



Lowell City Council

Public Safety SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: November 20, 2018
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Nuon, C. Leahy and C. Milinazzo. Also present were Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan; Justice Jay Blitzman; C. Mercier; C. Conway; Manager Donoghue; Asst. Manager Keefe-Mullin and C. Cirillo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Nuon called the meeting to order at 5:30PM in the Council Chamber commenting on the Restorative Justice Program.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Judge Blitzman commented on the start of the program at the Lowell Juvenile Court which was formulated to explore ways to divert cases from criminal element and he noted the many groups involved with the development of the program. Judge Blitzman noted that the program would be a good fit for a school based program as costs are limited and the results are of an educational benefit. Judge Blitzman outlined the program in terms of accountability; heal the harm caused and become problem solver not problem maker. Judge Blitzman noted the Restorative Justice Act and noted that a memo of understanding among the parties satisfies due process requirements. DA Ryan noted support for the program and indicated that the program is voluntary for victims and defendants; produces more favorable results; and effectuates life pattern changes. DA Ryan noted it is talking to people and not talking at people which lessen the amount of repeat offenses. Judge Blitzman noted the program has a community sense to it and that victims see consequential reformation. C. Milinazzo noted the historic success of the program and questioned age requirements to be involved with same. Judge Blitzman stressed the need for a school based program. C. Cirillo noted the program stresses talking which leads to common ground. C. Conway noted the need for such programs in schools and that it would assist with discipline issues as well. C. Nuon commented on the court based model. Judge Blitzman noted the move to a school based model which is gaining



national support. A staff member of DA Ryan outlined the program at the District Court level and her experience with it. C. Milinazzo questioned expansion of program into other counties.

Motion by C. Milinazzo, seconded by C. Leahy to have Mayor recommend to the School Committee to explore the possibility to expand Restorative Justice Program throughout the school district. Adopted per Roll Call vote, 3 yeas. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Milinazzo, seconded by C. Leahy. So Voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM

Michael Geary, City Clerk