



## MEETING MINUTES

### **Mayor's Youth Task Force**

Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

2:00 PM

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave, Aldermanic Library

**Elected Officials Present:** Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor; Delores A. Holmes, Fifth Ward Alderman.

**Members Present:** Neal Levin, Joey Rodger, Kathy Lyons, Karen ----, Pat Gregory, Jessica Vlahogiannis, Wendy Weaver, Karl Adair, Sean Pitt, Karen Heffe

**Staff Present:** Joe McRae, Bob Dorneker, Dan Russell, Zollie Webb, Sam Pettineo, Kevin Brown, Nathan Norman

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### Discussion

Feedback from Youth on Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program and Mayor's Super Summer Recreation Program

Sean Pitt reported that some youth were unable to connect to the Super Summers website, and that it is important to update the website in order for it to be successful. He attended two fairs, beach volleyball, Mason Park, and saw that beach tokens were working well.

Bob Dorneker reported that all the youth and young adult websites were being updated, in addition to Facebook and Google calendars, and will make an effort to post more day to day activities.

Kevin Brown reported that two open-mic sessions were hosted in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, the first of which was well attended. Attendance at second event was dampened due to weather. The open-mic sessions are intended to rotate around the City and publicizing is mostly taking place through word of mouth.

Four-hundred beach tokens have been distributed by the program and an additional 50 beach tokens were given to EPD for distribution. Partners in distribution were D65, Y.O.U., and many others. Basketball courts have been slow due to heat. Open gym is well attended, sometimes going to 11 pm. Prayer vigils have been on-going.

Career Pathways program targets offenders in the 18 – 25 age range who need a second, third, or fourth chance. The initial budget was not enough so they looked to the community and county for partners and ultimately partnered with the Youth Jobs Center. The first cohort begins on August 6<sup>th</sup>. 75 people were identified as targets for this program, but funding can only accept 15 for now. Total training will be 200-300 hours. This program was enabled by the federal Workforce Incentive Act. Pop-up Dinners are also being organized by the YJC as a meet and greet for program participants and future employers.

Summer Youth Employment Program is going well. Both the City of Evanston and businesses understand the value of teaching lifelong knowledge and skills. Financial literacy is being taught at the Youth Jobs Center. Karen Heffe stressed the importance

of tiered training and healthcare training in growing sectors. Programs must be targeted at individuals who intend on staying in Evanston, even though they may not have the highest grades. Northwestern University was mentioned by Sean Pitt as having implemented a STEM program.

Police reported that repeat offenders were not being captured by the Super Summer program, though the program is helping to reduce overall crime in the City.

It was stated that there still existed a shortage of programs. Different events were needed to accommodate different age groups, youth cannot leave a party with no exit strategy, programs must empower youth, not just about jobs. Projects base learning should be explored.

The CommUNITY will take place on Sunday, August 26. The PeaceAble Cities Walk and Talk will take place on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Godwin Chen

ICMA Fellow