

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE, IN REGULAR MEETING OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 AT 5:00 PM, MUNICIPAL CENTER I, HERITAGE ROOM 300, 50 E CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, GILBERT, ARIZONA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Natosha Ash; Vice Chair Justin Fink; Members Marc Beasley, Bradyn Bredemann, Owen Fermoye, Justin Fink, Lisa Ulibarri Hatlen, Maxwell Udall, Katy Walter; Alternates Nneka Aguwamba, Isabelle Brice, and Andrew Lewis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Members Deena LeBio and Angela Rogers; and Alternate Courtney Salamon-Fejt

STAFF PRESENT: Staff Liaison/Volunteer and Community Resources Manager Melanie Dykstra, Council Liaison Kathy Tilque, Assistant Town Manager Dawn Prince, and Deputy Clerk Judy Martinez

ADVISORS PRESENT: Susan Cadena (Gilbert Public Schools), Stefan Reid (Higley Unified School District), Mark Huish (Chandler Unified School District), Dan Provonsha (American Leadership Academy), and Community Engagement Officer Emily King (Gilbert Police Department)

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathleen Dowler of Dignity Health; Karla Navarrette Contreras, Communications Director from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office; and Dr. Dustin Pardini, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Director of Research Administration

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ash called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Fink led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Staff Liaison Dykstra called roll and declared a quorum present.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Community Engagement Officer Emily King introduced herself and explained her role and background.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consider approval of the August 12, 2024 minutes

A MOTION was made by Chair Ash, seconded by Member Udall, to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024 meeting. *Motion carried 9-0.*

2. Feedback and Reflections from August 12, 2024 meeting

Facilitator Kathleen Dowler reviewed the presentations from the prior meeting. She asked for the members to discuss feedback, reflections, or an “aha moment” from the prior meeting; the members participated by sharing thoughts.

3. “Report, Don’t Repost” Campaign Information

Karla Navarrette Contreras, Communications Director from the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, discussed the Report, Don’t Repost (RDR) Campaign Against Teen Violence. She noted it was one of the largest collaborative efforts made since being launched in August 2024, with 13 local law enforcement agencies participating. She discussed the large rise in violent juvenile court crime in Maricopa County. She highlighted the RDR campaign, provided numbers of current campaign efforts, and noted future campaign efforts. The numbers shared included more than 152,000 online video views and 10 news stories produced in one month. She discussed efforts to track posts and the footprint of ads and video views. Lastly, she provided a link to the newsletter that could be subscribed to, then answered questions. She discussed the agency hosting public fentanyl forums and giving out free Narcan at those events. She discussed the QR code, noting videos should be submitted to law enforcement, not the County Attorney’s Office. She noted teen crime was not exclusive to one area, then discussed how cases were charged in either juvenile or adult court and the cases that were turned down with no reasonable likelihood of conviction. Member Walter asked aggravated assaults and accomplice liability; Navarrette Contreras discussed the desire for accountability of those involved in a crime at any participation level, but said every case and charge was considered on its own merit.

4. Council Report Out

Assistant Town Manager Prince discussed recent meetings with Gilbert and Higley School Districts, noting they hoped to reschedule with Chandler Unified School District soon. She said the meetings would be held on a regular basis or as needed, and discussion topics were flexible but would focus on updates including what the task force was doing. She said Gilbert would be facilitating the meetings at Gilbert facilities.

Councilmember Tilque noted that a member of the Town Council was assigned as a liaison to each school district. Those liaisons would meet with school districts individually and then report on efforts to identify trends, opportunities, and victories. She also voice the need to organize a way for charter schools to work together.

5. Presentation and Discussion of Youth Survey Results

Dr. Dustin Pardini, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Director of Research Administration, highlighted the history of the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS), which was funded by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. He said it began in 2002 and was conducted every two years with 8th, 10th, and 12th graders across Arizona. He said all public and private schools were asked to participate and about 50,000 youth participated; he then discussed changes in survey content and report formatting. He spoke of advantages of the AYS survey including that independent assessment decreased actual/perceived bias and increased honest responding by students due to confidentiality. He said that specific information could not be shared, but general information could be provided based on zip code. He discussed how the survey assessed different types of problem behavior domains like substance abuse, aggression and violence, and non-violent delinquency, then of the risk and protective factors of community, family, school, peer, and individual. He said participation was free and it only required passive parental consent. He spoke of limitations with AYS including that it was a subject to bias due to selective school enrollment and differential student participation. He noted the reports were long and difficult to interpret, then provided an example of bias at school level. He noted Gilbert was similar to or below state average on bullying victimization/perpetration at school, physical fighting at school, engagement in serious violence, engagement in intimate partner violence, and direct and indirect exposure to community violence. He highlighted a summary of key variables related to violence, showing Gilbert was relative to county and state. He then discussed strategies for violence prevention and the concepts of primary prevention, selective prevention, indicated prevention, and therapeutic intervention. He provided a graphic similar to a pyramid to demonstrate the progression on violence, then spoke about interventions at each point. He highlighted different common components of

evidence-based programs including Parent Management Training, Behavioral Contracting, and Socio-Emotional and Problem-Solving Skills Training, Family Therapy, Medication Management, and Intensive Case Management Services. He said the most effective was Parent Management Training.

Dr. Pardini answered questions and facilitated discussion that included topics of family therapy and medication management. The group discussed adverse childhood experiences, parents with substance abuse problems, family management, and multidimensional foster care. Alternate Aguwamba discussed reporting, issues with identifying a child, and when parents were resistant; she also discussed forming relationships with parents and not showing the perception that they were bad parents. Dr. Pardini discussed how intervention was secondary, then spoke of training school counselors and teachers on how to interact with families. Alternate Aguwamba asked about primary prevention, stating some programs were not realistic or could not be implemented. Vice Chair Fink spoke of how the Town had no control over schools and asked about evidence-based programming and information on what was working. Chair Ash also asked about data. They discussed focusing on adolescents and universal prevention.

6. Feedback and Reflections on Meeting

Facilitator Kathleen Dowler asked the group to share their reflections or an “aha moment” from the current meeting. Some of the comments included that prevention and education should start with younger people. They discussed primary prevention, potential roadblocks, identifying and helping transient students, and evidence-based prevention plans with families. The group also noted connections to programs already available in the town and to mental health resources. They discussed communication, tone, and ways to make the data easily shared and digestible. Other reflections included tracking the effectiveness of the Report, Don’t Repost Campaign, how the increase in violent crimes was shocking, whether interventions were helpful, and the importance of parent engagement.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

None.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Staff Liaison Dykstra said the next meeting would be on October 21, 2024 after fall break, noting it would be the last meeting to wrap up presentations. She said the meeting would include information from the Parks and Recreation Department on what was offered for teens and what had been successful and unsuccessful. She

said the group would start compression planning in November and December, but to let her know if the group felt they needed more presentations so she could schedule additional meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

Report from Council Liaison on current events.

Council Liaison Tilque thanked Assistant Town Manager Prince for facilitating the meetings with the school districts. She said she was providing an update on the Task Force at each Council meeting and that she recently shared the Report, Don't Repost Campaign.

Report from Staff Liaisons on task force assignments and current events.

Staff Liaison Dykstra said it was a busy time and there were many activities and opportunities available. She said she sent out homework early and reminded the members to read through the report provided.

Report from Task Force Members on current events.

None.

ADJOURN

A MOTION was made by Chair Ash, seconded by Member Hatlen, to adjourn the meeting. *Motion carried 9-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Melanie Dykstra, Staff Liaison

Natosha Ash, Chair