not be forcing any families to move before they are ready to move because we want to make sure every family is comfortable with where they want to go," he said.

Bland said that the housing authority held more than a dozen meetings since last year to work with residents and will continue to meet with them to alleviate their concerns. He said his department will not move forward with tearing down the apartments until all the tenants move out.

"We realize that for some they may need some extra help, and that's what the housing authority is here for," he said. "We're setting up additional meetings with the families ... within the next week or so (to) once again to let those families know they aren't being pushed out."

For the protesters, a meeting is just what they wanted.

"We hope that by picketing down here today, the housing authority will realize that the help they promised - we're serious, we want that help, we will be your face until we get that help, we hope that a meeting will come out of picketing," Neil said.

--

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Discuss mailing list

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Lynn Stuckey <lynn.stuckey@hotmail.com>

Wed, Jul 27, 2011 at 10:06 PM

To: brian dolinar <briandolinar@gmail.com>, discuss list <discuss@communitycourtwatch.org>

Let me get this straight:

\$688/month + whatever tenant is supposed to pay is not enough for a landlord of a two bedroom apartment? And the federal checks arrive like clockwork...as opposed to a college student who may choose buying beer over paying rent.

I thought Antwan Neely was a local guy, not someone out of Chicago.



[Announce] NG article - "Analysis of Urbana traffic stop trends being discussed"

1 message

Brian Dolinar <briandolinar@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 13, 2011 at 9:26 AM

To: discuss list <discuss@communitycourtwatch.org>, Court Watch <announce@communitycourtwatch.org>, immigration--criminal-justice-research-group@googlegroups.com

Analysis of Urbana traffic stop trends being discussed

By *Patrick Wade*

Created 07/13/2011 - 9:00am

Wed, 07/13/2011 - 9:00am | [The News-Gazette](#) [1]

URBANA — To get a better handle on why racial groups aren't proportionally represented in police traffic stops, the city has conducted and released an independent statistical analysis of three years' worth of data.

The analysis will be the subject of a joint meeting of two city committees that concern themselves with policing trends at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Urbana City Building, 400 S. Vine St.

In December, the human relations commission took its first look at traffic-stop data released by the Illinois Department of Transportation, which showed 47 percent of Urbana traffic stops involved nonwhite drivers, even though statisticians estimate Urbana's minority driving population to be about 30 percent of all drivers.

That would suggest that nonwhite drivers are 56 percent more likely to get pulled over in Urbana than they would be if the demographics of drivers in traffic stops were proportional to the representation of racial groups in the driving population.

That data was from 2009, the most recently available at the time the city took up the issue. IDOT has since released its 2010 study, which shows the number to have risen to 70 percent in Urbana.

According to IDOT, nonwhite drivers were pulled over in 2010 by Champaign police 48 percent more often than statisticians would anticipate, up from 45 percent in 2009. Minority drivers were 50 percent more likely to get pulled over by University of Illinois police in 2010, compared with 36 percent in 2009.

Among the rest of Illinois police, the three local agencies ranked roughly among the middle of the pack.

But the IDOT study itself is a "screening tool," said Urbana human relations officer Todd Rent, and it does not identify what may be the underlying conditions.

"It can't give you a detailed overview of what may be causing or driving the disproportionality," Rent said.

The city retained a University of Illinois Chicago graduate student to further analyze traffic-stop data in its relation to the demographics of the city. The independent report breaks down traffic stops by region, neighborhoods, time of day, age and other factors.

For example, in a police beat with a higher African-American population and a lower white population, black and white drivers were stopped at roughly the same rate. When you exclude that police beat from the rest of the data, the probability of a minority driver getting stopped over three years' worth of data for the remainder of the city drops from 51 percent to 39 percent more likely.

Except for Hispanic drivers, no disparity existed between racial groups regarding whether an officer issued a warning or a citation. The investigator found that Hispanic drivers receive a higher ratio of citations because they are ticketed for offenses for which officers are more likely to issue citations, like not having a driver's license, drunken driving and having an uninsured

vehicle, according to the report.

Whether these distinctions hold any significance will be up to the human relations commission and the civilian police review board, Rent said. The analysis settles on no specific recommendations, and how to proceed will be directed by Wednesday night's discussion.

