

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Danny Dunagan, Ruth Bruner, George Wangemann, Sam Couvillon,
Zack Thompson, Barbara Brooks
STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Lackey, Angela Sheppard, Abb Hayes, Carol Martin,
Jay Parrish, Denise Jordan

The purpose of this meeting was to meet with community leaders.

OPENING REMARKS:

Apostle Roderick Hughey welcomed everyone and served as the presiding officer. The opening prayer was offered by Pastor Robert Washington.

Dr. Bill Coates, Pastor Stephen Samuels, Pastor Frank Medina and Pastor Robert Washington shared their thoughts, opinions and ideas about unity.

Mayor Dunagan expressed appreciation for bringing the group together. He announced all of the Gainesville Council Members were in attendance and care about the community. He thanked everyone for attending.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Members of the panel introduced themselves then addressed the following questions:

1. In the wake of national events, what protocols and procedures do you (Police, City Government) have in place for peaceful marches/protests?
2. Do community leaders have planned, periodic meetings with citizens (aside from their respective church congregations) to determine what issues are important to them that can then be directed to local officials?
3. What is the proper protocol for a citizen being pulled over by an officer? What should they do? Who can we contact if there is a problem?
4. What do you feel are effective methods for Police, Sherriff & City/County Government to utilize to reach out to the community that would be effective in building trust? Cookouts, basketball league, etc.
5. What steps have you (Police, Sherriff & City Government) taken or plan to take to build community relationships?
6. How receptive would the community be to a group of Informal/Formal leaders of the community and law enforcement/government officials that would meet together with different parts of the community when needed?

QUESTIONS:

The panelist addressed the following questions from the audience:

1. Does an officer have the right to tell you to get off the phone or tell you to stop talking when you've been pulled over?

2. For people that work in the courthouse, is there any training to treat the people gently?
3. How does the open carrying of guns effect safety of the police and the work you do?
4. Why can't young black males walk freely in their neighborhoods without being stopped by the police?
5. How would the city respond to a peaceful protest of 50+ citizens without a permit?
6. What number of black applicants have tried to get on the police force and how many have been turned down because they were not qualified?
7. What is the agenda to reach out to the Latino Community? Are there any initiatives in place?
8. What can the clergy do to help law enforcement interview qualified candidates? What would be a disqualifier?
9. What kind of multicultural training do the officers receive?
10. Do we have the right to record?

CLOSING REMARKS:

Words of appreciation were extended by Pastor Hughey and Mayor Dunagan after which the group expressed a desire to reconvene at a date, time and location yet to be determined.

The answer to questions presented but not addressed during this meeting will be posted online via social media by Gainesville United.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

A community prayer event was scheduled for Saturday, July 30, 2016 at 10 AM in downtown Gainesville.

CLOSING PRAYER:

City Manager Bryan Lackey delivered the closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT: 6:50 PM

/dj

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr., Mayor

Denise O. Jordan, City Clerk