

September 2020 – MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: September 15, 2020 @ 6:00pm

Place: Virtual via Zoom, Coordinated by Esther Wing

President Alan Bunker welcomed members to the first virtual DRC Membership meeting, which was called to order at 6:07 pm with 38 members in attendance.



Monthly Reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman of the Cincinnati Police Department gave an update on crime statistics. After a bad time in early summer, there has been a cooling-off period, with aggravated assault down 67% and all violent crime down 28% in the last 28 days. Year-to-year, both violent and property crime are down. Doug noted that no-parking signs are posted for Freedom Way and part of Pete Rose Way after 11:00; these areas are regularly patrolled. He reported that Assistant Chief and patrol bureau commander Paul Neudigate will become police chief in Virginia Beach in October.

Marissa Reed of 3CDC said that the Downtown Ambassador program has had to make adjustments to COVID like everyone else. Ambassador staffing is currently at about 75% (50 workers), with a return to full strength expected in the spring. Current activities include pulling weeds on city streets and cleaning up streetcar stops. 3CDC is coordinating with Cincinnati Parks' Urban Forestry department to replace dead trees, with Public Services and Public Works on various greening projects, and with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful on the creation of a new mural near 3rd and Race Streets. A question was raised about the many raised manhole covers on city streets, particularly 5th, Broadway, and Pike. **Kurt Grossman**, a Park Place resident, said the city had told him they were waiting for Verizon to complete trenching activities before streets could be re-paved.

DRC Reports:

Mary Jacobs reported on a recent discussion with staff at Activities Beyond Classrooms (ABC), in which she asked whether CPS elementary schools had particular needs at this time. She was told that, while various food programs were meeting children's and families' needs, personal care items were hard to come by. In response, Mary offers DRC members the opportunity to donate such items, which she will collect and deliver to ABC for distribution at Taft and Rothenberg schools. Mary will collect donations in the lobby of her building, Current at the Banks, 121 E. Freedom Way (south side of street) on September 23 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Mary also made a last plea for census participation by any who have not yet completed a form, reminding all that every response brings money to city programs over the next decade. Cincinnati responses are still lagging.

Mary Heimert announced that 3CDC had approved plans for a DRC social at The Porch in Washington Park on September 29 from 5:30 – 7:30. Social distancing will be maintained, and masks worn when members are not seated at a table. An invitation will be sent in advance. Attendance will be limited to 50.

Alan Bunker announced that John Stringer had submitted his resignation as Vice President as of September 14; John will continue to serve as a Board member until December 31. Alan also related that Piatt Park decoration would be an event again this year; the date is November 14 and all volunteers are welcome.

Alan thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:38.

Next meeting: October 13 at 6:00 pm.