"I think it's clear that the city needs and wants to have a conversation with the community about the level of policing in very different areas," Rent said.

He expects the community will have a "serious, thoughtful conversation."

"I think tomorrow should be the beginning of the conversation," Rent said. "Now we can have the conversation from the standpoint of having knowledge, greater knowledge, about what's going on than we did in the past."

--

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Study points to racial disparity in Urbana traffic stops by police

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Minority drivers are 56 percent more likely to be pulled over than Caucasian drivers in Urbana, according to a study compiled by Champaign Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice with data from the Illinois Department of Transportation, or IDOT. In addition, the study says black drivers are 180 percent more likely to be stopped than any other racial group in Urbana.

A meeting of the Civilian Police Review Board on Monday discussed the study and its validity, and offered recommendations to correct the disparity.

Human relations officer Todd Rent analyzed the results of the study for the review board.

Rent emphasized that racial profiling most often occurs when police officers have some discretion in stopping a car or issuing a citation. For example, an officer has very little discretion when presented with someone driving with a suspended license, an offense for which you can be arrested in Illinois, but has discretion when pulling over a car driving slightly over the speed limit.

Rent explained that there were other, race-neutral explanations for the racial disparity. For example, there were more traffic stops in one of the five zones police patrol, called Beat 61. Rent said there may be a higher concentration of minority drivers there, causing the racial imbalance. Rent also said two beats, Beat 61 and Beat 64, probably explain a great deal of the racial disparity.

Police Chief Pat Connolly said Beat 61, which is in northwest Urbana, probably has more traffic stops because police run a Special Traffic Enforcement Program along Lincoln and Bradley avenues because of a high volume of accidents.

Rent also said the data revealed that Hispanic drivers are more likely to be issued citations than any other racial group.

According to the data from IDOT and the Urbana police, between 57 and 61 percent of traffic stops of other racial groups end with a citation rather than a warning, while 75.6 percent of Hispanics pulled over are issued a citation.

"It probably is important that ... we focus our attention and our dialogue on the neighborhoods that are directly impacted by that," he said. "As we talk to them ... we engage in an ongoing dialogue about the level and the quality of police service and what they're feeling about the level of police service in their neighborhood."

Ultimately, Rent said flaws in the data — for example, data gathered by IDOT and data gathered by the Urbana police did not match perfectly because of different collection methods — made it impossible to explain with certainty what was causing the racial disparity.

"At the end of the day, more tools and larger data is ... the single best

way to prevent ongoing police problems," he said. Several citizens brought concerns to the review board during public input.

Former city council member Esther Patt spoke on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has recently filed an administrative complaint against the state of Illinois with the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the racial disparity in traffic stops. Patt said African-American and Hispanic motorists are four times more likely to be subject to a consent search than Caucasians, despite the fact that contraband is found twice as often in the Caucasians' cars. Patt said the Urbana Police Department had reduced its numbers of consent searches in recent years and requested that traffic stops reflect the change as well.

Former mayoral candidate Durl Kruse also spoke at the meeting and questioned some of the city and police department's findings, saying the racial disparity was caused by racial profiling, not a disproportionate number of stops in a certain beat. Kruse said black male youths were stopped at a higher percentage rate than any other group, and that Urbana's racial profiling has been increasing steadily for the past four years.

"Let there be no illusion on the part of anyone tonight about whether there is or not a racial disparity in the manner in which the Urbana Police Department enforces local traffic laws," he said.

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Urbana Holds Public Meeting on Racial Profiling Statistics

Submitted by [Brian Dolinar](#) on July 15, 2011 - 11:16am [Crime and Police](#)
[Local Interest](#)

City council chambers were full at a combined meeting of the Urbana Human Relations Commission (HRC) and Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. to address racial profiling numbers collected by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The meeting was the result of a chorus of voices asking for a public conversation about racial profiling in Urbana.

Recent traffic stop information for 2010 was just compiled and released. This is information collected by officers, including racial information, during routine traffic stops and turned over to IDOT. The "racial disparity index," or ratio, for Urbana police rose from 1.56 in 2009 to 1.7 in 2010, the highest in the twin cities. In contrast, the number in Champaign was 1.48; Champaign County Sheriff's Office was 1.29; UIPD was 1.5. If no disparity was found to exist, the number would be 1.0.

