



City of Groton, Connecticut

Police and Community Together (PACT) Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2020

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Zoom

6:00 PM

In response to State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 7B "Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic and Response – Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes", dated March 14, 2020, suspending in-person open meeting requirements, all public meetings will be closed to the public at this time. Public Meetings will be available on Zoom with the Meeting ID: 991 9625 2339 and Passcode: 180388

I. ROLL CALL

In attendance at the Zoom meeting were Wendy Connal, Holly Butler, Bruce DeFrehn, Tammy delaCruz, Beatrice Jennette, Frank Jennette, Jamal Beckford, George Buloga, Gweneviere Depot, Doris Pulaski, Socorro Ramos, Christina Trahan, Jill Rusk, Police Chief Spellman, and Mayor Keith Hedrick. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the August 28, 2020 Meeting were approved unanimously, without emendation.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Since no member had volunteered yet to be the group's secretary, a request was again made to the meeting for volunteers for the position. Doris Pulaski volunteered to be the secretary, and, as the only volunteer, was elected unanimously.

IV. CHIEF UPDATE

Chief Spellman gave an update on the police department's action items, including deescalation training and bodycam status. About one half of the radio upgrade is now complete. Extra patrols have been used, as there has been a rash of car break-ins in Groton City. Physical agility tests are scheduled for September 26, 2020.

The chief said that there would be car seat fittings for children available, if there was any interest.

V. DISCUSSION OF ACTION ITEMS / SUBCOMMITTEES

Socorro Ramos asked whether the subcommittees were populated yet. Mayor Hedrick said they were not. The member who were present then said which action items they were interested in working on, from the following list in the published agenda for the meeting.

A motion was made to form two Subcommittees, one for Youth action items, and one for Community action items. The motion was seconded by Socorro Ramos.

Discussion of the motion was held.

Beatrice and Frank Jennette reported that they had been organizing a backpack drive for students, which should be staffed in the Youth Committee.

A motion was made to have the two subcommittees. It was carried unanimously.

Action items from the agenda were assigned to the subcommittees as follows:

Community

- A. Evaluate strategic use of down time for police between calls
- B. Increase awareness / interaction of the police through visits and contact to houses of worship and other community organizations.
- C. Study the feasibility of a community center with free programming
- G. Build trust in Communities of Color
- H. Engage the larger community with a survey to determine how the City, overall can meet community needs and expectations.

Youth

- D. Resume mentoring program
- E. Connect police – parent – child (student)
- F. Evaluate ways to reach middle school students that will no longer have contact with Community Resource Officer at school now that it is located in the Town.

Composition of Subcommittees as created at the September 17, 2020 meeting:

Youth PACT Subcommittee

Wendy Connal

Holly Butler

Bruce DeFrehn

Tammy delaCruz

Beatrice Jennette (to lead the backpack project)

Frank Jennette

Community PACT Subcommittee

Jamal Beckford

George Buloga

Gweneviere Depot

Doris Pulaski

Socorro Ramos

Christina Trahan

Backpack Project

Beatrice Jennette had reached out to churches, Walmart agreed to help, and Socorro Ramos said she would reach out to Pfizer. Ledge Light will distribute PPE to the children.

George Balog offered to donate \$5,000 or \$6,000 to the project as long as the police would be at the presentation of the backpacks to the children.

Police officer(s) will indeed be at the distribution of the backpacks. A parent must be present with any child to whom a backpack will be presented.

A flier will be distributed and posted on social media in two weeks time.

Mayor Hedrick emphasized the need for good accounting.

Chief Spellman will coordinate the operations plan for the police.

The date for distribution was scheduled for Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day, October 10, 2020.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Having an email address for the group on the Groton City.gov server was discussed. The email would be set up so that emails would be forwarded to all group members without the group members' emails being made public.

Mayor Hedrick agreed to discuss the matter with IT.

B. Socorro Ramos volunteered to provide bilingual communications and translation of materials for most publications and notices.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doris Pulaski, seconded by Wendy Connal. It passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 P.M.