

COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

Minutes of January 29, 2009

Present: Kim Rossi, Melissa Moore Janes, MJ Dimitriou, Mary Reed Kelly, Mark Lindner, Fred Bunn, Clare Ludlow, Peter Stuursma, Sara Shubel, Sarah Swaney, Dee McGraw, Dawn Lewis, Brian Ellis, Chief Mark herald, Elizabeth Bogo, Tina Aardema, Alec Elson

The meeting was called to order by Dee McGraw at 12:08 p.m.

Dee McGraw opened the discussion with a request for any updates or general feedback. She stated that she had received a few negative responses to the mailing last year, but only 1 this year. This comment said that they appreciate the letter, but choose not to participate in the i-care Directory. It was reiterated that this is meant to be a means to foster communication and that it's a goal to work toward. The group was urged to encourage any sort of feedback or ideas; all will be considered.

Kim Rossi reported that the Communications Subcommittee had had a question about the legal ramifications of signing the pledge (whether signing would make anyone liable should an incident occur under his or her supervision). It was confirmed that signing does not imply any liability. It was restated that once one signs the pledge, there is no need to renew. One's name will stay in the directory until its removal is requested.

Kim also reported that the 501(c)3 application is moving along and it should be complete within 14 days.

The group watched "A Parent's Guide to the Teen Brain", an internet video that reiterates the need to talk to kids and to LISTEN!

Dee discussed the idea of having Christopher Kennedy Lawford speak for a CAC event. Lawford battled addiction and now offers a message of survival and hope.

Judge Sara Smolenski has agreed to be a speaker at our March 19 meeting, which will be in the evening at 6:00pm. This will be a district event.

Officer Lindner said the illegal drugs most talked about recently are pot, molly (ecstasy) and prescription drugs.

MJ Dimitriou had a question about kids spending time "hanging out" at Gaslight Village and Collins Park. Officer Lindner said common hang-out spots are the parking garage and the back of Starbucks but that they haven't seen much activity of concern there lately. There are cameras at the parking garage from which police have access to the film.

Melissa Moore Janes, who is on the Board of the Children's Assessment Center, invited the CAC Board to visit in an effort to raise awareness of the Center. The organization is

a combination of law enforcement and health and human services that address sexual abuse, with support and medical services. The address is 901 Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned by Kim Rossi at 1:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the full CAC Board will be March 19, 2009 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Middle School Media Center – with the Honorable Sara Smolenski speaking.

Minutes submitted by Mary Reed Kelly (orangerk@comcast.net).