

March 23, 2015 City of Austin (Travis County) Public Safety Policy Workshop (Building Bridges)

Part I. Policy=Transparency-Accountability-Timely Responsiveness-Credibility-Effectiveness

- **Goals:** Daily In Texas, United States and the World, have Lowest Crime Rate, No Race Inequities
Fewest: Officer Use of Force Incidents; Officers Injured/Killed; Race Based Incidents; No Safer Community

1. What: Public Safety Requires Intentionality-Race And Cultural Equity Quality of Life Activism Success

Promotes and supports the City of Austin with accomplishing and implementing its African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian American Quality of Life Initiatives and the American Indian Resource Center:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/community-health-initiative>; <http://www.gahcc.org/Hispanic-Quality-of-Life-Initiative.hispanicqualityoflifeinitiat.0.html>; <http://www.asianaustin.com/news/show/267>; <http://www.austinpovwow.net/education/> **Note: These were nonexistent when the 1928 Race Codes were adopted, enacted for assisting the City Council for policy advising purposes as follows:**

How: Before and After the City Council Adopts A Policy, accomplish an initial Assessment and/or Continuous Review at least every six months with a Policy Impact Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) Analysis performed by the City's respective Quality of Life Area resource & feedback provided to City Council.

2. What: Public Safety Requires Intentionality-Before-During-After Engaging the Law Enforcement Community

How: Initiate Commander's Forums Accomplishing Community Quarterly Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT), compile and report findings by Districts to the Council/Council committee.

3. What: Initiate Monthly United Neighbors Including Teens & Youth (UNITY) Monthly Satisfaction Feedback

How: Initiate with Austin Police Dept., Mayor's Youth Council & Faith Community, e.g. Church, Congregation, Synagogue, Temple/Mosque, interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT), etc. Could Pilot in Districts 1 & 3.

Part II. Background: Building Bridges: Brick by Brick: National Crime Prevention Council, 2006

<http://www.urbanministry.org/building-bridges-brick-brick>

Sponsored by Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN) and hosted by Mt. Zion Baptist Church, this event was the result of a request for assistance by Sheriff Greg Hamilton/Travis County Sheriff's office.

A. 116 recommendations resulted from 60 community, business, faith, university, law enforcement leaders addressing **divisions existing between the races and between the community and law enforcement in Austin.**

B. The participants developed recommendations for Austin, ways they believed residents could fight against these divisions, e.g., 1st Saturdays at St. James Episcopal Church, **In Progress: A Black Community Quality of Life Agenda: What Makes Us Free? The Village On The Mend-Connecting to Remember- Forgive-Reconcile & Heal Today-Getting Past The Present & Past Internal-External Adverse Effects of Race-Racism-Racists**

C. Youth education and mentoring was mentioned repeatedly – groups suggested that police officers visit high schools and Boy Scout/Girl Scout troops, give presentations on crime prevention and safety, and participate in youth mentoring programs. **(Initiate Crime Prevention Merit Badge Related Activities be accomplished and highlighted monthly in Council Districts. Reports made to City Council, at Chief Acevedo's 1st Saturday Youth & Teen Jamborees, APD Town Halls and on school campuses respectively). Could Pilot in Districts 1 & 3.**

D. Other popular recommendations included events to promote conversations and dialogue about unresolved issues, outreach from the community to law enforcement officers in informal ways (invitations to community events, church services, etc.) **1st Saturday Town Halls at Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex (MYEC).**

E. **Media promotions of positive community/law enforcement partnerships in City Council Districts (Pending)**