

Citizen Corps Council Meeting
March 18, 2005
Fire Administration Building: Fire Station 2
Meeting Notes

IN attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Dave Freudenberg	City Council	Bruce Silk	Chief-Fire Services
Claudia Riley	Police	Cindy Metcalf	Lieutenant – Fire Services
Jennifer Witt	Red Cross	Frank Correggio	CERT
Brian Hanley	Div of Emergency Mgt.	Barbara Kasser	CERT
		Clem Storch	Crime Watch
		Debra Cholak-White	CCC Coordinator

WELCOME

Opening remarks were delivered by Debra White-Cholak thanking all participants for committing their time and interest. Debra introduced Chief Silk and asked that he speak a few minutes in the interest of Citizen Corps and its importance for Boca Raton.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Silk gave remarks on several areas including the importance of maintaining open communication among the council, emphasizing on the council operating as a network to grow our volunteer base in all agency areas

ICE BREAKER

Debra then broke the team out into groups of two for purposes of demonstrating the importance of teamwork. Each group was required to assemble a portion of a puzzle unbeknown to them in approximate one minute. All groups were then required to assemble their individual sections toward constructing the puzzle in the following minute. The puzzle signified the importance of maintaining team unity and a cooperative approach for program development, team synergy, and internal customer support. The puzzle's motto was 'let's not become sitting ducks'.

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Debra presented a fifteen-minute video on Citizen Corps, a component of USA Freedom Corps.

This initiative was lead by President George W. Bush at the 2002 State of the Union address. President Bush identified that America needs the support of retired personnel to help with medical, fire and police support in as much as spotting danger and assisting where you can.

Craig Fugate, Direct of Federal Emergency Management Agency stated that Citizen Corps is concerted effort to move back toward communities being involved in taking ownership to threats to their homes, neighborhoods, and businesses. And that government, as a practice, should not be the sole provider or sole organizer of the services provided to communities.

The video also discussed the significant importance of four (4) key service areas. They were:

- 1) Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), 2) Medical Reserves Corps, 3) CERT, and 4) VIPS.

Key question brought up by then Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood stated if there was an emergency or terrorist attack where would you need to draw resources? Her response simply stated "Those are the kinds of people that you bring together!"

Citizen Corp Council is a systematic way the community leaders can help to organize and mobilize citizens who want to volunteer their time supporting crime prevention and emergency preparedness.

The video summarized by saying that the world has changed since 911 and that we need everyone to GET INVOLVED. There are incredible resources; we just haven't tapped them all!

OVERVIEW – CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL

Debra presented the Council an overview perspective on Citizen Corps for Boca Raton. She reviewed the City's Mission Statement, Citizen Corps Objectives, and the Coordinator's philosophy in bringing together the council's efforts. Debra then laid out her 2005 Goals with the council. They state:

- 100% Council Participation
- Increase Volunteer registration
- Develop volunteer's data bank profile
- Corporate sponsors

Debra then reflected on the importance of Citizen Corps Council's responsibilities and that it is incumbent on each council to build on participation focus on education, and to promote our programs and capture our accomplishments on a timely basis in order to continue with the successes already in place.

WEBSITE

Debra placed the official Citizen Corps Website for Boca Raton into action, with the aid of IT support in early March. The hotlink to the Citizen Corps website address can be found at <http://www.bocafire.org>. It contains hotlinks to each of the Council's program and a data capture system provided for members who wish to join Citizen Corps electronically. The website's initiative is to build on the data bank profile objective discussed earlier by Debra to assist placement of the resources, education, and key events while raising city awareness.

Open DISCUSSION

Claudia: Everyone is very enthusiastic about joining CERT.

Cindy: We need to have Clem do more talk about CERT.

Clem: Considered very fortunate! Got involved with Crime Watch 3-4 years ago. Found it be interested area of the city. We're doing 2 things that I think can play very strongly toward Citizen Corps. We have been able to convince the IT department that we in crime watch era and need a better email network program to relay to citizens incident reports an crime bulletins. We have 1,000 people now. New IT man on board – take 3-4 programs and meld into one usable program for Crime Watch.

We should be making presentations to sub divisions. They want to know more about what are Crime Watch and other programs (CERT). CERT is not real well known in the community. Go out to the divisions and make them aware. Feels more people will become aware using this approach.