The meeting Wednesday night was chaired by Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing who opened by saying she took such numbers with a "grain of salt" and believed at issue was the reputation of the city and of the Urbana Police Department. She warned people who came in with their thermometer set at 105 degrees that perhaps their thermometer was wrong.

A 30-minute presentation was provided by the human relations officer Todd Rent who said this meeting was to "begin a community discussion." He explained how the city had received the help of a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, to do a statistical analysis of data from 2007-2009. Rent made the recommendation that the city add more options to the traffic stop cards that officers fill out; he requested more training for officers on non-biased policies; and he asked that the city work with the directly affected neighborhoods to find out from them, "Do you feel besieged by police presence?"

Another 30-minute presentation was given by Police Chief Patrick Connolly and his assistant Anthony Cobb. Connolly said that after analyzing the data, "Instead of finding answers [...], we only created more questions." As an example, Cobb showed the 12-minute video of a traffic stop. The point he made was that information about traffic stops was inaccurate. The stop was recorded as taking 15 minutes when it only lasted 12 minutes. With this anticlimactic ending, Connolly took over. If police received more calls and saw more accidents in an area such as Beat 61—which includes the black community of the North End on Urbana's side of town—Connolly said they would "saturate the area."

After Chief Connolly's presentation, Mayor Prussing responded with, "Wow! Thank you very much." Members of the HRC and CPRB asked questions for 20 minutes. To concerns about the racial disparity, Connolly and Cobb were either elusive or said that "with limited resources" such looking back at the numbers was "time consuming." Todd Rent reiterated this point saying that the

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city had “only so many resources.”

At almost 7:00 p.m., the public finally had a chance to speak. Martel Miller talked first about the phenomenon of “Driving While Black.” Yet he pointed out that the people most affected were not in the audience, “We’re talking about the young black male.” He urged the city officials, “get these people involved.” Miller spoke about watching as police profiled black drivers at the intersection of Washington and Philo in southeast Urbana. He also told of his own experience of being stopped on Illinois Street by an Urbana police officer who asked, “where was I going, where have I been.”

Esther Patt spoke as a representative of the local chapter of the ACLU. She mentioned a recent complaint to the Department of Justice filed by the ACLU against the Illinois State Police for racial disparities in requests for consent searches of cars [for more see ACLU President William Brown’s article in the summer 2011 issue of the Public i]. According to data, although minorities in Urbana are twice as likely to be asked to have their cars searched, whites are twice as likely to be carrying contraband. The ACLU, Patt said, called for the city of Urbana to put an end to all consent searches.

Belden Fields suggested Urbana take a cue from Champaign and hire a statistician. He also recommended the city hire more minority officers, which may not solve the problem, but may change the mentality of the department as a whole.

Durl Kruse, who has established himself as a local expert on the racial profiling data, spoke next. He called the problem in Urbana an “African American driver disparity.” For six years, he said, Urbana has ignored the data. The graduate student who studied the data, he observed, seemed to know little about the racial demographics of Urbana. The section on race and traffic stops was the shortest of the report, he pointed out. The additional analysis, he said, “adds nothing that IDOT hasn’t told us.”

Most significantly, Kruse drew attention to Beat 61 which although, according to data, had the fewest calls for service and the lowest crime report, had the highest number of traffic stops of African Americans.

The presentation by Kruse was interrupted by Mayor Prussing who asked him to wrap up his comments in one minute. The recent 2010 numbers were the worst in the seven years that the data had been collected, Kruse stated. Members of CU Citizens for Peace and Justice had met with Chief Connolly on this topic on November 4, 2010, but since there has not been one meeting despite requests. “We want to work with the city,” Kruse said. “We want to work with the HRC and the CPRB. We want to work with the Chief.”

Aaron Ammons, co-founder of CU Citizens for Peace and Justice, said this issue was part of a national trend and was a systematic problem. The “elephant in the room,” was the view of African American males, believed by police to be drug dealers. He connected this issue to the recent ordinance proposed to the Urbana city council to pass an ordinance against panhandling. “When white business owners complain,” Ammons said, “police come down hard on the poor.”

