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Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – 6:00pm
Samuel Delevoe Park Community Center
2520 NW 6 Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
Topic: Broward Sheriff's Office/Law Enforcement

Members Present

Alverine Brihm, Chair
Rev. Jesse Scipio

Ruben Bell, Vice Chair

Marquis Curry

Members Absent

Howard Kaplan

Joshauwa Brown

Broward County Staff

Laurette Jean, Assistant to the County Administrator
Willowstine Lawson, Building Code Division
Gerald Henry, BCD
Alaina Kizer, OESBD
Efrem Crenshaw, Human Services

Kemma Foreman, Parks
Paul Cooper, BCD
Elaine Barrett, SWRS
Angione Peebles, Transit
David Watkins, DHS

Other Attendees

Captain Warnell Phillips, Broward Sheriff's Office Central
Sgt. Nicolene Johnson, BSO
Denise Lyas
Bonita Curry
Alicia Putman
Clarence Fuller
Denise Joseph
Mary Embery
Leann Barber
Joseph Emmanuel
Charlene Rainford
Edwidge Alexandre

Lt. Randy Gresham, BSO
Mary Hunt
Felicia Woods
Hallph Francois
Britney Bethel
Darlene Gunn
Jeremiah Carter
Gale Peebles
Martha Freeman
Sheila Scott
Pat Delevoe
Tee Edwards

Attendees on Teams

Scherrie Thomas
754-249-1581

954-290-6809



Call to Order

Chair Brihm called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Lawson called the attendance. Quorum was met with 4 CCCAB members present.

1. Chair Alverine Brihm stated the primary goal for the meeting and opening comments

- a. “To bridge the gap between the BSO law enforcement and members of the BMSD community. Move forward in collaborating on specific crisis and incidents that are happening in our neighborhood, creating a secure, safe and peaceful environment. This can only be done through the delivery of law enforcement services. We need answers and input regarding major crimes and budget issues that have devastated this community for many decades. It’s time now to address and prioritize these issues one by one, demanding results from the leaders of the Broward Sheriff’s Department.”

2. Approval of May 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Rev. Scipio moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Curry seconded, and the May 15th CCCAB minutes were approved by the members.

3. Members’ Comments

- a. **Alverine Brihm**, on behalf of the Washington Park community: complaints from residents of crimes, rape, prostitution, robbery with weapons, and assault with intent to harm. Children shouldn’t have to see people having sex. What intervention are you doing?
 - i. Capt. Phillips- The Sheriff’s Office has a variety of programs including a cadet program, juvenile prevention program, reading program, and the homeless outreach team. BSO also work with other County partners to provide drug and mental health services.
- b. **Ruben Bell**, on behalf of the Boulevard Gardens community: primary issue is with Ist Street and Broward Blvd.
 - i. Capt. Phillips- Deputies have made arrests (when appropriate) of homeless on NW Ist Street, but many are released shortly after their arrests for minor non-violent offenses. BSO provides homeless outreach, but sometimes people refuse services. Understand revolving cycle and socio-economic issues.



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Continuation of members' comments

- c. **Rev. Jesse Scipio**, on behalf of the Boulevard Gardens community: Ist Street is a problem, shared concerns to BSO and they increased presence on Broward Blvd. Today, he noticed that people are back hanging out on NW Ist Street. Is there a need for more officers? The drive thru store is problematic, people should not hang out there; some have been there a long time. Do you have an officer available one in the day and one in the night?
 - i. Capt. Phillips- I did a ride along with County Commissioner McKinzie and made him aware that we would like more deputies to patrol this area. I would also like to do more and expand programs such as the Community Policing Programs.
- d. **Marquis Curry**, on behalf of the Franklin Park community: narcotics, traffic, need traffic calming for speeding and need to address residents that do not feel safe.
 - i. Capt. Phillips- Recently BSO conducted major enforcement and traffic stops in Central County. We confiscated 40 guns off the street, etc. The Sheriff's Office is responsive to your needs and sometimes operate under a veil of secrecy. We are doing things to keep the community safe. Also, the BMSD areas may get assistance from BSO's Central Broward Office and vice versus for Lauderdale Lakes (depending on the needs and urgency of the situation).

4. Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), Capt. Warnell Phillips

- a. Capt. Phillips- Thanked the CCCAB for inviting BSO to speak and thanked those who were in attendance. Capt. Phillips voiced the importance to have face to face meetings. BSO has been responsive to HOAs' calls, and we have been out there to address the reports we received.
- b. Capt. Phillips stated that there are violent crimes in the area. Many of which are murders that were thoroughly investigated and resulted in arrests.
- c. Sgt. Nicolene Johnson has kept Capt. Phillips abreast of the activities in the area. Sgt. Johnson's a good advocate and will not let me neglect the community.
- d. In September, BSO is hosting a Shred-A-Thon and collection of old medications. Additionally, BSO has an active operation occurring on Ist Street. Residents should also be aware that BSO will be creating a driver's



license check point and looking into a gun buyback program for the community.

- e. Regarding the abandoned buildings, sometimes it's hard to track owners. For businesses wishing to trespass individuals, they must sign an affidavit which will permit BSO to make an arrest on properties.

