

COMMUNITY POLICING

6 January 2009

Location: United Way of Greater Lima
616 S. Collett Street
Lima, Ohio 45805
Phone: 419-227-6341

Present: G. Garlock, R. Friedman, G. Schock, D. Blauvelt, J. Blauvelt, C. Dershem, W. Richard, D. Adams, B. Prueter, Fr. S. Blum, J. Schneider, M. Stewart, J. Schneider
Absent: B. Leary, B. Kidd, D. Barnes, M. Johnson, T. Lauck, J. Neighbors, M. Johnson, R. Rohrbaugh, T. Lauck

Meeting convened at 4:00 P.M., adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Chief Garlock advised that he had received calls from some of the team members who could not make the meeting do to the weather or schedule conflicts.

The meeting started with a recap of the last meeting:

- History of COP in Lima
- Where do we go now?

A pass out by Chief Garlock was reviewed by the members and discussed.

The team discussed the issue of getting people out to our meetings that we need to hear from.

Suggestions were made to:

1. Have meetings with neighborhood groups.
2. Team must go to the people to understand and learn what the Police are doing
3. We must be cautious on how we approach the issues so we are not perceived as do-gooders.
4. We need to interact with neighborhoods with high crime rates, i.e., that is what occurred in Riverside North that had 20% of the crime rate

The team discussed:

1. How do you bring people to the table when at this time the trust is gone? How do we reach those people?
2. We had that trust when we had neighborhood officers because they earned the peoples trust as they worked with them.
3. What resources do we have now and what expectations do you create with the people.
4. Original program started in 1995 and was phased out as the funds ran out. At that time it was a well received program and the trust went away as the officers left the areas
5. Discussion on the past tax levy failure by a large majority of the voters. As officers decreased in the police department steps were taken to make more officers available on the street. Some of the steps taken to keep the officers

available for calls were not well received by the public and led to the public feeling there was a lack of service

The discussion led to the question of how we rebuild the trust in the neighborhoods. Some suggested we meet with the church congregations and explain issues to them and take from them their suggestions of what they feel the issues are and solutions to them.

Those in the neighborhoods that do not have the trust we need to hear from them. We need to structure meetings with them to steer clear of the one sided issues. We should have questionnaires at the forums to ask about the peoples concerns and the best part of the neighborhood. We can then work at these meetings to rebuild trust , listen to the groups and revisit the groups later with the results of the questionnaires and then establish committees from the groups to respond to and deal with the top three (3) issues from the neighborhood and let them pick the issues that could be successfully dealt with.

We need to empower the residents to resolve their issues.

A question was raised could we get three (3) citizens from the south end of Lima to come to our meeting so we could have an open dialog between them and us. Some team members volunteered to ask around to see if there are any interested persons.

The team discussed having a community listening session, with the understanding the people when dealing with the community that they do not have greater expectations of what we can do as if they do and we cannot deliver we have failed in our goal. That would hurt us more in the eyes of the public. So now the question was raised of what who'd be the best group to start meeting with?

For the next meeting the team determined they wanted to invite representatives from the south end of Lima and ask:

1. What do they hear and understand from the neighborhood
2. Will they be willing to input into our ideas and give the team advise on the trust issue
3. How do they believe the problem can be resolved
4. Get their views on the issues

After this was discussed the team agreed and resolved to invite three members of the community to the next meeting

1. Ron Taylor
2. D. Hughes
3. Jason Upthegrove

A fourth person is being looked at incase one of the three (3) cannot make the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: 3 February 2009, at 4:00 P.M. at the United Way Building, 616 S. Collett Street, 2nd Floor conference room.