Hurricanes have made people very aware. Hurricanes last year were a dress rehearsal for our city. In October 2004, sixty (60) days after hurricane Francis, Clem went to Punta Gorda, an area built in the 1960's. Almost every home had a blue roof on it. Roof damage was paramount. Some of the 1920's built homes had no damage. They had the main event. Here, in Boca Raton, was very blessed.

Cindy: CERT only does so much. Maybe a lot of the CERT people could be pushed over to RED Cross – don't know what they need.

Dave: Even after Gene, there was a bit of disconnection.

Brian: Will have more development of the databank to better place volunteers. Would like to have CERT people better involved in the unincorporated areas. You do tremendous initials and advance training, we're happy to be invited to this program.

Jennifer: Hope this elevates the panic. Challenging (AMR) responded to Charlie, we were inundated with the number of volunteers whom wanted to get involved. A big misnomer about what AMR does.

Amendment courses about damage assessment. Need to better inform and train to respond to own disaster, hopefully will alleviate some chaos. Better filter these people for long-term purposes.

Debra: Not aware all the things Red Cross can do during a disaster.

Jennifer: We do similar functions but the better the community is aware the better for us.

Claudia: Liked the "Residence Check /Observer patrol for VIPs. This program would check in on vacationing people that signed up for the program. Any ideas that can get more involvement – there are more restrictions – not necessarily a COP. Just hired about 25 volunteers.

Clem: Through HAM radio the people in Punta Gorda were basically w/o communications. Boca Raton is a good example of the HAM radio program.

Debra: Next hurricane season is fast approaching, the schedule has been set for the next strategy sessions – need your participation. The remaining 2005 schedule for Citizen Corps Council:

- June 17
- September 16
- December 16

Times and location to be announced

EVALUATION FORM

Debra: Handed out evaluation form. Posted results are found on the following page..

Close: 10:55a.m.

Proceed outside with Group Photo.

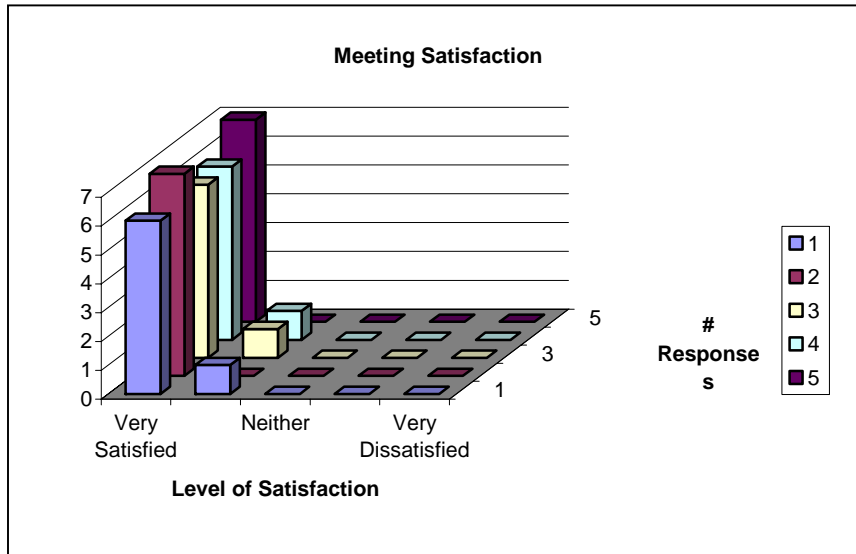
END: 03/18/05

Survey Results

Section 1

Questions:

- 1: Open discuss, time was adequate
- 2: Presentations were pertinent, clear and concise
- 3: It is clear what actions are to be completed
- 4: Operational directions are clearly understood
- 5: Overall meeting



Section 2

1: What changes would you suggest for future meetings?

- Presentations by group, Red Cross, CERT, COPS, Crime Watch
- Limit length of speakers
- Email agenda out before (as well as minutes)
- Designate one person to present their program
- Pictorial of interaction

2: What were the most positive aspects of today's meeting?

- Coordination and communication between program
- Learned functions of CCC
- Meeting face-to-face with other people
- Seeing everyone
- Knowing the players
- Our goal for Citizen Corps
- The delineation between each group

3: Suggestible areas of opportunity for today's meeting?

- To capitalize on the expertise of the Council

Section 3: Comments

- Nice job
- Great