

WILMINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2015

The Wilmington Public Safety Strategies Commission, created by House Joint Resolution No. 2 of the 148th General Assembly, held its first meeting at 5:30PM on February 10, 2015 at the Walnut Street YMCA, 1000 N. Walnut Street, Wilmington DE, 19801.

Governor Jack Markell opened the meeting by welcoming the Commission members and consultants representing Vigilant Resources International and Police Foundation. The Governor indicated that the Commission and consultants are charged with conducting a rapid, intensive, comprehensive study of effective crime-fighting methods and recommending actionable strategies. He added that the Commission would like to hear suggestions from members of the public.

Introducing themselves, the Commission includes Co-chairs Department of Safety and Homeland Security Secretary the Honorable Lewis Schiliro, and New Castle County Public Safety Director Joseph Bryant, Rick Gessner, James Wright, Wilmington Police Department Chief Bobby Cummings, Darryl Chambers, Kathleen Jennings, Drew Fennell, and Cassandra Marshall. Each commission member made a few remarks which focused on looking at policing issues in Wilmington with a goal of developing a comprehensive plan to address crime in Wilmington. It was acknowledged that both the State of Delaware and New Castle County share some responsibility for the crime problem in Wilmington.

Next, the consultants were introduced. Howard Safir, Chairman and CEO of Vigilant Resources International introduced himself and the four other members of their team. Jim Burch, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, introduced himself and the three other members of the Police Foundation team.

Commissioner Safir and Mr. Burch presented the work plan that the two teams will use to achieve the goal to develop a comprehensive strategy for the reduction of violence with a priority emphasis on shootings and homicides. The presentation included:

Timeline:

Weeks 1-2: Interviews/fact finding and data collection

Weeks 3-4: Analysis, follow-up discussion with stakeholders

Weeks 4-6: Input, strategy development, development of final report and recommendations

Methodology:

Vigilant Resources International and the Police Foundation will work in partnership to:

Conduct analysis of crime data

Review police department structure/deployment

Develop models of district/area accountability

Examine public safety strategies in other jurisdictions

Review existing resources-operational/financial

Obtain input from community and business leaders regarding problems and solutions

Outcome: Comprehensive Report

Vigilant Resources International and Police Foundation will submit a single joint report combining our findings and recommendations

Where appropriate a number of strategies and options will be presented for consideration

After reviewing the work plan the Commission solicited comment from the meeting attendees. A number of speakers contributed to the discussion. Common themes included:

Including residents in the effort

Developing community representatives to reach out to other community members for input and support

Using local access television to reach the community

Expanded employment opportunities for city residents are needed

Commission members offered final comments and the schedule of future meetings was provided. The next meeting will be Tuesday February 17th at 7PM at the Walnut Street YMCA.

The meeting adjourned a few minutes after 7PM.

Minutes unanimously approved February 24, 2015.



WILMINGTON PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES COMMISSION

**LOCATION: Walnut Street YMCA
1000 N. Walnut Street
Wilmington, DE 19801**

February 10, 2015 – 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Introduction of Commission Members
- II. Introductory Presentation by Consultants – Police Foundation and Vigilant Resources International
- III. Review and Approval of Consultants' Work Plan
- IV. Discussion of proposed future meeting dates, times, and agenda
 - a. Feb. 17 @ 5:30 p.m., location to be determined
 - b. March 10 @ 5:30 p.m., location to be determined
 - c. March 17 @ 5:30 p.m., location to be determined
 - d. March 31 @ 5:30 p.m., location to be determined
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn

Please Note: Pursuant to 29 Del.C. § 10004(e)(2), this Agenda may be changed to include additional items including executive sessions or to delete items that arise at the time of the meeting.



Goal

Develop a comprehensive strategy for the reduction of violence with a priority emphasis on Shootings and Homicides

Timeline

- Weeks 1-2: Interviews/fact finding/data collection (beginning February 9)
- Weeks 3-4 Analysis, follow up discussions with Stakeholders
- Weeks 4-6 Input, Strategy development, Development of Final Report and Recommendations

Methodology

VRI and the Police Foundation will work in partnership to:

- Conduct analysis of crime data
- Review police department structure/deployment
- Develop models of district/area accountability

Methodology (continued)

- Examine public safety strategies in other jurisdictions
- Review existing resources--operational/financial
- Obtain input from community & business leaders regarding problems and solutions

Outcome: Comprehensive Report

- VRI and Police Foundation will submit a single joint report combining our findings and recommendations
- Where appropriate a number of strategies and options will be presented for consideration

City and Police Department's Efforts

We recognize the continuing extensive efforts of the City/Police:

- 10/14 establishment of a Homicide Squad.
- 10/14 Mayor establishes Police Citizen Advisory Council with community and faith-based leaders.
- 1/15 Operation Disrupt (1 Lt., 5 Sgt's, 22 P.O's dedicated to violence/hot spot enforcement)
- \$100,000 in funding in 2015 to Cure Violence
- \$193,000 increase in Police Overtime Budget in 2015
- \$352,000 allocated for 2015 Police Academy Class of 30 recruits
- Significant cooperation and support from New Castle County Police
- Establishment of HIDTA

Our Focus: Comprehensive Strategy for Violence Reduction

- Ensure comprehensive crime analysis/intelligence gathering and dissemination
- Ensure organization structure/staffing is aligned with violence reduction mission
- Ensure geographical alignment of districts and deployment of officers are mission focused
- Ensure best policing/public safety practices are identified and replicated.
- Ensure the financial and operation resources of other government agencies are fully leveraged
- Ensure input and by-in by community and business members