



TBW Community Safety & Resource Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021

Time: 7p – 8:30 pm via Zoom

To Attend the Meeting:

1. Copy and paste this link to open Zoom: <https://zoom.us/join>
2. When prompted enter Meeting ID: 907 807 9842
3. Password: FarEastAC

- **Welcome to the TBW Community Safety & Resource Meeting** (7pm)
Summer Moynihan, Moderator & TBW Coordinator
- **Introduction of Guest Speakers** (7:05pm-7:15pm)
Care Coalition, Marian Stuckey, Alverta Muhammad & Twyla Jones
CPD Community Liaison Officer James Poole
Grant Ames for Councilmember Mitchell Brown
City Council Representative Stanley Gates
City Liaison Lynne LaCour
- **Care Coalition, Marian Stuckey & Alverta Muhammad** (7:15pm-7:20pm)
- **CPD Community Liaison Officer James Poole** (7:20pm-7:25pm)
- **Grant Ames for Councilmember Mitchell Brown** (7:25pm-7:30pm)
- **City Council Representative Stanley Gates** (7:35pm-7:40pm)
- **City Liaison Lynne LaCour** (7:45pm-7:50pm)
- **Community Questions for Guest Speakers** (7:50pm-8:25pm)
Questions received from community members who could not attend
Speaker slips, the order in which they were received, 2 minutes per speaker to ask questions
- **Closing Comments & Next Meeting:** TBD (8:25pm)
- **Meeting Closes** (8:30pm)



TBW Community Safety & Resource Meeting Questions

Member:	Cree Garcia
Question(s):	What are the difficulties being encountered that is preventing action taking place in the Continental and Gemstar area? I'm hearing that this could be gang/drug related and if so we need to know that. Thanks.
Response:	Because the case is still open, Officer Poole was unable to comment on the status of the case, however the incident in question does not appear to be gang and/or drug related. It does however appear that this individual was the intended target of the shooting and that the shooting just so happened to occur within the TBW community.

Member:	Jack Cooksey
Question(s):	<p>My first thought... what can we do to get more patrols in the area? A regular visual presence in the neighborhoods would be a huge step forward as it seems like the only time I see CPD around Independence Park is when there is a problem.</p> <p>I understand they can't be everywhere at all times but making their presence known would be appreciated.</p>
Response:	At the time of our meeting, Officer Poole checked Patrol View and advised the community that due to the number of officers working and the number of calls holding, there were no available officers to patrol the community. A combination of Covid-19 cases among officers and the city currently assigning officers to the areas with the highest crime, means that we are short on officers more now than ever. Officer Poole and Grant Ames, Representative for Council Member Mitchell Brown, agreed that we need more officers however it was announce earlier that day that City Council has just cancelled the next CPD training class that would have given our city 50 additional officers, and they reallocated the funds elsewhere. Grant Ames also advised that they are looking at technology that will help free up officers. Safe Streets will be starting a few months earlier and will help address those areas of concerns, but it is unsure when exactly they will start. The TBW will look at inviting Safe Streets to one of our upcoming meetings so that they can introduce themselves and hear concerns from the community.

Member:	James Rogers
Question(s):	Possibility and chances of City Cams at the Tussing/ Freedom Trail intersection? Helps out with vehicle IDs with the neighborhood shootings, business robberies and property crimes in that area.
Response:	This request has been forwarded to the Dept of Public Safety as a possibility. Several things are taken in to account when considering locations for these cameras, 1. Talking to patrol to identify the most effective locations, 2. Analyzing crime patterns, 3. Considering community input. The TBW is identifying several locations these cameras may be effective and if any of the locations recommended by the TBW community are considered, the cameras will be monitored by both Dept of Public Safety and CPD.

Member:	Nathan Jewell
Question(s):	What does it take to rezone our police services to get away from Columbus and instead to rely on more local police forces like Pickerington and Reynoldsburg.
Response:	The issue here lies in many moving parts and is so cumbersome that they do not see that happening. The TBW is patrolled by 2 State of Ohio jurisdictions, the City of Columbus Police Department and occasionally the county Sheriff's Department. It was recommended that Safe Streets would be a good resource to discuss additional concerns with.

Member:	Jeremy Borreson
Question(s):	Would like to have unmarked patrol cars during the late evening/am hours. A car parked in an area where the majority of break ins occur and watched.
Response:	The City of Columbus used to have a bait car where the suspect would get in to the vehicle and drive off, however they identified that by pursuing the suspect, that it put the surrounding community in danger. They also identified that the vehicle thefts were so sporadic that it made it challenging to identify where and when to put the vehicle. CD does have some cars that are equipped with surveillance that they use for homicide cases and they do have 2 officers on Zone 2 who are trained to use covert vehicles. The use of those vehicles is based on intel and is assigned through SWAT.

