

FEBRUARY 2019 - MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents Council



Date: February 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Place: Public Library, 800 Vine Street, Tower Room

Welcome: Sue Byrom, President

New Members:

Maria and Mike Raulston
Margaret Murphy
Joseph Plum

Andrew Naab
Guy Guckenberger

New Business Members:

Switch Lighting

Holcomb Photography

Monthly Reports:

Lt. **Andy Heyob** interim chief of the **Cincinnati Police Department's** Central Business District (CBD), reported that crime rates in the CBD are very low. There have been only two robberies this year, one with the suspect apprehended immediately and the other with the suspect identified and awaiting a warrant. Property crimes are similarly low. Heyob said that the CBD is understaffed. A new Captains List is expected in March, which likely will include news on Captain Neville's replacement Officer **Tim Eppstein** reminded the group that he is the designated Downtown neighborhood liaison, and suggested that email is the best way to reach him with questions and concerns. His email is timothy.eppstein@cincinnati-oh.gov.

Fire Department representatives were not available.

Chico Lockhart spoke on behalf of the Downtown Ambassadors. He reported that housing had been secured for four homeless individuals, with 12 more pending. He asked DRC members to call the Ambassador Hotline (513-623-3429) if they saw people sleeping on the street. Chico thanked members for the gift of heater meals for the homeless, purchased with \$1600 in holiday donations. He noted that these would not be handed out on a routine basis, but used as a way to establish contact with individuals who may be in need of services as well as food.

Speakers:

Chico introduced **Claudia Rebola**, a UC professor putting together an "Anti-OD" outreach program in coordination with the Downtown Ambassadors. Claudia described the program, which she characterized as combatting the opioid epidemic by design. Its goal is to increase awareness and availability of naloxone to reverse drug overdoses and save lives via a community-access program that provides both tools and training. Kiosks will be placed in

public areas around town where a potential rescuer can pull out a kit containing four doses of naloxone in the form of a nasal spray, along with a mask, gloves, and bilingual instructions on how to proceed. Staging areas are being evaluated. Claudia thanked Cincinnati Bell, the American Heart Association, and UC for their strong support.

Sue welcomed **Dion Brown**, president of the **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**. He urged members to visit the Center, which is now open seven days a week and, thanks to the generosity of Gallagher Insurance, offers free admission for the remainder of February in honor of Black History Month. Big things are planned for the Center's 15th anniversary in August. Dion is enjoying broadening the scope of Center activities within the context of its mission, for example through a program for Cincinnati students focused on bullying and an upcoming program related to LGBTQ issues.

Old Business: The January meeting minutes were approved.

New Business: Christian Rahe joined Chico in thanking DRC members for their generous holiday donations, which enabled the purchase of the aforementioned heater meals for the homeless.

During member announcements, attention was drawn to the availability of DRC discounts on Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Pops tickets and, in March, DRC discounted membership in the new Mercy Healthplex gym at 4th and Sycamore.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next members' meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the Library.**