



BLUE RIBBON PANEL

on High Risk/High Needs Residents

MEMBERS:

Rick Allen,
Chair

Phillip Brooke,
Vice Chair

David Alger

Gina
Breukelman

James Collins

Corinne Dixon

Darin Dressler

Paul Ellis

Anne Fiala

Shana Johnny

Rose Lincoln

Pastor Lee
Madison

Edwina
Magrum

Michael Mirra

David Shirer

Bobbie Jo
Tarnecki

October 19, 2005 Minutes

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Tacoma Municipal Building, Conference Room 1444

Members Present: Rick Allen, Gina Breukelman, Phillip Brooke, Marty Campbell, James Collins, Rose Lincoln, Edwina Magrum, Shana Johnny, Bob Pearson, Jeannie Peterson, Ralph Tomberg

Guests: Jerry Guthrie

City Staff: Debbie Bergthold, Kyle Crews, Elizabeth McNagny, Shirley Shultz, Jodie Trueblood

AGENDA TOPICS

- **Introductions**
- **Review of October 12, 2005, Minutes**
- **Review Landlord and Police learning points**
- **Develop key learning points from Western State, Department of Corrections**
- **Review of agency learning points**
- **Process to develop report to council**
- **Next meeting Agenda**

INTRODUCTION

Chair Rick Allen called the meeting to order and asked that all participants introduce themselves.

REVIEW OF OCTOBER 12, 2005, MINUTES

The minutes were reviewed and no changes were made.

Allen reviewed the October 17, 2005, Neighborhood and Housing Committee meeting. He said that the meeting was an occasion to update the committee on what the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) was doing.

Human Rights & Human Services Department: 747 Market Street, Room 836 ■ Tacoma, WA 98402-3779

■ (253) 591-5151 ■ www.cityoftacoma.org/humanservices

Tacoma Economic Development Department: 747 Market Street, Room 900 ■ Tacoma, WA 98402-3768

■ (253) 591-5364 ■ www.cityofdestiny.com

www.cityoftacoma.org/highneeds

He stated that he told the Neighborhood and Housing Committee about the process the BRP was using and that the learning points are still being reviewed. He also explained how the BRP is going to do a draft. The Neighborhood and Housing Committee expressed an interest in methods to ensure accountability in the neighborhoods.

REVIEW LANDLORD AND POLICE LEARNING POINTS

It was discussed that it is not necessarily the agencies that are the root of the problem but, in the main cases, entrepreneurial landlords who have a number of individual sites. It was suggested that the landlords should comply with the Crime Free Housing Program and that the Department of Corrections (DOC) should require landlords they contract with to comply. It was also mentioned that the existing tools to support implementation should be listed on the working papers: Chronic Public Nuisance Code, Crime Free Housing Code and requirements for landlords to have small business loans.

It was also discussed that DOC needs to look at landlords who continually rent to people with high risk/high needs behaviors. The landlords should have to get a special license if they are going to repeatedly rent to these people.

The next items discussed were the key learning points of police protection and coverage. First, it was stated that Community Liaison Officers (CLO) are something that is needed. People want the CLOs to be present, visible and interactive in the community. Also, the committee doesn't want to see CLOs doing non CLO business. It needs to be made clear that CLOs belong to the neighborhood. It was also recommended that a record be kept of priority calls so that the number of CLOs in an area is used effectively.

DEVELOP KEY LEARNING POINTS FROM WESTERN STATE, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

It was discovered that DOC only has interaction with the neighborhood when it is dealing with a Level III Sex Offender. Otherwise, the DOC only converses with the offender and the landlord. Creating a community clearing house would enable citizens to know where offenders are living. Also, having adequate rehabilitation houses for DOC to discharge to is also something that needs to be looked in to.

One of the principals of crime free housing is that landlords actually screen for offenses. In order to be certified as crime free housing landlords are not supposed to be renting to offenders. In Lakewood, the Chief of Police is trying to get the model changed to have a special dispensation so that Landlords go through crime free housing, follow all the principals of crime free housing, have

Human Rights & Human Services Department: 747 Market Street, Room 836 ■ Tacoma, WA 98402-3779
■ (253) 591-5151 ■ www.cityoftacoma.org/humanservices

Tacoma Economic Development Department: 747 Market Street, Room 900 ■ Tacoma, WA 98402-3768
■ (253) 591-5364 ■ www.cityofdestiny.com
www.cityoftacoma.org/highneeds

standards of behavior to hold tenants accountable to and are still be able to rent to offenders.

The major point brought up is that the community needs to find some way to play a part in the process of helping place offenders somewhere. There is a model that some communities have already adapted where the offender meets with a transition/community accountability board. The board would meet with the offender at the release point and make the offender aware that the community is concerned and here to help but will not tolerate misconduct. If misconduct is reported the community accountability board will meet with the offender and discuss the sanction.

The committee also discussed Western State discharge practices. After reviewing the working papers it was determined that WSH is not discharging masses of people into Tacoma. The clearing house mentioned for the DOC could also be arranged for WSH discharges.

REVIEW OF AGENCY LEARNING POINTS

Chair Rick Allen proposed that the title "Good Neighbor Agreement" be changed to something different: Memo of Understanding, Memo of Community Cooperation, etc. The components of the agreement were also discussed. The components should be realist in terms of enforceability, legal and meet the needs of the neighborhood. For example, curfews, house rules and hours of operation that should be posted to the neighborhoods. There needs to be consequences attached if the items discussed are not followed by the people in the facility. Also, there needs to be a grievance procedure if the problem keeps happening. It was also suggested that the facility itself be kept presentable and that there is appropriate parking.

After the discussion Chair Rick Allen stated that he is going to start working on the draft this weekend. Everyone will receive a copy of the draft and will be allowed to input on its contents until a final recommendation is established.

Next meeting **October 26, 2005**
5 p.m. 747 Market Street, Room 1444.