

Proceedings of the City of Joliet Community Relations Advisory Board held on October 18, 2017

COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING of the City of Joliet, Illinois was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 5:07 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: R. Dale Evans, Wayne Horne, Burneva McCullum, Raychel Wesley
ABSENT: Cornel Darden Jr., Lonnie Posley, Betty Washington, Garland Mays (arrived later as noted in minutes)
ALSO PRESENT: Ken Mihelich – Director of Administrative Services, Brian Benton – Police Chief

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Advisory Board was made by Raychel Wesley.

Motion seconded by Burneva McCullum.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: R. Dale Evans, Wayne Horne,
Burneva McCullum, Raychel Wesley

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

At this point in the meeting, Garland Mays joined the meeting.

3. DISCUSSION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT RECRUITMENT OUTREACH

Police Chief Brian Benton discussed diversity within the Police Department. He stated that ideally the department's and community's demographics would match, but they currently do not. He reviewed the department's overall numbers and then compared them with other Illinois cities of similar size and noted that Joliet's were better than most, but not yet where he would like.

To address this issue, the Chief explained that a team of diverse individuals were formed within the department to recruit a more diverse applicant pool. He gave

several examples of targeted recruitment that increased diversity within the most recent applicant pool and gave summaries of the 2014-2016 Joliet Police Department Recruiting Report. The Report reflected a much more diverse applicant pool. The Chief then discussed some of the challenges of recruiting minorities within their own community and how residency points were removed going forward to help address unintended negative consequences to minority applicants. The Chief also briefly discussed partnerships with local schools and visiting local churches as other ways the department reaches out to the community. There was a brief discussion by the Board of the departments' future cadet program and ideas of how that might work.

4. NEW OR OLD BUSINESS

At the request of the Board, Ken Mihelich provided a listing of protected classes from the EEOC website. The Board requested these classes be reflected in the Board's mission statement on the website.

There was some additional discussion regarding what could be done to aid relations locally between residents and the Police Department. There was mention of ideas trying to improve communications and suggestions of perhaps a weekly column in a newspaper from the Chief. There was also a discussion of the effects positive and negative of social media.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wayne Horne at 6:09 p.m.
Motion seconded by Garland Mays.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:

R. Dale Evans, Wayne Horne, Garland Mays, Burneva McCullum, Raychel Wesley

NAYS:

None.

Minutes taken by Ken Mihelich