



Board of Directors Meeting Report (Special Report)

March 21, 2024

600 Jefferson; Conference room #2

Board of Directors chair Ben Adams called the March 21st Board meeting to order. Chairman Adams addressed the reason for the “Special Called” meeting to report on pertinent crime issues. The January 25th board report was approved.

YEAR-END REPORTS

Milestones

Presented in a handout/Tabled until the next meeting

Outcomes and Action Step Measurements/Tabled until the next meeting

ASSESSMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE

Bill Gibbons stated that the Neighborhood Safety Initiative (NSI) is one of the action steps in the Safe Community Action Plan. Steve Shular has been working with the Police Joint Agencies (PJAs), which are neighborhood-based organizations that meet regularly with various entities to reduce crime and blight in the community. Mr. Gibbons stated that specific properties have been highlighted in targeted areas to resolve issues. He stated that four (4) areas have been identified: Raleigh, Highland Heights, the University of Memphis area, and Frayser. Mr. Gibbons stated that more representation is desired from the PJAs at the NSI monthly meetings. Further preparation from those in attendance and an increase in neighborhood involvement are also needed.

Steve Shular presented a specific example from a citizen who expressed a neighborhood concern. Mr. Shular stated that blight is a continuous issue in the

intervention. She stated that the Memphis Group Violence Intervention Program (GVIP) is moving in the right direction toward the implementation of a GVI model. She discussed current challenges with the program and offered recommendations for improvement. The recommendations:

- Provide more training resources to the Memphis Police Department (MPD),
- Increase information sharing between MPD and TDOC,
- Do a better job of identifying group affiliations,
- Do group analysis regularly (every six months), and
- Develop more community awareness.

Dr. Rief stated that meeting weekly or biweekly with community stakeholders would increase collaboration across the community.

Jimmie Johnson with the Memphis Group Violence Intervention Program (GVIP) stated that the GVIP works on reducing violent crime by trying to prevent shootings from happening in retribution for a past shooting. Specialists also work to curb gang violence and to help victims of gun violence avoid being victimized again — and to prevent those victims from becoming future perpetrators of violence. Mr. Johnson stated that the program is not a cure-all but part of the answer. One of the program's goals is to increase community engagement.

Dr. Regan Williams spoke on hospital-level violence intervention and the changes that have been made. The program is tailored to each hospital (LeBonheur & Regional One). The program's goal is to offer consistency & support with a focus on ages 12-18. Some of the services provided:

- Mental Health
- BLOC Squad Memphis
- Academic support
- Other common resources (rent, utilities, links to community resources)

Delvin Lane with BLOC Squad Memphis provided an update on their work in the community. BLOC Squad is an Intervention program in the city of Memphis that is currently working in twelve targeted areas. The BLOC Squad responds to the condition of the neighborhoods, providing case management for at-risk youths.

Presented by:
Sharon (Sam) Walker
Executive Assistant

Memphis Shelby Crime Commission Board Meeting
March 21, 2024

Attendance:

1. Ben Adams
2. Louis "Bo" Allen
3. Austin Baker
4. Melanie Blakeney
5. Jerry Blum
6. Sheriff Floyd Bonner
7. Vinessa Brown
8. Tom Cleves
9. Sgt. J. Matt Cunningham
10. J. Matt Cunningham
11. Tom Cowens
12. Chief C. J. Davis
13. Susan Deason
14. John Dudas
15. Terry Harris
16. Henry Hooper
17. Carolyn Jackson
18. Pastor James Kirkwood
19. Stevie Moore
20. Paul Morris
21. Mayor Mike Palazzolo
22. Joseph Saab
23. Stacey Sherley-Muhammad
24. Blair Taylor
25. Janika White