

Human Relations Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021

1. **Call to order**
2. **Roll Call of Members** — Lorena Griffin, Michaela Granger, Char Mitchell, Wendy Hundley
3. **Approval of agenda** — 1st Char Mitchell 2nd- Michaela Granger, Approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting** — 4/14 and 5/26 meeting minutes
1st- Mikayla Granger, 2nd-Lorena Griffin-Approved.
5. **Public Participation- 217-892-6810**-None
6. **Items from members**
 - A. Introduce New Members- Lorena Griffin and Michaela Granger
 - B. Presentation-Chief Tony Brown

Crime Free Housing. Chief explained what Crime Free Housing was, developed in Mesa, AZ. 48 states participate. It has most participants in Chicago and St. Louis. Program is nationwide and has 3 phases. Ordinance requires property owners that have 2 or more properties to complete. Once all 3 phases are complete, property owners are certified in Crime Free Housing. A sign will be posted on your property. Neighbors feel safer, and attract new residents.

Phase 1- required 4 hours training by police department and use the crime free addendum.

Phase 2- Physical security assessment in crime prevention, 3-5-day course. Use of door locks, locks on windows, and lighting around the property, as well as fencing to increase security and shrubbery overgrowth to hinder “hiding”

Phase 3- Safety social and community events to provide safety information, get to know the residents and let residents know they are part of the Crime Free Housing Program. Property owners must utilize the Crime Free Housing addendum to all new and renewed leases. May not rent for 3 years if they do not comply with the addendum. The ordinance declares a public nuisance to any owner that allows or permits criminal activity on or within the rental property, or if they had any knowledge that such activity may occur. Must let the police department know such crime is occurring and reach out for advice on next steps, eviction process with the tenant or if there is someone living in the household. If tenant/landlord does not comply with the addendum, they are held liable and violate the terms. Chief Brown explained they must provide proof of the criminal activity. It is a civil process, as well as an option for an appeal process if need be. Chief Brown gave examples of crimes that violate the addendum such as weapons, kidnapping, assault, and motor vehicle burglaries. Chief Brown explained the 3-strike process. Chief Brown explained since implementing the Crime Free Housing, they have seen a reduction in crime. Over 80% of crime is from rentals and not owner occupied. Due to COVID, we have not been able to address a lot of crimes and gun violence has increased since the country has opened back up. He has seen 3 appeals and 2 have been granted. 23 crimes of violence, and 19 unlawful use of firearms. All of which are exclusively crimes of violence. Chief Brown opened the floor for questions on the presentation.

Q- When were the appeals granted?

A- Chief will need to look into that.

Q- Could you expand on the felony violation or limitations?

A- If it is not a felony, then the ordinance doesn't apply.

Q- Is there a cost to the training or the assessment?

A- No cost.

Chief also explained that the ordinance requires the Crime Free Housing to be enforced and the tenant to be evicted.

Counsel stepped in and stated that the Chief will not tell the landlord to evict the tenant, the landlord evicts or chooses not to and faces a penalty for not enforcing the ordinance violation.

Q- Does a property manager have the option to opt-in or out?

A- No, 2 or more properties for rent must comply with the ordinance.

Q - Does the Chief communicate with the property owner/manager of crimes on the property?

A- Not all of the time. They try to communicate with the owner/manager but they do try to find out

Q- How many properties are out of compliance?

A- None.

Q- How do you find out if property is a rental?

A- Work with the inspections dept. and also partners with utilities to look for the addendum signed when new tenant comes to establish services at the address, they must have a signed lease to set up services.

7. **Items To be Reviewed-** None.
8. **Items from Counsel —** None.
9. **Public participation- Call in number 217-892-6810-** None.
10. **Future Meeting Dates**
September 23, 2021 TBA
11. **Adjournment**
1st- Mikayla Granger, 2nd- Lorena Griffin,

Approved: _____.