

Summary of Citizen Comments from Human Services Meeting on February 6, 2017

Betsy Wilson: Claimed that "the incredibly low number of complaints filed" against Evanston police "tells us that something is drastically wrong." She said it shows that either people don't know how to access the complaint process or don't trust it. Stated that to build confidence between the community and the police officers is fundamental to ask the community for input. She also recommended creating an independent police review board.

Teresa Horton: Stated she is a Reproductive Physiology specialist and that she has spent most of her career studying rats. Discussed the importance of getting rid of the food supply by making sure garbage containers are closed and that the City's streets are clean in eliminating rats in Evanston.

Lawrence Heaney: Stated that he is a professional biologist and discussed the critical of controlling the food supply to reduce the population of mice in Evanston. Claimed that adult rats do not eat poison and trying to eliminate the rat population with poison is not going to result in a significant reduction of these rodents.

Peggy Tarr: Claimed that there is racism in the police department even though there is a diverse police force. She stated that having a racially diverse Police Department does not eliminate racial bias when it comes to processes and policies. She also said that the Crosby incident proves her point because she believes the police "racially profiled" him.

Junad Rizki: Suggested that the mayor and the City Council are a threat to the black community. He claimed that Northwestern University arrests people in Evanston and that the City Council should take a closer look at the NU Police producers.

Stephanie Moffitt: Said that incidents like the arrest of the student, Lawrence Crosby, make other students feel unsafe and this harms the school's ability to attract and retain a diverse student body.

Carlis Sutton: Discussed the importance of including residents of Evanston in the ongoing programming the Police Department has. Claimed that to improve the relationship between the Police Department and the community residents should be invited to participate in diversity training.

Betty Ester: Suggested that the City has various resources to address the issues of diversity and police misconduct, but the public often do not know about this. Explained that about seven years ago residents came together to create a citizens complaint review board.

Shawn Jones: Discussed the implications for people to get arrested for minor offenses. Suggested the city needs a more robust policy changes to decrease the number of arrests for minor offenses. He stated that the town needs to reduce the number of police interactions with residents that lead to arrests. He claimed that those arrests, even ones that never result in a conviction, impair the ability of people to get a job later on.

Anne Young: Said that she is personally affected by the released of Lawrence Crosby because she thinks Police officers are racially profiling people in Evanston and she has children with "brown skin". She claims that there should be systems in place to discourage racial profiling and that the public should become aware quickly when an officer uses bad judgment.

Jean-Marie Freise: Said that she is concern about the way the city handled the Crosby incident. She also discussed the importance of seeking community input to rebuild trust between the Police Department and the residents of Evanston.

Josh Lee: Stated that graduate students and international students at Northwestern University feel unsafe because of the arrest of the arrest of Lawrence Crosby. He suggested that the city needs to do a better job engaging with Northwestern University students.

Betsy Clark: Discuss the importance of working with the youth in Evanston to prevent arrest. Suggested more policy changes to reduce minor offenses arrests are needed, and the police should work hard to come up with programs to help teens in Evanston to stay away from trouble.

Michael Nabors: Discussed the importance of building trust between the police and the black community. He suggested that the proposed policy changes to address violence de-escalation had been developed in "a back room" and said, "everybody has to sit at the table."

Madeline Dupree: She stated that she wrote a letter to the attorney general to "check on Evanston" because the federal government "checked on Chicago." She also said that some policemen and women work very hard and Evanston should hold on to those.

Tracy Gentle: Stated that racial tensions are a national issue as well as a local one. She suggested that the city needs to create more jobs to prevent black people from moving out of Evanston.

Lester Borger: Stated that the city needs to create more jobs for the African American community. He also offers to help in any way he can.

Devon Reid: Discussed the importance of having a Police Department operating in a transparent matter.

Tracey Fuce: She claims that the Police Department is not engaging often with the black community and this need to change. She discussed the importance of building a relationship between the police and the black community.