



Seguin Police Department



It's real.

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MEMORANDUM 20-64

TO: Mayor Don Keil
City of Seguin City Council
Steve Parker, City Manager

FROM: Terry Nichols, Chief of Police

REFERENCE: Community Coalition Efforts

DATE: September 9, 2020

After witnessing the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement in Minneapolis, MN in late May 2020, the nation recognized the need to address long-standing racial issues, both seen and unseen, both real and perceived, in many communities across the Country between law enforcement and the African American community. Seguin was no different.

On June 3, 2020, a grassroots protest centered on the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement was held at Central Park. The event was well attended and an impromptu march was held from the Park to the Sebastobol House and back. The Police Department both escorted this march for safety as well as participated in the march to display our common goal of building trust, dialogue, transparency, and open lines of communication between our citizens and the Police Department. A second protest was held on Sunday, June 7th, however no march was held.

These initial discussions held between the Police Department, protest organizers, and local faith-based leaders led to a larger discussion about building upon the protests and truly opening up dialogue, building relationships built on mutual trust, and ensuring all in the Seguin community were being treated fairly, with dignity and respect. On June 7th, members of the Police Department, at the requests of the congregations, attended six historically black churches in our community to visit, offer words of mutual encouragement, and pray for our community.

These initial visits, initiated by Councilman Roy and other local Pastors, led for us to hold three Community Coalition meetings to date to further these discussions and building of relationships. These meetings have been kept small at this point primarily relying on those who initiated the original BLM protests in early June. This was done in

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order for the small coalition to gain traction, obtain clarity of purpose and focus, all while building worthwhile, lasting relationships.

At the most recent meeting on August 27th, Chief Nichols and members of the Department's Command Staff presented five years of data from the Police Department related to arrests, traffic, complaints, and use of force. The presentation this evening is the same presentation presented to members of the Community Coalition.

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