



THAN Public Safety Committee Minutes

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

6:40pm - 8:00pm

C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. Public Library
Matthew Gregory Community Room
2607 E Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Tampa, FL 33610

Neighborhood Representation:

Ballast Point

Ybor Heights

Temple Crest

Old Seminole Heights

South of Gandy

College Hill

The Legacy of Fair Oaks

South Howard

East Tampa

1. Meeting Called to Order - 6:40pm

2. Guest Speaker - Anthony Hopkins, TPD District 3 Community Liaison

- High turnover with TPD Community Liaisons creates challenge.
- Misinformation on social media is a problem. Neighborhood watch coordinators can serve as resource in community to alleviate.
- TPD and Community Engagement and Partnerships Department working on joint safety training for neighborhood/civic associations and watch groups.
- TPD Citizens Academy is taking applications. Classes start Feb. 6th.
<https://www.tampa.gov/police/programs/citizen-academy>.
- TPD Community Liaison sends weekly recap to neighborhood watch coordinators with reports of Big 5 crimes.

- Jamel Michini is the new TPD Community Partnership Coordinator - jamel.michini@tampagov.net
- Joneé Lewis is the new TPD Public Information Officer - jonee.lewis@tampagov.net

3. Corporal Gig Brown

- Moving from Business Watch Coordinator to Supervisor of Community Engagement Police Officers Squad. Will report to Deputy Chief Calvin Johnson.
- Information for TPD events is on city calendar. <https://www.tampa.gov/police-calendar>

4. Introduction to THAN Public Safety Committee

- See attached slides.

5. Discussion

Tim Keeperts - Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association

- Homelessness/unhoused and trash are concerns.
- Public Safety Committee concept needs to be supported by the city. The county can also provide resources to this group via programs like the annual County Neighborhoods Conference.
- The magistrate in the code enforcement cases is too lenient. Enforcement issues continue to be a concern despite repeated reports.

Annaliese Meier - South Howard

- Needs crime watch in her neighborhood.

Rhonda Ellis - The Legacy of Fair Oaks

- Dog attacks occur. Need way to manage.
- Urban coyotes - how do we deal with this as a safety issue?

Richard Formica - Temple Crest

- Shared safety tip for driving: P.A.S.S = Pay attention, Attitude, Signal your intention, Seatbelt

Rick Kugler - New East Tampa Neighborhood Association & Crime Watch

- Feature a “What’s the Buzz” item - Everyone can share what the safety concerns are in their neighborhoods or what’s coming up at City Council.

Cynthia Few - College Hill

- Speeding: discussion about the speeding on 19th & Emma Ave running east-west bumps/“table tops” are available to slow traffic, as well as 4 way stops. It is important to first request a city traffic study to evaluate the necessity of these traffic calming measures.

Bobby Creighton - Ybor Heights Neighborhood Association & Watch Group

- Councilwoman Hurtak is following up with Mobility Department on policy for when/where/how speed bumps may be implemented in the city.

Carroll Ann Bennett - THAN

- Expand to Hillsborough County - Invite Emergency Disaster Preparedness outreach as guest.

6. Closing Statement - Bobby Creighton

- Future meetings - Items related to safety coming before City Council will be included in agendas.
- Committee to consider how neighborhood safety concerns can be directed into funding requests and advocacy during City budget season.
- Need a dedicated secretary position to keep accurate minutes.
- Agenda will be sent prior to the next meeting.

7. Adjourned - 8:00pm