

Orlando City Council - Workshop
Council Chambers, City Hall
400 South Orange Avenue
June 15, 2015

In attendance:

Mayor Buddy Dyer
Commissioner Jim Gray, District 1
*Commissioner Tony Ortiz, District 2
Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, District 3
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, District 4
Commissioner Regina I. Hill, District 5
Commissioner Samuel B. Ings, District 6
Mayanne Downs, City Attorney
Celeste T. Brown, City Clerk
John Mina, Orlando Police Chief
Byron Brooks, Chief Administrative Officer
Police Officers Edgar Malave and Chris Newton, Sergeant at Arms

*Commissioner Ortiz entered the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Mayor Buddy Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. He indicated the title of the workshop as "Community Policing". He informed of the importance of community policing with widely recognized programs such as neighborhood watch and the necessity to take pro-active measures to ensure safety of the community.

He introduced Byron Brooks to provide a brief overview of the Community Policing Assessment Progress Report.

Mr. Brooks provided an overview of today's upcoming presentation. He indicated the purpose of the assessment is a direct result of the recent Mayor's State of City address and in response to the President's Task Force on 21st. Century Policing. Mr. Brooks stated the Police Chief would expand on the following five focus areas of the report:

- I. Review of OPD Policies on Excessive Use of Force and Related Policies
- II. Personnel Development
- III. Enhanced Transparency Measures
- IV. Community Engagement
- V. Economic Development

Mr. Brooks stated a more in depth report would be provided as each of these areas is implemented. He stated the policy review has a start and finish date. A very inclusive report will be provided at a later date. He then introduced Orlando Police Chief, John Mina.

Chief Mina began outlining OPD activity-to-date regarding community engagement efforts in response to national and local use of force and recent local cases involving OPD. He indicated that two Officers have been terminated with two currently relieved of police powers pending outcome of criminal investigations.

He also provided statistics from the last seven years regarding violence towards police, use of force in 2014, arrest versus use of force, as well as chemical agents versus other tactics used. He explained the current procedure regarding the use of force investigation process and stated that he will ask for another more recent

study to be completed. He explained the transparency process regarding body worn camera deployment and implementation of third party investigation for serious cases (FDLE). He indicated as part of agency re-accreditation, a very rigorous process of review of current policies/procedures by outside agency executives is required. He outlined several pro-active and as well as intervention programs that are currently in place for training of officers in use of force as well as, an early intervention program for Officers who may be showing signs of excessive stress.

He spoke of the numerous community outreach programs to help gain the trust of the citizens most at risk. He has hosted or participated in 15 forums/town hall meetings with 3 more scheduled. Currently working with Orange County Public Schools to develop a high school level curriculum to review rights of citizens during a police encounter or arrest. He stated that Valencia College is weaving into its curriculum a Chief's Community Leadership Police Academy. He also listed a number of community involvement/youth activities that include volunteer neighborhood patrol units engaged in non-enforcement type activities with the kids they patrol. Videos were shown of Dueling Dragons boat racing and Ballwin' After Dark basketball programs. Other such programs include an OPD "Reel" Heroes Fishing Club and Beautiful Feet Ball Photo for young girls who have faced challenging situations. The Chief stated that through these non-enforcement activities barriers have been broken down and bonds formed between officers and youth.

The Chief informed of several community engagement programs, community forums, teen community forums; park/walk/talk to talk about rights, avenues citizens can take if they think their rights are being violated; neighborhood patrol unit; officer with kids, and a head start reading program.

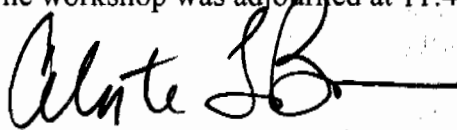
The Mayor asked the Chief to explain the State law, Bill of Rights and process of thorough investigation before an officer can be fired.

Byron Brooks summarized the Mayor and Council's commitment to safe neighborhoods/safe community; decrease in crime; the importance of community involvement and community trust; sustaining a world-class city and world-class police agency.

Mayor Dyer reiterated his concern that the citizens of Orlando know that a plan is in place and is being implemented to maintain the safety of the community.

At approximately 11:00 a.m., the workshop was opened to comments and questions and discussion ensued.

The workshop was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.


Celeste T. Brown, City Clerk