

**Meeting:** Community Leadership Council on Gun Violence Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, January 22, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Early Learning Coalition Training Room

**In attendance:** Major Lonnie Scott, Annie Harris, Gloria Pugh, Buck Chambers, Rudy Ferguson, Edward Clark, Ken Tucker, Akhenaton “AK” Thomas, Wilson Barnes

**Absent:** Chief DeLeo, Eva Mannings, Betsy Henderson, Pam Hightower, Twanetta Rollins, Heather Mitchell, Steve Harrelson, Rick Flagg, Jack Campbell, Nancy Daniels, Reggie Bouthillier

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Tallahassee Police Department Major Lonnie Scott, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Mayor Gillum and Chief DeLeo are hosting 2 community forums in February that will be led by an outside facilitator.

- The first forum will be held February 5, 2015, at the Lincoln Neighborhood Community Center at 7:00 p.m.
- The second forum will be held February 9, 2015, at Jack McLean Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

**AS OF 1/30/2015, THE COMMUNITY FORUMS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED.**

### **Communications Update**

Ms. Pugh reported that the campaign slogan will be scaled back to “THINK BIGGER” as this slogan will speak to the entire community. Example: “Think Bigger-think beyond your immediate neighborhood, think about those within our community who are suffering and what can we do?” “Think Bigger–gun owners appropriately securing their weapons.” “Think Bigger – giving children hope for a better future.” Mostly, “Think Bigger” to the main target audience, 18 – 29 year old African American males; think about your loved ones, your life, etc.

Ms. Pugh discussed plans to include Tallahassee Community College graphic design school to assist communications with an awareness campaign for several target audiences.

Ms. Pugh will reach out to Leon County Schools to discuss a public awareness art project competition. The competition amongst the schools will bring public awareness amongst children and young adults. The subcommittee is also exploring the idea of a scholarship fund.

Mr. Barnes questioned why the communications campaign previously approved by the council was being scaled back. He stated, "I don't understand why we are softening the message." Mr. Barnes wanted to know who instructed the communications committee to soften the message. Mr. Barnes, Ms. Harris and all of the attending council members expressed their displeasure with the change to the communications campaign. Ms. Pugh stated she did not know specifically who instructed the scaling back of the campaign. Mr. Barnes volunteered to speak to the City Manager and/or City Commission to voice his disagreement with the decision to scale back the campaign. Ms. Pugh suggested that they discuss the matter away from the formal meeting to develop a strategic joint approach.

All the council members present spoke against softening the message. The council members wanted to know who? and why? the message the council had approved was being changed. Annie Harris did not believe the "Think Bigger" appropriately addressed gun violence. The members who were present voiced their desire to continue pursuing "Finger off The Trigger" – "Think Bigger" and the first image approved. Council members voiced their concerns and disappointment with interference by City officials, and expressed a desire to speak with Commissioners to communicate their concerns.

#### **Assessment /Strategic Planning Update**

Subcommittee will begin work on the Strategic Plan.

#### **Neighborhood & Faith Based**

Pastor Ferguson reported that the subcommittee met with the Front Line Pastor Council and was able to obtain a list of the programs that are currently available. He advised that the 30 pastor's in attendance strongly supported the "Think Bigger; Finger off the Trigger" message. Several members of the Gun Violence Council expressed an interest in attending the next Front Line Pastor Council meeting. The meeting will be held at Love and Faith Community Church on February 16, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor Copeland has offered financial assistance to the Gun Violence Council.

An idea being discussed is to come up with a neighborhood rap competition. Those in the competition will have to come up with a rap that addresses gun violence and also meet specific requirements. The reward for the competition will be time in a recording studio.

#### **Education and Youth Update**

The subcommittee has not met, but Chief DeLeo and Ms. Pugh are working to come up with a structure.

Mr. Thomas has expressed interest in being the subcommittee chairperson. Since the last meeting, Mr. Thomas has been working to create a mentorship program and he is working with the colleges to see if there are students that would like to tutor those in need.

#### **Criminal Justice & Reentry Update:**

The subcommittee has not met; however, Mr. Tucker advises that members of the Re-Entry Coalition are planning to reach out to business owners and advise them some advantages if they hire felons.

### **Future Steps**

Members were planning to meet outside of the formal meeting to develop a strategic approach for documenting why the Council should keep the original slogan.

Establish a chair person for the Education & Youth subcommittee.

### **Community Input**

Florida Department of Corrections Region 1 Re-Entry Coordinator, Lauren “Laurie” Walker, shared information on a resource guide compiled by the Leon County Adult Education. The resource guide has a good release plan that addresses an array of topics such as obtaining a GED, drug treatment programs offered, and community support groups. The Big Bend AFTER Re-Entry Coalition is trying to provide a copy of the resource guide to individuals as they are released from the Leon County Jail and DOC facilities. Mrs. Walker plans to attend the Council meetings. She suggested that Council members talk to the Department of Corrections Security Threat Group on Gangs about how they can assist with the Council’s mission.

### **Reminders**

Please notify Angela Hemanes at (850) 891-4341 or [Angela.Hemanes@talgov.com](mailto:Angela.Hemanes@talgov.com) if you know of possible meeting locations.

The next meeting will be held at the New Birth Tabernacle located at 1200 Harlem Street, on March 5, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.