



Citizens Anti Graffiti Brigade Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

5:00p.m. Meeting

TROOP 1A

3001 Brandywine Pkwy

Wilmington, DE 19803-1464

MINUTES

1. Meet new brigade Captain and members

Councilman Weiner opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. In attendance were Captain Matt Jamison, Patrol Commander, NCCPD , Captain Melissa Zebley, Commander, Delaware State Police, Troop 1 , Councilman Bob Weiner - Councilman District 2 ; Councilman John Cartier - Councilman District 8 ,Cpl. Amy Kevis, NCCPD , Isaac Walker, Captain, District 4 Greenville Brigade, Lieutenant Michael Eisenhardt, DSP Troop 1,; Lori Kane, New Castle County , Major Michael McGowan, Acting Colonel, NCCPD , Phil Lavelle, Captain, District 2 Northern Brandywine Hundred Brigade, Rick Lewandowski, Director, Mt. Cuba Center, RJ Miles, Captain, District 3 Southern Brandywine Hundred Brigade, Rob Cameron, Captain, District 1 Claymont Brigade, Stephen Martinenza, Business Manager, Mt Cuba Center; Tom Feeley, Green Building Solutions, James Parks, DELAFORUM Internet paper, Angie Basiouny Delawareonline.com. Also in attendance were Charles Stirk and William Wheatley from the Brookland Terrace Anti Graffiti Brigade. Mr. Stirk gave a brief over view of their activities and reminded all that they need volunteers to help with their area.

2. Review Citizen Anti-graffiti Brigade protocols and procedures

Councilman Weiner discussed current protocols and procedures. No amendments were suggested. He reminded everyone of the safety procedures when a clean up is under way, especially remembering to wear the safety vests and to place safety cones out in the area you are working.

- There was an active discussion on the use of the soy based graffiti remover amongst the captains. Point was made that older DeIDOT signs have a propensity to smear due to the old paint used to make the sign. Caution was suggested not to leave the cleaner on the older signs too long.
- Charles Stirk informed the meeting of the use of cold galvanized spray paint that his group uses on the back of signs. His group has had good success with this product Tom Feeley commented on the use of the soy product paint remover
- Discussion on the subject of who to contact about graffiti and coordinate efforts between the various police departments on who has jurisdiction when a call comes in. It was noted that LaVincent Harris NCCPD is the police contact for graffiti tagger. Lt. Mike Eisenhardt will remain the contact fro DSP.
- Both Captain Zebley and Acting Colonel McGowan agreed to help re-establish the graffiti hot line and to work on better communication between departments.

- Captain RJ Miles reported the names for taggers in his area and asked for the Police to check against the DIAC Database. He also brought to everyone's attention "practice areas fro graffiti taggers. He noted that these areas are often out of view from the general public and are sometimes difficult to spot.
- Councilman John Cartier thanked all members of the brigades for their work on eradicating graffiti. He is initially concerned that graffiti may be gang related and that it could escalate into other issues. Lt. Eisenhardt informed him that the type of graffiti being painted in our area does not appear to be gang related.
- Councilman Weiner reminded everyone that by keeping our areas clean of graffiti, it discourages the graffiti tagger.
- Lt. Eisenhardt advised the meeting that graffiti taggers tend to be repeat offenders. Several examples were given on how some have been arrested and while out on bail have committed acts of graffiti vandalism.
- Charles Stirk expressed his displeasure in how the courts handle graffiti vandals and hopes that the prosecutors will not plead out so many cases to lower misdemeanors.

3. Review supplies and application techniques

- Charles Stirk brought to the attention of Captain Zebley and Major McGowan that his brigade has had problems with the manner in which both departments identify whose jurisdiction the graffiti is located. Major McGowan suggested that emails go to Dennis Quinn and he will determine who has jurisdiction. Also, Captain Zebley advised that Joe Mulford in the DSP contact who will also sort out the jurisdiction issues.
- RJ Miles thanked Tom Feeley for the supply of Soy paint remover. Mr. Feeley advised that he will bring in free product fro distribution when he can.

4. Discuss outstanding graffiti and crime challenges

- Charles Stirk reminded the group that there is refund compensation money for painting bridges so they need to be properly identified. He requested more volunteers.
- The area around Smiths Bridge and Beaver Valley are being frequented by more graffiti taggers.

5. Farrow Machine now titled to DeIDOT

- It was noted that even though the machine is now tagged, it will only be used by DeIDOT due to insurance issues.

6. Award of Grant

- Councilman Weiner introduced Lori Kane, NCC Grant Writer who was responsible for applying for and receiving a \$2250 dollar grant for fighting graffiti. This grant is part of the Recovery Act money received from the Criminal Justice Council. Once the grant is passed through to New Castle County, it will be available for fighting graffiti.
- Councilman Weiner announced that he has chosen the Citizens Anti Graffiti Brigade to receive the "2009 Volunteer Service Award" and will recognize each Brigade and Captain.

Meeting Adjourned.