

Upper Albany/Clay Arsenal Weed & Seed Steering Committee Minutes from 2/15/05 Meeting

WSSC Members Present (18/23): *Alston Belfast, Denise Best, Kenneth Callahan II, John Danaher III, Albert DiChiara, Neil Dryfe, Duckworth Grange, Glendowlyn Hall (for Mayor Eddie Perez), Hattie Harris, Jean Holloway, Jackie Hardy, Lester McKoy, Isabel Osorio-Vasquez, Lori Potter, Edwin Rivera-Pacheco, John Schmaltz, Clarinda Soldevila, Andre Wade.*

Total Attendance: 38 persons

The UACA Weed & Seed Steering Committee meeting was opened by the co-chair, *Assistant U.S. Attorney John Danaher*. Introductions of the WSSC members followed.

The minutes of the December 21, 2005 were approved.

Mr. Danaher asked for a Coordinator's Update from the Weed & Seed Coordinator, *Richard LeGrier*, who introduced Farrar Group's *Valencia Coar*, an Institute for Law and Justice consultant for Weed and Seed Technical Assistance. Specifically she was here for three days to assess site needs for the Peer Mentoring Initiative.

Ms. Coar presented the process of determining the technical assistance and peer mentoring match for new Weed & Seed site coordinators. The WSSC and meeting attendees were asked for recommendations and obstacles regarding the productivity and training of their Weed & Seed Coordinator. Most outstanding was the need for a field office with the required automation, connectivity and security.

A report based upon *Ms. Coar's* visit and the input from WSSC members, concerning the needs the Weed & Seed Coordinator for the Upper Albany/Clay Arsenal site will be submitted to the Department of Justice within the next few weeks.

Assistant Chief Lester McKoy introduced *Deputy Chief Neil Dryfe* as the new North Division Commander and replacement as Weed & Seed co-chair/supervisor.

According to the Policies and Procedures, WSSC officers are elected for terms of one year, which are renewable; and elections should be conducted at the annual anniversary meeting in June 2006. However several replacement positions need to be filled as soon as possible, notably for the Mayor's Office, Community Health Services, and Hartford Housing Authority. There were individual resident considerations as well.

Based upon the WSSC board membership requirements, a nominating committee of *Duckworth Grange, Jean Holloway* and *Clarinda Soldevila* was selected. With the exception of the immediate replacement of *Renee Richards* by *Glendowlyn Hall*, appointee for the Mayor's Office, all other names for election to the board were referred

to the Nominating Committee for consideration. Recommendations should be presented at the March WSSC meeting.

Also an exchange of Community Policing and Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment subcommittee chairs between *Al DiChiara* and *Duckworth Grange* will be officially presented by the Nominating Committee at the March meeting.

Mr. Danaher provided good news in his Procter Silex/Pliny Street advocacy. The owners have confirmed submission to a remedial action plan to begin no later than May 5, 2006 and be completed by Construction Season 2007.

During the Community Update portion of the meeting, the recent Kent Street shooting was addressed. There are no suspects due to a code of silence among the two victims.

Denise Tillman raised questions of resident involvement. After some vigorous and extended discussion, the intent of the WSSC was reinforced by a number of respondents, by the fact that a number of candidates submitted to the Nominating Committee are residents, and that the nominating process remained open for additional resident submissions.

Edwin Rivera-Pacheco asked for greater attention to the “terrible” activities on Center Street, given their nature and proximity to Quirk Middle School.

The meeting was adjourned with the announcement that ***the next WSSC meeting will be held at Community Health Services, on Wednesday, March 8, at 5:00 PM.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard LeGrier
UACA Weed & Seed Coordinator