MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 05, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Grover, Tendam, Braithwaite, Holmes

Members Absent: Ald. Fiske

Staff Present: Joseph McRae, Douglas Gaynor, Karen Danzack-Lyons, Angela Hearts-Glass, Matt Sventkofskie, Chief Richard Eddington, Myra Gorman, Michelle Masoncup, Wally Bobkiewicz, Nicola Whyte

Presiding Member: Ald. Holmes

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of AUGUST 6, 2012

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the August 6, 2012 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 4-0.

Citizen Comments
Ava Thompson-Greenwell, 1625 Kirk St. gave a recount of the interaction with the Evanston Police that traumatized her family. Her 13 year old son was steps away from his back yard when he was stopped by the police. Mrs. Greenwell inquired as to why her son was being handcuffed and she was informed he is a suspect in a recent burglary. Her son was taken to the front of his home in handcuffs so the victim could confirm or exclude him as the perpetrator of the crime. During this ordeal Mrs. Greenwell tried to get more information from the police as to why this was happening to her child, but the police would not give her any information except to instruct her to keep out of the way. Mrs. Greenwell felt the police treatment of her son, a minor, was humiliating and the police apology was insincere. She does not understand how a minor child with a parent present could he handled in such a distained manner. She feels the Evanston Police Department needs to revisit their procedures for handling minors.

Mr. Dale Greenwell told the committee about their son; he is an honor student and a Flying Eagle recipient, this honor is given to “outstanding students who demonstrate respect and is a responsible and successful student. He participates in various sports and speaks fluent Spanish due to participating in School District 65 Two-Way Immersion Program (TWI). He felt his son was treated like a common criminal; the treatment of his son is a black family’s worst nightmare.
Dickelle Fonda stated her biracial son also has had humiliating interaction with the Evanston police especially in his junior year when he started to drive. The training of police officers should be revised so that they interact more with the community and its residents. She supports the Greenwell family.

Rev. Walker adult son had a similar incident approximately a week prior to the Greenwell’s son incident. Rev. Walker felt the Evanston police are not respectful to the residents and they should make an effort to integrate themselves within the community to know who they are. The officers need to realize the impact their actions are making on the community.

Maryann Weston two sons have never been stopped by the Evanston police and she questioned why. Is it because of where they live in Evanston or because they are Caucasian. She supports the police officers in the quest to do their job but also suggest retraining them to be sensitive to ALL the residents of Evanston regardless of race.

Betty Sue Ester encourages everyone to attend the Citizens Protection Network which meets every third Tuesday of the month. She invites the community to assist in the suggestion of forming an independent advisory review committee of police complaints; the meetings are held in the 5th ward.

Madelyn Ducre stated this is not new thing with the Evanston police mistreating residents. Her sons and grandson were mistreated by the police. Due to their interaction with the police her family has not fared well. She encouraged Mrs. Greenwell to get her son professional help because this mistreatment can be detrimental to a child’s mental status.

Germaine Newsome daughter was detained by the Evanston police and she was treated in the same minor as the Greenwell’s son. The police did apologize but it was little and late.

Jackie Newsome She gave a recount of her sister’s incident with the police. Ms. Newsome’s sister who was sixteen at the time of the interaction and a friend were approached by two white officers. The officers told the ladies to get into the squad car, when they refused they were told they would then be arrested. Foul language was used during the interaction subsequently the young ladies got into the squad car. Ms. Newsome was the only person home at the time of the incident and when she got to the police station the officers would not give her any information because she was a minor. The interaction Ms. Newsome has witness has made her untrusting and fearful of the Evanston police.

Junad Rizki observed that basketball hoops were removed from the south end of Evanston and wanted to know why this was happening and if the hoops are being removed from the City parks. Ald. Holmes stated the parks in question belongs to Ridgeville which the city has no jurisdiction.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of Police Complaints
Per Chief Eddington the Greenwell family will be given a report within 45 to 60 days and Rev. Walker son Brooks Walker’s complaint will also be reviewed.
Ald. Grover and Braithwaite extended an apology to the Greenwell Family for the unfortunate incident their son had to go through.

Ald. Braithwaite thanked the residents who came out to support the Greenwell family. He encouraged them to meet with Chief Eddington and also to participate in the race discussion which will be being held on October 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parasol Room. This will be the second meeting of a three scheduled meetings.

Ald. Holmes felt police complaint CR11-13 was a complete waste of time, there has to be another way to resolve this kind of complaint, she said. The amount of time and money spent on finding two wave caps was ridiculous. Chief Eddington explained there was more to the story than was depicted in the report. The complainant was accusing the police of keeping the caps to plant at a crime scene at a later date and so that is why the effort was placed on finding the caps.

The report was accepted by the committee 4-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
Township of Evanston August 2012 Monthly Bills

*It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston August 2012 monthly bills. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 3-0. (Ald Braithwaite was not available to vote)*

**Assessor Bonnie Wilson report**
- 2012 appeals ended on September 4th
- 2013 is a tri-annual reassessment year
- The mailing of the new assessment notices will be mailed February 2013
- 19 resident were assisted with certificate of errors for missed exemptions

**Approval to Issue the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Comprehensive Management Audit of Evanston Township**

City Manager Bobkiewicz said a Township Board special meeting would be held to approve the contract in November. The funds would be from the 2013 Township budget.

*It was moved and seconded to Approval to Issue the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Comprehensive Management Audit of Evanston Township. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 3-0.*

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update and the creation of an ADA Advisory Group**

**Citizen Comment:**

Junad Rizki believes moving ECTV to the second floor of the Service Center is in violation of the ADA and the civil rights of the disabled. There is no access to the second floor with the exception of a service elevator which is illegal to use in his opinion. What is troubling to
Mr. Rizki is the length of time it’s going to take to make the area available for the disabled.

Douglas Gaynor gave an overview of the plan; two bathrooms and two entrances within the Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center will be updated to be ADA compliant.

*It was moved and seconded to approve the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update and the creation of an ADA Advisory Group. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 4-0.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Library Board bio was distributed to the committee member.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department