Member:	Lindsay Wood
Question(s):	What is being done to keep criminals in jail, and not release them shortly after an arrest? I see several news stories that crimes are being committed over and over by the same offender. If they were kept in jail until they have court, perhaps the crimes would lower?
Response:	Unfortunately it is the decision of the county prosecutor to determine the charges and of the judge on the sentencing. In the past community leaders have been willing to testify alongside victims, in addition to community members writing letters and emails because they too are victims of crime, are very impressionable. In a discussion with Jason Jenkins with Mayor Ginther's office this concern was discussed as well and the Mayor's office has raised these concerns with the County Prosecutor's Office. Community leaders can also sit on the panel for the Restorative Justice program. The TBW specifically was working with Judge Jaiza Page, prior to Covid-19 hitting to have those who have committed crimes within the TBW community, spend their community service hours working with the TBW.

Member:	Sharon Marshall
Question(s):	<p>Last week we had a man carjacked at the speedway on Brice Road, in the middle of the day, broad daylight, busy road. There were witnesses to the five teenagers who struggled with this man and hit him with a gun before taking his vehicle. The week before that we had a murder and several more shootings. Before that? Stolen vehicles. The TBW community borders both Reynoldsburg and Pickerington and you know what? The are terrified of our community now. The TBW has spent 14 years fighting crime in our Community. We have built up relations with CPD and worked alongside city services to address a wide range of concerns within our community. In less than a year the city of Columbus city leaders, all by themselves have reversed all of our hard work.</p> <p>I don't blame CPD for not being able to respond to crimes in a timely manner or even be proactive, because their hands are tied. We have always been short on officers on the east side, but now more than ever that shortage is being exploited by criminals who know that CPD has their hands tied. In addition you have officers who have worked the streets for decades who have tried so desperately to make a difference in the communities that they serve, who have been beaten down and told they are worthless. They have watched their own city leaders take to the streets to protest them, and make every attempt to find a flaw that will result in their discipline. Our officers have no morale anymore. They hate their jobs, they hate who they work for, and they are desperately just trying to make it through each day that is restricted to responding to crime and taking reports. Their ability to be proactive and interact with their communities have been stripped from them as crime has exploded. Instead of encouraging and guiding our officers, and instead of building and adding on to programs that encourage community relations, city leaders have told them you are doing wrong and we will find out that you are doing wrong, and we will deal with you. Our city leaders have proven to be the most ineffective boss over the Columbus police department. And no that does not fall on chief Quinlan, that falls on the individuals who are most responsible over all of our city., Mayor Ginther, city council, and Zach Kline. Our city leaders have become so consumed with tunnel vision and so set on addressing one issue, and one issue only, that they have sacrificed the safety of the communities they are supposed to Protect. So what I would like to know is what is the city going to do to improve morale, to support our officers going out there and doing their jobs, and to show our communities that are being victimized and terrorized by these criminals that you are taking their concerns seriously and doing everything in your power to rectify the environment you have created, and that you have a plan to improve morale within the police department and communities, support our officers, and work with them to increase patrols, reduce crime, and ensure the safety of the communities you claim to represent?</p>
Response:	<p>Many of the concerns expressed here are above Officer Poole's paygrade, but he is going to forward these concerns to the Zone 2 Commander who will be present at the February Coordinator's Meeting. Council Member Brown used to be a paramedic and is extremely supportive of our first responders, and the city is working on a new services facility to help officers and relieve the stress and strain placed on them.</p>

Member:	Ava Johnson
Question(s):	A 14 year old was shot and killed in SE Columbus. What can the community do to help curb crime?
Response:	Keep calling CPD so that the calls for service reflect the need for more officers, work with officers on the road and Safe Streets, and refer to the previous responses for current actions being taken.

Member:	Larry Marshall
Question(s):	<p>How is the city responding to the increase in crime and homicides as we already had 172 homicides last year. We beat our record last year and are on track to beat that number this year. So what is the city doing to address that?</p> <p>Increase in car jackings and car thefts.</p> <p>Reports online are going in to a dead file.</p> <p>Lack of police officers to respond to accidents is now affecting insurance.</p> <p>What is the city doing to develop a relationship between the police and the community.</p>
Response:	<p>Many of these concerns expressed are above Officer Poole's paygrade, but he is going to forward these concerns to the Zone 2 Commander who will be present at the February Coordinator's Meeting.</p>

Member:	Lisa Stiner
Question(s):	<p>Since Tussing and Brice are main arteries, what can we do to get plow trucks out here to clean them sooner?</p> <p>What are you doing to address crime in our area?</p>
Response:	<p>Lynne LaCour, Community Liaison with the Far East Neighborhood Pride Center will follow up on the concern for plowing and send Summer Moynihan an update. She will update you on the response.</p> <p>Please see the responses to previous questions. If you have any additional questions, please let Summer know.</p>

Member:	Doreen Levy
Question(s):	<p>What can we do to get cameras in the neighborhood? Like the shots fired cameras.</p> <p>Want to take care of our officers, police and fire by offering vaccinations because they interact with the community so much.</p>
Response:	<p>This request has been forwarded to the Dept of Public Safety as a possibility. Several things are taken in to account when considering locations for these cameras, 1. Talking to patrol to identify the most effective locations, 2. Analyzing crime patterns, 3. Considering community input. The TBW is identifying several locations these cameras may be effective and if any of the locations recommended by the TBW community are considered, the cameras will be monitored by both Dept of Public Safety and CPD.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to make vaccines mandatory for all officers and will be made available as soon as possible.</p>