Again, Mayor Prussing interrupted Ammons to ask him to wrap up his comments, as it was close to 7:30. “You’re placating me,” Ammons told the Mayor.

A brief statement by Lynn Stuckey was made and the meeting was closed out. The date for a future meeting to continue this conversation was not discussed.

For the 2010 data released by IDOT go to:

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/travelstats/2010%20ITSS%20Statewide%20and%20Agency%20Reports.pdf>

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An albatross for Laurel Prussing

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Submitted by roknich on July 15, 2011 - 1:44pm.

The factual report of this meeting, read from start to finish says more than any editorial about why the racial disparity in traffic stops increases each year in Champaign. Thank you, Brian.

Equal time should be demanded in all matters before the City Council. The reports from the police department should have been consolidated as a single entity.

This type of bias makes government a travesty, and this type of behavior should be remembered when and if Laurel Prussing runs for office again.

The data can be downloaded here:

<http://www.dot.state.il.us/trafficstop/results10.html>

David Rognich,

Galesburg IL

[reply](#)

Racism in university towns / equipment violations

Submitted by roknich on July 15, 2011 - 2:03pm.

In Champaign, 11.1% for Caucasian drivers vs. 17.25% for minority drivers is a sure sign of racial harrassment. I spent a good deal of time as an observer in traffic courts several years back, and often observed the # of tickets that a black driver would be forced to pay even if found innocent of the main charge. This is not as bad as it was decades ago.

Equipment violations make the difference, and are alone, I think a clear indication of racism. Jokes about this used to be widespread in Chicago, and I observed the results in traffic court. Some progress has been made.

I compared the available statistics for Galesburg with Champaign, and just wonder how a city with a major, internationally renowned university can fail to clean up its act for so long.

When I lived in Iowa City, I remember their record was not so clean either. It really makes me wonder about how "university towns" are policed. We should take a closer look instead of making excuses for ourselves.

David Rognich,

Galesburg, IL

[reply](#)

Your argument might make more

Submitted by anonymous on July 15, 2011 - 6:36pm.

Your argument might make more sense if you even bothered to make your comments concerning URBANA. Champaign and Urbana are different cities.

[reply](#)

oops

Submitted by anonymous on July 16, 2011 - 6:29pm.

how hard is it to look up URBANA? is it like MILES

AWAY?

will comply

reply

UNIVERSITY TOWNS

Submitted by anonymous on July 16, 2011 - 6:35pm.

notice my first comment is german to the article - the second deals with UNIVERSITY TOWNS. thanks for your concern. - dave

reply

Concerning Urbana

Submitted by Local Yocal on July 15, 2011 - 7:46pm.

Despite Prussing's attempt to poo poo the proceedings (we would have expected her unprofessional behavior she displayed from ex-Mayor Schweighart), neither Rent, Connolly, or Cobb could deny the racial disparity over the last six years. There never was a dispute that a disparity exists. It was only Prussing who thought the statistics didn't matter.

There was alot of floundering for as to why the disparity exists, some canards thrown up to say everything is a mystery, and a wish from Connolly to just forget the past and let's start from here. Connolly repeatedly referred to how thick the statistical study was warning anyone who would look that it was really hard. Connolly invited the HRC and CPRB "geniuses" to help him understand the statistics. Funny no mention was given to Durl Kruse who has been studying this stuff for a year.

As Kruse eloquently explained the significance of the data, Prussing suddenly interrupted Kruse, "Durl, would you stop!" Urbana is going to have difficulty rectifying it's traffic stop habits as long as this Mayor is obstructing justice. She has no interest in believing there is a problem. The replay on Channel 6 UPTV is worth a look at how Urbana officials are not as willing as the citizenry to clean up the policing.

reply

Ratio minimizes problem

Submitted by anonymous on July 16, 2011 - 10:13am.

1.7 may seem bad but to my math, the real numbers are even worse: Based on those numbers (pg907 of the pdf), minorities are 2.5x as likely to be stopped as Caucasians after adjusting for population. Even more telling, stops for equipment violations--frequently "fishing expeditions" by police--are where most of that occurs.

