



MINUTES

**Buffalo/Erie County Safe Neighborhoods Initiative
Meeting #3 - Monday, May 6, 2013 at 2 p.m.**

Meeting began at 2:15 p.m.

Present:

Jeffrey Conrad, Chair
Tim Hogue, Vice Chair
Betty Jean Grant, Ex-Officio
John Glascott
Pastor James Giles
Kenya Hobbs
Lesley Haynes
Orlando Perez
Linwood Roberts
Vicki Ross
Murray Holman
Sherry Sherill
Dwayne Ferguson
Beverly Newkirk
Broderick Cason
Allita Stewart

I. Welcome/Announcements - Jeff Conrad gave a welcome and encouraged folks to attend the subcommittee meetings. He reminded people to go vote in the School Board election tomorrow. The Common Council's Legislation Committee is meeting to speak about the "Ban the Box" legislation at 2 p.m.

II. Promise Neighborhood Presentation - Kenya Hobbs gave a 30-minute presentation to the members. He invited everyone to the next Byrne Criminal Justice Planning Team meeting: Thursday, May 9 at 10 a.m. at Community Health Care Center of Buffalo, Benwood Avenue. The grant from Bureau of Justice is intended to: increase police patrols, increase number of cameras and provide case management services. He also invited members to a Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Quality of Life Planning Meeting, Wednesday, May 15 at 6 p.m. at Westminster Community Charter School.

Betty Jean Grant requested that the Promise Neighborhood be expanded to E. Delevan. She asked about foot patrols from E. Delevan to Winspear on Bailey Avenue. Kenya Hobbs said

Phase I of the project is this neighborhood, then hopefully it will expand into a larger area. The Bureau of Justice grant will cover some of the overtime needed for the foot patrol.

Lesley Haynes asked about renovating homes and if apprentices are working with them. Belmont is doing the contracting work.

III. Subcommittee Reports – Jeff Conrad said that good ideas have come out of the subcommittee meetings. There is overlap in the meetings, but the discussions have been good.

- **Healthcare** - Broderick Cason: Healthcare is changing quickly and education is key. Healthcare reform is creating a new framework for the future. The Affordable Care Act says that you have the right to have access to healthcare. New York State is going to run its own program without the federal government. Employers have to provide it to every employee and individuals have to get it, which is the larger pool. Platinum, gold, silver, bronze level of coverage, you pay more of the percentage for a nicer plan. By October 1, 2013, all the health plans have to be ready for the exchange and they will be effective January 1, then it's locked in for a year. Betty Jean Grant offered to have a community meeting at the Merriweather Library to spread this information.
- **Employment** - Orlando Perez: Discussed transportation, adult education and access to job training, creating a workforce envelopment roundtable, creating a roadmap for workforce development groups to coordinate.
- **Education** - Vicki Ross: Betty Jean Grant asked that we lobby the new School Board member to keep schools open late immediately, maybe even for the summer. Success by 6 program funding was decreased and we must lobby County Executive Mark Poloncarz for that money to be put back into budget.
- **Youth** - Pastor James Giles: It's incumbent upon us to have youth representation on these committees and we need summer mentoring immediately.
- **Community Services** - Sherry Sherrill: Betty Jean Grant asked that this committee advocate for community police officers in each district.

Pastor Giles: Buffalo Peacemakers has written a plan for the whole city which set up a budget for 11 part-time people who are dedicated to violence intervention. Perhaps the funding could come through the Mayor's gun buyback program.

IV. June/July Meeting Schedule - A schedule for the next two months was passed out to the members.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.