5. Resident/Public Comments

- a. **Mary Embery**, Boulevard Gardens- Tree limb fell close to her and relatives at the Forest Lawn Cemetery. Lack of maintenance there. Also, the sidewalks aren't cleaned and repaired.
- b. **Betty Alvarez**, Washington Park- prostitutes, homeless persons encamping on County property on 6th Street behind her yard. She also complained about break ins, drug activity, and people with mental illness hanging out. Ms. Alvarez also quoted Fort Lauderdale's Mayor Trantalis who said tent cities will be gone. What is BSO doing for the BMSD?
 - i. Sgt. Nicolene Johnson provided additional information regarding an incident that occurred near Ms. Alvarez's home.
 - ii. Capt. Phillips also provided additional information regarding tenant's rights (regarding the same incident on Ms. Alvarez's Street).
- c. **Denise Lyas**, Boulevard Gardens- 1st Street is in horrendous shape, there is never a quiet moment, and prostitutes are being dropped off on that street. The Blood Bank and Drive Thru store are also problems. Ms. Lyas expressed frustration with Sheriff Tony not being present. We need to clean up 1st Street. We used to have clean ups and trash pickups. We need to bring those back.
 - i. Lt. Gresham emphasized that abandoned buildings attract negative activities and trespassing signs are needed.
- d. **Rev. Jesse Scipio**, Boulevard Gardens- Regarding 1st Street, we went to Code to discuss trash pick-up. Also, the nuisance and abatement process take a long time. We need Code, BSO, all of us need to come together. If liens are placed on properties, does County own it?
- e. **Charlene Rainford**, Washington Park- voiced concerns with drugs and prostitution. Illegal activities occur at the gas station on NW 6th Street and



27th Avenue. Parties are occurring at the stone store building on the weekends. We also need BSO to check the store near the bridge at NW 8th Street and 27th Avenue.

- i. Lt. Gresham spoke with the owner of the store and the owner hasn't signed an affidavit. BSO cannot make any arrest without an executed affidavit.
- f. **Alverine Brihm**, Washington Park- asked Ms. Laurette Jean how she can assist.
 - i. Ms. Jean replied that the County does not have a role regarding the execution of trespass affidavits. Ms. Jean was also asked about the County's ability to acquire abandoned properties. She explained that it is a policy decision of the Board to foreclose on properties with liens and explained the difficulty of identifying some of the owners of the properties. The issues plaguing Central County are systemic and must be dealt with in a collaborative manner which is why we are working with several agencies to address many of the problems facing residents.
- g. **Marquis Curry**, Franklin Park- Regarding vacant properties, Commissioner McKinzie came from the City of Fort Lauderdale, and he knows their laws. How can we get the same laws in the BMSD?
 - i. Ms. Jean and Capt. Phillips provided responses to Mr. Curry's question.
- h. **Felicia Woods**, Boulevard Gardens- Ms. Woods is a business owner with a store front on Broward Blvd. and 29th Terrace. Ms. Woods has witnessed drug activity in her parking lot and have taken pictures. She expressed appreciation to BSO for their rapid response to her calls. Ms. Woods also suggested trimming trees to deter illegal activities.
 - i. Lt. Gresham echoed the sentiments that many businesses on Broward Blvd. are not well kept and it's hard to reach the owners.
- i. **Leann Barber**, Roosevelt Gardens- she has been following the state law on homelessness, ant-public camping bill passed by the state. Ms. Barber shared some of the efforts being made by municipalities and wanted to understand what is the BMSD doing?
 - i. Laurette Jean- Ms. Jean provided clarity regarding HB 1365 including what it specifically states regarding encampments on public properties



and right of ways and explained local governments' ability to offer temporary housing to unhoused individuals. Ms. Jean also discussed the County's efforts to brainstorm with municipalities on solutions and most of the suggestions from cities deferred to the County to fund sheltering options. Ms. Jean also shared some of the results from the pallet sheltering analysis completed by a consultant hired by the County.

- ii. Lt. Gresham emphasized that being homeless is not a crime. But he has noticed more movement of homeless individuals transitioning west.
- j. **Edwidge Alexandre**, Washington Park- Ms. Alexandre voiced concerns with prostitution and complained that when she called BSO, it took them 2 hours to respond, and by the time BSO arrived, the prostitutes and other criminal elements had left. Ms. Alexandre also complained about fighting and partying taking place throughout the night at the vacant lot next to 2709 NW 7th Street (across from Mrs. Brihm's business). Finally, she said that a utility company left their equipment behind which is being used by the homeless.
- k. **Rev. Jesse Scipio**- Rev. Scipio added that Sheriff Tony said on his campaign that he reduced response time.
- l. **Marquis Curry** stated BSO headquarters is located a quarter mile from the area where they live, it shouldn't take that long to respond.

6. **New Business: Propose Agenda Items for November 20, 2024, CCCAB Meeting**

Ms. Lawson announced that the CCCAB has received requests from the County's Intergovernmental Affairs, for Sunset Review and Resilient Environment Department, grant to present at the next meeting.

7. **Informational Items and Announcements:**

- a. The following flyers were available, and announcements were made:
 - i. New Office Hours at Delevoe and Sunview Parks
 - ii. Wellness Jamboree Save-the-Date
 - iii. BMSD magnets with important contact information for residents and businesses



- iv. BSO had a table with information and upcoming events, such as Operation Medicine Cabinet and Shred-A-Thon and giveaways.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Brihm adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm.

***Disclosure:** The above captioned minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To obtain a complete audio recording of the meeting, approved summary minutes, or any presentation or handout materials, submit a public records request through Building Code Division, 954-765-4400.*