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WJBC Forum – When local kids get it right!

By: Mike Williams | Yesterday

We often hear negative media reports regarding young people of color. Either it's low achievement or crime. Hearing excessive reporting of this nature about children of color one could easily form negative views of this group. This is an unfortunate situation and disheartening to say the least.

Well I've got some outstanding news about one of our own students, Ricardo Cortez del la Cruz who won honors in National NAACP ACT-SO competition in Los Angeles the week of July 18th. ACT-SO is an acronym for Academic, Cultural, and Technological Scientific Olympics. ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-



Local student, Ricardo Cortez del la Cruz, won honors in the

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American high school students. Students work with ACT-SO mentors who help them develop projects throughout the year. The Bloomington-Normal ACT-SO branch provided students with enrichment opportunities such as workshops that helped them with interviewing, writing, and presentation skills.

National NAACP ACT-SO competition in Los Angeles. (Photo courtesy of bnact-so.org)

The ACT-SO program centers on the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders; to serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence. There are 25 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, performing and visual arts disciplines.

Ricardo Cortez de la Cruz brought home a national bronze medal in poetry! He will be receiving a \$1,500.00 scholarship and a laptop computer from NAACP. There were 61 poetry contestants and Ricardo Cortez de la Cruz was one of the top three.

Kudos to Ricardo Cortez de la Cruz!

In the Struggle this is Mike Williams for WJBC's Forum.

Listen to the Forum here:

Mike Williams hales from Presque Isle, Maine. He has lived throughout the United States, the Carolinas, Alaska, and Hawaii. After a number of years traveling with his Military family, they finally settled in Champaign, Illinois. Mike's a graduate from Champaign Central High School. After graduating from Champaign Central, Mike attended Eastern Illinois University. After two years at Eastern, Mike joined the United States Air Force, following in his father's footsteps.

While in the military, he completed his Bachelors of Science Degree in Management and Information Systems. After graduating from Park College in North Kansas City, Missouri, he took employment in a Kansas City computer firm. After a year, Mike began working as a Data Processing Supervisor with State Farm Insurance in Columbia, Missouri.

During Mike's travels he's been exposed to many cultures, people, and places; his destiny was to become a humanitarian/civil rights activist. While in Missouri, Mike held many leadership positions with Columbia's NAACP Branch, and was a recipient of the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Jr. Award. He was also a member of Columbia's Human Rights Commission.

Mike's work for social and civil rights continues...he's was recently re-elected for his tenth term as President of the Bloomington/Normal NAACP Branch. He also sits on many Boards for other organizations (American Red Cross, Family Community Resource Center, African-American Forum, Bloomington/Normal Achievement Gap Taskforce, McLean County Diversity Project, Partners in Recovery, Illinois People's Action, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.).

In addition to Mike's humanitarian efforts, he's a Systems Manager at State Farm Insurance. Mike's also a family man; his wife Lottie and son Stephen are Mike's encouragers. Mike's work requires him to be away from his family more often than he likes; nevertheless his family understands that sacrifices have to be made for the greater cause "CIVIL RIGHTS". Lastly, he's a member of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church and Bloomington/Normal's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Relations Award and the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Human and Civil Rights, 2010 Roy Wilkins Jr. Award.

The opinions expressed within WJBC's Forum are solely those of the Forum's author, and are not necessarily those of WJBC or Townsquare Media.



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THE217 | LIFE | C-U DAYS AT DOUGLASS PARK

HEADS UP

C-U Days at Douglass Park



4:00 am Aug 11 - by Avani Chhaya - buzz Writer

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Keep your eyes peeled and check off those days on the calendar, Champaign-Urbana. August 14 and 15 will mark an event held by the Champaign Park District called CU Days at Douglass Park. Running from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday the 14 and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following Sunday evening, residents, families and University students are asked to come out and enjoy a community-wide celebratory event.

Mary Howell, receptionist at the Champaign Park District, said this event has been going on for over 30 years.

"This event is a family-oriented event for everyone to come out and have a good time," she said.

Entertainment, senior bingo, softball and basketball games, food, merchandise and children's activities will cause an explosion of fun at one of C-U's local parks.

