

AUGUST 2022 – MONTHLY MEMBER

MEETING MINUTES Downtown Residents' Council, Inc.

Date: August 8, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Place: First Financial Innovation Room, 4th & Vine

New members: Nicholas Altieri, Sophia Colclasure, Christopher Finney, Melissa May



Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** called the meeting to order at 6:02 and welcomed new members.

Monthly reports:

Captain Doug Wiesman reported that two officers had been named to replace the promoted and transferred **Tim Eppstein**. They are **Chris Loreaux** and **Marcus Moore** (the latter unable to be present at this meeting). The two represent a welcome staff augmentation, as does the transfer of Lieutenant Donna Robinson from the Public Information Office to the Central Business Section force.

Doug talked about a meeting he had with the City Manager, Police Chief, and others about concerns with crowds in the DORA area of the Banks on weekends; the five or six assigned officers are too few for the thousands of people who congregate. It was agreed that 32 officers would now be assigned on Friday and Saturday nights. The Main Street corridor, frequently a site of problems, will also see additional officers. Doug noted that these staffing concerns were borne out by shootings the night of August 6, when nine people were shot on Main Street and two at the Banks. None of the victims died, and investigations are ongoing. Doug does not believe that there is a connection between the two incidents.

In other gun-related news, Doug showed a picture of the automatic rifle that CBS officers recovered from a 17-year-old in the Chipotle restaurant on Fountain Square the afternoon of August 6.

Doug invited Chris to introduce himself. Chris gave some background on his life in Cincinnati and his police career. Tim Eppstein's phone number (513-352-5422) has been transferred to Chris, and he will be happy to hear from DRC members.

A member asked what we as downtown residents might do to help limit the violence that has become so prevalent here. Doug explained that some city neighborhoods have established Citizen on Patrol programs, and suggested that we might want to start a conversation about doing this downtown. Doug responded to another question by saying that he, as an officer of the law, cannot comment on possible efforts to revisit the recent law eliminating the requirement for concealed-carry permits.

Doug recommended that residents observing problematic situations that are not immediate emergencies call the CPD non-emergency number (513-765-1212), which is answered by the same staff who answers 911 calls.

Sara Bujas of 3CDC followed up on some questions asked at earlier meetings. The dim lights mentioned on Walnut Street will be replaced with brighter LED lights. In reference to the empty building at 4th and Elm, 3CDC is working with the owner of the building next door on measures to deter loitering in its vicinity. A building at 308 Race Street has been boarded up. An alley off Court Street is being monitored.

DRC Reports

Treasurer **Tricia Lynn** reported an opening balance of \$16,966.90 on July 1 and a closing balance of \$16,780.36 on July 29. Some of these funds are obligated; the balance available for use is \$14,508.19

Old Business

Chase Mosijowski made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, **Mary Heimert** seconded, and all voted in favor.

Speakers

Tricia introduced **Christopher Finney**, new DRC member, attorney, and developer of property at 635 Main Street. Chris gave some background on his life and career in Cincinnati and described his plans for the property, former site of the Hathaway Stamp Company. He is in the midst of working out building plans, tax abatement, ADA compliance, etc. Eventually he envisions two floors of office and meeting space with four B&B units above. These plans will require a variance from the city, as current zoning allows only retail on the ground floor.

Marissa Reed of 3CDC gave an update on activities under both the Ambassador and GeneroCity 513 programs. The latter includes two components: homeless outreach (contracted with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services) and the jobs van (contracted with City Gospel Mission). The goal of homeless outreach is to establish relationships and make connections to social and health services. 3CDC also participates with the national organization Community Solutions, which employs a Building Zero model aimed at ending chronic homelessness. The jobs van continues to offer an alternative to panhandling that pays \$9/hour for work such as litter clean-up. Transportation to job sites and lunch are included. Again, connections with social and health services are encouraged. DRC is an annual contributor to GeneroCity 513, Marissa noted with thanks.

Announcements

Mary Heimert announced that the next social would take place at Jane's Bar at Findlay Market on August 16; all members should have received an invitation.

Teri Boland reminded the group that the Board plans an August outreach visit to first responders (police, fire, and Ambassadors).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, September 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm, First Financial Innovation Center, 4th & Vine.