



Buffalo/Erie County Safe Neighborhoods Initiative Committee
Tuesday, July 1, 2013 at 3 p.m.
Merriweather Library, 1324 Jefferson Ave., Buffalo

Chair Jeff Conrad called the meeting to order.

Present:

Vicki Ross
Dave Bradley
Kenya Hobbs
John Glascott
Marilyn Gibson
Broderick Cason
Jeffrey Conrad
Broderick Cason

Jeff Conrad spoke about trainings that might be available to members of the Committee, specifically one sponsored by John Jay College. Jeff Conrad has also been communicating with the local FBI Office about collaborating with them to help with community outreach following a raid, similar to a Clean Sweep. He is just waiting for the final approval for this effort within a week or so.

Glascott: Have you had conversation with BPD?

Conrad: No, FBI approached us because they coordinate the effort. Once I get them on board, I'll go to Mayor and BPD.

Glascott: I strongly suggest you get those parties on board.

Conrad: After FBI accepts scope of the program, we'll bring Task Force to a meeting, then everyone can have input.

Ross: Would that mean BPD would be on this committee?

Conrad: I've talked to the Mayor and at this point, there's not the will to do that right now. My hope is to tap into Lt. Nichols to help.

Conrad: We're scheduling Health Care Outreach Forums thanks to Broderick Cason. We've had good feedback from community. We're doing forums across Erie County over the next couple of months. Lots of people are reaching out to us to schedule these and we've had a lot of support. We'll have Broderick give an overview of his presentation.

Broderick Cason gave a "Health Care Reform Overview" PowerPoint presentation to the group.

Legislator Hogues: I held a press conference with Chairwoman Grant last week to talk about the continuing violence taking place in our two districts. On July 17, we're having a forum at the Merriweather Library for people to talk about reducing crime. There's no silver bullet, but we need to get together to find a solution. The United States is a country that is built around violence and aggression, whether it be football or basketball or movies or video games. I don't know what the solution is, but it's a way of life and children want to act it out. We have to think about how do we combat that.

Bradley: Jobs and education are the key to getting kids off of the street. It's a small investment to send a child to college versus what we would spend on them in jail. Also, Denver and Seattle have gotten rid of prohibition and their crime has gone way down.

Conrad: Can you send me a link to those studies?

Bradley: No one has done these studies yet.

Glascott: You're going to have to look at five years of data. Most of the violence in Buffalo is because of cocaine, heroin and harder drugs. That's where the big money is, not marijuana. That's not going to happen in New York State for a while. I'm not hearing anyone in government who wants that.

Bradley: If you cleave off marijuana customers who use that as a gateway, you're cutting out the money. It can lower the probability of violence. Somebody should look into the effects.

Conrad: Will send out an email notice of the next meeting and these workshops.

The meeting was adjourned.