

GENEVA COMMUNITY COMPACT

Geneva Community Compact Steering Committee
Minutes

Geneva Lakefront Welcome Center
Tuesday, March 19, 2019

PRESENT: Mark Gramling, Clr. At Large
Linda Whitley, Tools for Social Change
Brandon Bryant, Tools for Social Change
Lucile Mallard, NAACP
Sage Gerling, City of Geneva
Victor Nelson, AAMA
Chief Michael Passalacqua, GPD
Michele Barrett, GHRC
Matthew Valenti, GPD

ABSENT: Carol Maxon, Courtyard Tenants Association

Linda Whitley read aloud the following mission statement: *"It is the mission of the Geneva Community Compact Steering Committee to foster mutual respect regardless of ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion and abilities, repudiate racial and cultural bias and strengthen the City's workforce diversity by drawing on the talents of all segments of the community".*

1. **Approval of Minutes – February 19, 2019**
Moved by: Mark Gramling; seconded by Lucile Mallard
Motion Approved Unanimously

2. **Agenda Items**
 - a) Compact Action Plan Next Steps – Sage referred to Mike Passalacqua's action planning document and said that the group now needs to focus on how our community leaders and members can assist. She asked everyone to spend some time brainstorming on this.
 - b) She told everyone that the Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Academy is in the works, and we need to come up with ideas on recruitment. This is a prep course designed to help people with the exam being given in November. The police department is trying to get people signed up as early as possible, so they will, hopefully, have enough people ready when the classes start. Mike added that there will be no cost to the applicants, and they are looking at FLCC to allow us to use a classroom one night a week. He said that this is a

big commitment, so we need to draw in as many people as possible. Sage said we need to help get people signed up for the test who meet the requirements set by the police exam itself (i.e. min age of 18 years, High School Diploma or GED, etc.). Sage said the group could work on a flyer including the Compact's contact information. It was suggested that we reach out to the school district, the NAACP, churches, library, teen center, the AAMA, the Human Rights Commission and FLCC to put information out and possibly do information sessions, and Lucile said that students can get permission from the Academy as a legal excuse to attend any meetings. Mike told everyone that the test is given usually every two years, so if an 18-year old takes it as practice this year, they can take it again in two years to get on a list to get hired by the age of 21. Mike said he will get together with the city's information officer to put out on social media. He said he would not restrict it to city residents, and he hopes to have at least 10 people signed up by June 1st. Sage said that the group needs to start building an action plan book.

- c) Sub-Committee Updates – Lucile said that her committee is having trouble meeting with everyone's schedules, but they are planning to bring the committees together for a joint meeting
- d) Mark asked where the committee goes from here concerning the citizens police accountability board. Sage said she had a thought for the group to take back to their sub-committees, which is that accountability review often deals with excessive force. She said the City's issues fall more on courtesy issues. She said that the role of the Community Compact is about building mutual respect and relationships. The Center for Dispute Settlement had a model where a third-party for Rochester that was the person who would take in complaints, help the person through the process, and be a mediator between the officer and the complainant. She feels this is where we have the most, for our small city, room to grow and opportunity for a relationship to start out of an issue that occurred. She would like to see maybe two approaches considered; to focus on an issue that may not rise up to a review board such as courtesy things or misunderstandings, and a third-party mediator would give us the most to gain as a community. She said that a review board would be appropriate if we have an excessive force issue, but it is not a relationship builder, and she would like to discuss the options further with Mark and Mike. Mark said that mediation is very important and he feels an oversight committee would be good to help with community relations to put another set of eyes on officer misconduct cases. He said again that the purpose is so important to build a relationship between our community members and the police department, and he does not want not rush into anything.
- e) Michele said that last week, the Human Rights Commission appointed a vice-chair, and she would like that person to attend meetings when she is not available. It was mentioned that everyone on the committee should have a backup person to send in their place if necessary. The person's name and contact information should be made available to the group. Michele said that the person is Dinah Brennan: dcbrenn4@gmail.com.
- f) Brandon said that his sub-committee will be meeting with the police chief next Tuesday at Monaco's or the Finger Lakes Welcome Center. After the

meeting, the sub-committee will meet again and work with Professor Klofas at RIT on focus groups and community/police relations.

- g) Sage met with Juanita Aikens of the Ontario County Justice Coalition, and they are planning an Ontario County Summit on September 21st and would like the committee to be a part of it. She asked if the group would like to have Ms. Aikens attend a future meeting to see how the Compact could be involved. The Coalition is partnering with United Christian Leadership Ministry of Western New York. Their goal is to bring the police, fire and community members together.
- h) Mike said that on Monday his patrol officers finished their FIP curriculum, and the feedback from the instructors was that it went very well. There was a lot of dialogue without instruction. They will be doing their supervisor's curriculum on April 1st, and then all members of the department will have done this training. Brandon asked if some of the officers could give a summary of their experience; what they learned and what they would like to see changed. Mike said he would bring that in April. He added that Lt. Potter found several updates since their initial training, and they are trying to get their three instructors back to a refresher course which they will incorporate into future trainings. Matt added that officers should do a refresher course every couple years.

3. Follow-up Goals for Meeting

Receive Report of Complaints from GPD – (see attached)

Chairpersons for upcoming meetings

- May – Lucile
- June – Brandon
- July - Michelle

4. Adjournment: 6:45pm

5. Next Meeting: April 16, 2019; Chairperson, Victor Nelson; Location TBD

GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF MICHAEL J. PASSALACQUA

TO: Community Compact
FROM: Chief Michael J. Passalacqua
SUBJECT: Calls for Service/Arrests/Citizen Complaints
DATE: March 19th, 2019
CC:



As of today's date, the Geneva Police Department has handled 6,744 calls for service which is a portion of the contacts the police department has had with individuals this year 2019. The Geneva Police Department has made 102 arrests with the following breakdown (through February 2019):

Race:

White- 63

Black- 39

Ethnic Origin:

Hispanic- 18

Not Hispanic- 84

Personnel Complaints:

Year to date: 0

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. J. Passalacqua".

Chief Michael J. Passalacqua