

UCAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Urbana City Building – 2nd Floor Conference Room
August 17, 2006

In Attendance:

Hayward Patterson
Virginia Patterson
Melvin Peeples
Samuel Johnson
Frankie Johnson
Leonard Christmon
James Hayes, Jr.
Pauline Walker
Alderman Robert Lewis
Assistant Chief Pat Connolly
Chief Mike Bily

Chief Bily called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Alderman Robert Lewis reported that vandals recently painted graffiti, primarily on Urbana School District property, at the corner of Goodwin and Fairview. He distributed pictures of the graffiti for committee members to view. It was suggested that surveillance cameras could possibly be installed to monitor activity at that location. Alderman Lewis also reported the need for stop signs due to speeding on Eads Street between Goodwin Avenue and Harvey Street. James Hayes stated that he had attended the August 1, 2006 Traffic Commission meeting to address that issue. Mr. Hayes reported that Senior Civil Engineer Joe Smith will have monitoring devices placed at that location and after researching the information collected, Mr. Smith will report the findings at the October Traffic Commission meeting.

Samuel Johnson asked Alderman Lewis when the sidewalks on Harvey would be installed. He stated that it is a safety issue for children walking to school, especially during the winter months when snow is present. Alderman Lewis and committee members agreed. Alderman Lewis stated that he will check with Bill Gray at Public Works, but believed installation of the sidewalks and curbing was slated to begin in September 2006.

Chief Bily introduced Assistant Chief Pat Connolly to the committee members. Assistant Chief Connolly will conduct the meetings in the event Chief Bily is unable to attend. Chief Bily also reported on loud music complaints. UPD officers have been stepping up patrol because of the complaints, resulting in the issuing of 84 NTA's (Notice to Appear) or

traffic citations. Committee members stated they have noticed a recent decrease in loud music problems in the neighborhood. After discussion about loud music from vehicles driving in and around Urbana neighborhoods, Alderman Lewis reported that he recently proposed a “Zero Tolerance” for Urbana City Council to consider, increasing fines for offenders of the Noise Ordinance.

Chief Bily stated that he will be reporting to the Urbana City Council at their meeting on August 21, 2006 regarding the 2005 Traffic Stop Study Results. He explained that Illinois law mandates that certain information be collected on all traffic stops by every law enforcement agency in the State of Illinois. The purpose of the mandate is to determine whether police officers in any community are stopping people based on race. He also explained that the information collected is then transmitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation who then forwards it to Northwestern University for compilation. On or about July 1 each year, the previous year’s report is made public from the Governor’s Office. Chief Bily then discussed the findings of the 2005 report and his analysis. Alderman Lewis stated he had done some hypothetical studies on the information collected and shared some of his findings with the committee. He stated that he feels, after reviewing the results, the process and information used to generate the results are flawed and needs to be reviewed by the State if an accurate report is to be reflected from the statistics collected. Chief Bily and Alderman Lewis encouraged everyone to either attend or watch the August 21st Council Meeting on cablevision for the entire presentation and discussion on the 2005 Traffic Stop Study Results and Analysis.

James Hayes announced that Frankie and Sam Johnson’s picture appeared on the recent Park District Brochure cover. Since not everyone attending had seen the brochure, it was suggested that a copy be brought to the next UCAP meeting scheduled for September 21, 2006.

Chief Bily suggested that we continue having our UCAP meetings at the Urbana City Building. After a short discussion, everyone attending the meeting agreed. There were no objections.

Alderman Lewis requested that Karen Lowery, Recording Secretary, send a copy of the agenda, minutes and a “hope to see you at the next meeting” note to those who attended UCAP meetings in the past but have not attended recently. Karen will be sending these notices with the packets for the September 21, 2006 meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Karen Lowery
UPD Secretary