



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

Shana Johnny

Rose Lincoln

Pastor Lee
Madison

Edwina
Magrum

Michael Mirra

October 5, 2005 Minutes

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Tacoma Municipal Building, Conference Room 1444

Members Present: Rick Allen, Gina Breukelman, Marty Campbell,
James Collins, Shana Johnny, Lee Madison, Edwina
Magrum, Bob Pearson, Jeanie Peterson & Ralph
Tomberg

Members Excused: David Alger and Corrine Dixon

Guests: Ed Mahon, Patty Allen Moore, Lisa Cook &
Priscilla Lisicich

City Staff: Debbie Bergthold, Shirley Shultz, & Jodie Trueblood

AGENDA TOPICS

- **Introductions**
- **Review of September 28, 2005, minutes**
- **Reaffirm progress**
- **Discuss Safe Streets practices**
- **Discuss how neighbors can address grievances if problems occur**

Meeting commenced at 5:05 pm on October 5, 2005.

INTRODUCTION

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

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2005, MINUTES

The September 28, 2005, minutes were reviewed and no changes were made.

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

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DISCUSS SAFE STREETS PRACTICES

Priscilla Lisicich, Safe Streets director, talked with the committee about Safe Streets practices. Safe Streets was formed in 1989 in a response to drug and gang problems in the community. The mission of Safe Streets is to empower individuals, families, youth, neighbors and organizations to create safe neighborhoods. In the beginning, Safe Streets responded to all request. In 2000, the approach was not as effective as it could be and they decided to respond to the community based on the following criteria: crime data, economic data, anecdotal data and surveying from the community. They determined that with the specific amount of resources they had available they would focus on key areas: Eastside; Lakewood; Key Peninsula; South Park; Southend; McKinley, Jennie Reed, Lincoln, lower Hilltop and Unincorporated Pierce County.

One accomplishment of communities mobilized by Safe Streets was the ordinance passed by the City Council that prevents the sale of drug paraphernalia in individual owned stores. Before the ordinance was passed youth could go into these stores and buy drug paraphernalia (i.e. Meth Kits). If it is reported that a store is selling drug paraphernalia the police will visit the store and after so many visits the store can get their license revoked. Rick Allen made the revelation that if there is a way to take unregulated businesses and, through an ordinance, create a process to deal with them there could be an ordinance created to deal with unregulated landlords

Safe Streets conducts surveys every six months among the groups. They measure involvement and participation because Safe Streets believes that when people are involved and engaged you can sustain long-term efforts and make change in communities. It has also been proved through the works of Drs. Hawkins and Catalano of the University of Washington that low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization contribute to higher rates of juvenile crime, violence and drug use.

Safe Streets has formed a formal partnership with the Department of Corrections. This partnership has helped identify who is coming into the neighborhoods and where they are going to be located. Also, accountability is created between the neighborhood and the offender. The neighborhood creates rules and people coming into the neighborhood know that they need to abide by those rules. If the rules are broken the DOC representative will visit the offender and if the violation is bad enough the offender will be put back in jail. James Collins asked how a neighborhood with multiple high-risk/high-needs residents impacts what Safe Streets is trying to do. Lisicich replied, "It was a very significant impact in a negative way." She also said that it wasn't necessarily because the offenders are doing bad things but because the community perceives themselves negatively.

The barriers that Safe Streets face are the residents not being able to overcome the fear in the neighborhood, the illusion on the part of residents that they don't have a role in fixing the problem and lack of communication between the citizens and the institution. The specific outcome Safe Streets is trying to achieve is to increase neighborhood attachment, which translates into increase home ownership; and also reduction in crime, and a more organized community.

After the Safe Streets discussion the committee had concerns about zoning and the grandfather clause but they later realized that the Planning Commission is dealing with these problems in greater detail. (For more information see **Safe Streets Handouts**)

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DISCUSS HOW NEIGHBORS CAN ADDRESS GRIEVANCES IF PROBLEMS OCCUR

The committee broke into two groups for approximately 30 minutes to discuss what a good grievance procedure for neighbors would be. They reconvened at 6:50 pm to reveal their findings. Group One included Bob Pearson, Edwina Magrum, Ralph Tomberg and Pastor Lee Madison. They reported that neighbors could take their issue to the neighborhood council, contact the facility that is causing the problem and report it to the proper authority. Also, neighbors could investigate, take legal actions, and document and identify the solution. Neighbors should get as many people involved with the complaint because the more people involved the more likely the agency will acknowledge the depth of the problem. Furthermore, group one suggests to give neighbors a set of guidelines to use to approach the problem. Group Two included James Collins, Marty Campbell, Shana Johnny and Gina Breukelman. Group Two's findings included creating an ordinance to abide by and creating a grievance council. The grievance council would create a Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) and a process for review before the council. Lastly, Group Two said the GNA needs to be enforced.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The next meeting is October 12, 2005, 5 p.m.
747 Market Street, Room 1444.