Howell said kids can play in the bounce houses or get their faces painted at the event.

There will also be one clothing vendor, six food vendors and 28 information vendors, including the city of Champaign, the Champaign Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice and Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center at the University, Howell said.

Angela Clark, assistant program director at the cultural center, said the center had a booth at last year's event and it went well, distributing information to the families and residents in attendance. Drawstring bags, shirts and general information were given out to the public.

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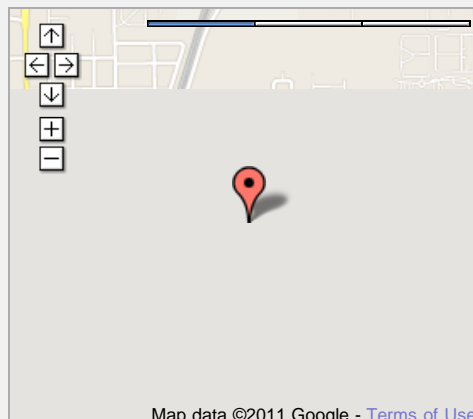
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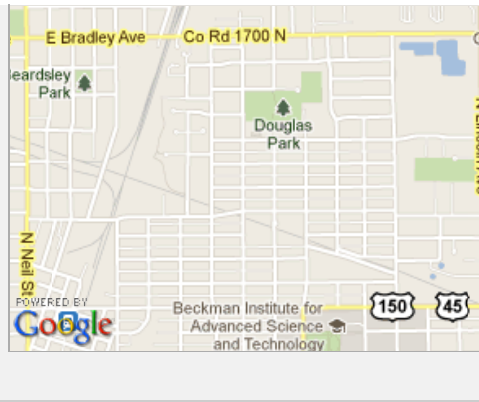
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Howell said the attendance level of the event is largely dependent on weather. As little as five people to as many as 1,000 people from the C-U community can show up to celebrate the CU Days at Douglass Park.

Clark said she wants the larger community to get involved in campus activities at the cultural center.

"It's important to be involved on campus and in the Champaign-Urbana community," she said.

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Students at Booker T. Washington will have vegetable garden

Wed, 08/10/2011 - 8:00am | Patrick Wade

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CHAMPAIGN — Parents know how hard it is to get kids to eat their vegetables. But try getting them to grow their vegetables.

Some students will have the chance to become growers themselves when they arrive at the new Booker T. Washington Elementary School later this month. With the help of a \$10,000 grant from Ernst & Young, a University of Illinois student group and a few hard-working volunteers on Tuesday, they will have their own garden in Douglass Park, right behind their school.

"Our hopes are to show children that vegetables are really good," said Erin Harper, a UI student in agriculture.

The student group received the grant last year, and a portion of the community garden was actually intact in a somewhat hidden corner of Douglass Park, just northeast of the elementary school, before they started ramping up their efforts this week. The weeds had taken over by Tuesday (and a few mice had taken residence, too), but Harper said the garden will be ready for planting by the time the school year starts.

The connection to Washington Elementary is just a perk of its location; Harper said three gardening beds will be dedicated to fifth grade classes and three more to third graders. Beside those, 16 plots are being built for the community at large, and they will be available for rent beginning next spring.

The Douglass Park garden will hold cold-weather crops like lettuce and celery once the students return to plant the seeds, Harper said. Students will then begin to grow warm season plants, like tomatoes, in the spring.

Parent groups and UI students will tend to the garden during the summer when the kids are gone, Harper said. Because not all the gardening can be done during the school day, Washington Elementary is hosting an after-school gardening club, too.

It will be a valuable experience for the students, said principal Asia Fuller-Hamilton.

"Students will actually get to go over and actually watch" the plants grow and how they are maintained, she said.

The plants will attract insects, too, for students in entomology classes.

Parents and students alike have expressed an interest in the garden, Fuller-Hamilton said, and it also opens opportunities for community service ventures. School officials have considered holding a student



Photo by: Vanda Bidwell/The News-Gazette
Erin Harper carries out weeds between a cleared planter and one waiting to be cleared. Teachers and students from Booker T. Washington Elementary helped break ground on the Douglass Gardens on Tuesday . It is a shared plot with the school and the community and it is across from the new school.