Member:	Grace Wagner
Question(s):	In other cities/municipalities, they park empty cruisers to deter speeding so I wonder if they could maybe park a cruiser in the area to see if it could deter some crime for a few hours a week? It may work until they catch on.
Response:	Although there are enough cruisers for the officers on the road, unfortunately right now a lot of cruisers are in for maintenance and being worked on and they do not have the availability to park extra cruisers within the community. However Officer Poole attested to leaving his cruiser in the parking lot of businesses when he goes out on bike patrol and the businesses are grateful as the cruiser acts as a deterrent. So he will definitely pass on this idea as it may be a possibility for areas with crime surges, speeders and general safety in the future.

Member:	Jennifer Young
Question(s):	Do the different cities, townships, and county help each other out, and to what extent? At the time my father was carjacked at the Speedway at Brice and Old Brice, and the suspects took off south on Old Brice a witness saw an unmarked cruiser/officer a short while later sitting in the Village of Brice who didn't stop the suspects. What may be the reason that would happen?
Response:	Depending on the circumstances (school shootings, officer in trouble, felonies near the border) and type of call, each neighboring department may assist each other with calls. However each needs to be mindful of their jurisdictional boundaries. It is unknown if the Brice officer received the information about the carjacking in time to see the vehicle before it passed them. Some departments do listen to each other's radio traffic while some have to notify neighboring departments of calls. With each, there is a short delay in that information being received, especially when it occurs on a jurisdictional border. Alverta Muhammad and Lynne LaCour were able to provide Jennifer with some excellent resources for recovery from trauma for she and her family as well.

Member:	Frankie Jones-Harris
Question(s):	What can be done to contact the owners of the rental properties in that area, especially on Gemstar, so they can address the trash, wrecked parked cars, etc. I will ask about/discuss safety, police presence, and what community members can do themselves to address the crime in the area.
Response:	We will discuss the trash and wrecked cars at our next Community Leader Code Meeting, but in the meantime, please continue to file 311 complaints for these concerns so that it shows an ongoing concern that needs more attention. Please see the responses to previous questions as it relates to safety, police presence and what community members can do to address the crime in our area.

Member:	Summer Moynihan
Question(s):	<p>When members of the community are witness to a shooting or other trauma within the community, what services are available that can help them process and recover from that trauma?</p> <p>We need our CLO's but they are tied up on other jobs and the community's line of communication on addressing specific crime related concerns have been severed. How do we fix this?</p> <p>Because CPD does not have the manpower or resources to address speeding within our communities, individuals have gotten so brazen, passing on a double yellow line even in a school zone. I had someone drive past me as I waited to exit Aplin Dr on to Hines Rd the other day and the driver himself was hanging half out the window waving both of his hands in the air hollering and laughing as he drove north on Hines Rd. He only slipped back in to his vehicle when he reached a red light. We have reached a level of unrest in our neighborhoods where suspects know they can get away with anything, be out of jail in a couple of hours and back out on the street to commit another crime. The residents are scared and can't even yell at someone breaking in to their car without getting shot at. What is the city, not CPD, going to do to increase the amount of protection and services necessary to keep our communities safe, because right now they do not have the resources available and enough staff to be able to take care of a City as large as Columbus. If the city cannot ensure proper coverage and safety of it's residents due to the spike in crime, can a mutual aid agreement be constructed so that neighboring police/sheriff's departments can assist our communities?</p>
Response:	<p>Resources from the Care Coalition will be made available to the community on both the TBW website and Facebook pages.</p> <p>Jason Jenkins with Mayor Ginther's office is going to identify why our CLO's are being pulled away from their communities and see if there are ways to get around that, so that our CLO's can be available to the communities they cover. Officer Poole has been hand selected for a temporary transfer to assist the CPD Homicide Unit, for the next couple of months, but the TBW will be working with his temporary replacement to continue to address concerns within the community.</p> <p>Please see responses from previous questions, as a response to my remaining questions.</p>

Member:	Addie Redd
Question(s):	<p>Crime has risen at independence Park just like the neglected brush along the creek line, leaving people to not feel as safe down there as they used to. Along with getting the brush cut down, what does it take to get a safety CPD camera added to the light pole that sits between the playground and the basketball court?</p>
Response:	<p>The brush along the creek line is generally cleaned up by Recreation and Parks in the spring of each year, however we have submitted a 311 request for this, to ensure it is on their to do list.</p> <p>This request has been forwarded to the Dept of Public Safety as a possibility. Several things are taken in to account when considering locations for these cameras, 1. Talking to patrol to identify the most effective locations, 2. Analyzing crime patterns, 3. Considering community input. The TBW is identifying several locations these cameras may be effective and if any of the locations recommended by the TBW community are considered, the cameras will be monitored by both Dept of Public Safety and CPD.</p>