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farmers market after the vegetables are harvested, she said.

Harper said the Douglass Park site was chosen because of the park district's willingness to work with the group and its location in a low-income area.

Washington Elementary first-grade teacher Dominique Collins was one of those volunteers pulling the high, thick weeds out of the planters on Tuesday. That was one step toward improving the appearance and functionality of the garden — others were mulching the area around the planters, and eventually, more gardening beds will be installed.

"I think it's really important for the community being able to see these boxes used to the highest level," Collins said. "And I like to get my hands dirty."

On the Web: For more information, visit <http://cu-garden.com>.

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

The City of Champaign funding for EDC and CVB provide little if any service to the Minority Community.

Posted @ 8/10/2011 3:00 AM By Craig Walker

Posted in [Budget & Spending], [Economic Development], [Government Structure & Principles], [Tourism] | 15

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Champaign Urbana Days is one of the largest and most exciting events for the African American Community of Champaign County. Each year, hundreds of people, young and old come together to celebrate family and reunite in Douglass Park. I personally know of many people who travel from as far as Florida to attend this event and many reunions are planned around it. The event offers live entertainment, great food, children's activities and a senior citizen luncheon.

Yet when I look at the front page of the Convention and Visitors Bureau website in the featured events section and the highlighted upcoming events, the Champaign Urbana Days is not mentioned. In fact the event is regulated to the calendar section which is the website equivalent of the back of the bus. This pattern has been repeated since the creation of the CVB and in fact there are no specific services that the CVB performs that is inclusive and serves the minority community.

The Economic Development Corporation of Champaign County cites as their mission :

Primary Functions

Business and Education Liaison – We're your link to the community, the University of Illinois, Parkland College and other entities.

Site Location/Expansion Assistance – Look to us for help in finding just the right spot to locate your new facility and/or for assistance in expanding your presence in Champaign County.

Information Clearinghouse – Turn to us for one-stop shopping for information on business issues, incentives, education, available sites and buildings, and key statistics.

Business Visitation Program – Locate and grow here, and we will engage with you to help strengthen the county's cooperative business environment; and to identify, report and address issues that may prohibit economic growth.

Key Issue Exploration – We look forward to providing you with a forum for the public or private discussion of key development issues.

In my discussions with both the Executive Director and Deputy ED of the EDC not one person in this office has ever visited a minority owned business in the 1st District other than Dash management which owns the McDonalds in town. Not one. I have met with many of these business and they are in need of these services listed but the EDC ignores them and provides no assistance at all. Not one single business owned by an African American or Latino in Champaign County has received any OFFER of assistance by the EDC.

These two city funded entities have received over \$500,000 per year over the last five years for a total of \$2.5 million yet 22% of the population of the City and 15% of the County residents/business have received no services from them.

Therefore when we examine the success of the teen job program, which predominantly served the black and latino communities, we assert that the continued City funding of this program is not only essential, but a key component of fairness. The Teen Job Program and its success dictates that continued City funding is on par with the continued funding for the EDC and CVB. \$2.5 million has already been spent by these agencies and they completely left out 22% of a specific City of Champaign demographic population in performing their services. That disparity can no longer be tolerated by the good people of Champaign and City of Champaign funding for the Teen Job program over the next five years will help rectify that stain of exclusion by two agencies that receive substantial City funding.

The current leadership of these two agencies, particularly at the EDC, provides no confidence to the members of the minority community in Champaign County that anything will change with respect for more inclusion in the services they provide. Sad but very true.











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Craig Walker

Mr. Walker has over 20 years of experience as an Investment Banker. A townie and product of the Unit 4 school system, Mr Walker has spent most of his career in New York City and Los Angeles before returning to live in Champaign in 2004. Currently a Senior Vice President in Capital Markets for Blaylock Robert Van LLC , a New York based investment banking firm, Mr Walker has also worked for the investment banking firms, SBK Brooks Securities, Daniels and Bell, Prudential Securities, and Entertainment Finance Associates. He has served as lead banker and structured over \$5 billion in debt and equity transactions in the capital markets for his clients. Mr. Walker has a BA in Economics from the University of Illinois - Chicago.

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