

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**  
 Falcon Heights Inclusion and Policing Task Force  
 City Hall  
 2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

**MINUTES**  
 February 21, 2017 at 7:15 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

ANDREWS			JOHNSON-POWERS	X
BALLENTINE	X		LEEHY-CO CHAIR	X
COLOND	X		THOMPSON	X
DEMERATH	X		WADE	X
JOHNSON				

STAFF PRESENT:

MAYOR LINDSTROM	
CO-CHAIR/COUNCIL MEMBER GUSTAFSON	X
CO-FACILITATOR QUICK	
CO-FACILITATOR MORRIS	X
ADMINISTRATOR THONGVANH	X

Homework before next meeting on Tues. March 7, please review the book, Blink.

Community Conversation meeting on Thurs. March 2 at Falcon Heights Church, 6:30-8:30pm.

I. Call to order  
 7:16pm

II. Review Agenda  
 No changes were proposed.

III. Review Meeting Minutes  
 There were a couple of corrections to the section on Discussion of Community Values for Policing. In paragraph seven, the first sentence should be a question followed by the sentence, Government has limitations. The second to last sentence should be, Relationship is critical to making change. All were in favor of the corrections.

IV. Debrief of Community Conversation on Values on Feb. 16 Approximately 110 people attended including task force members. Those who participated enjoyed the opportunity and gave positive

feedback about the meeting. People who had not spoken at other listening sessions were there. The average age skewed toward the older end of the spectrum. The task force learned that personal invitations are needed to reach those beyond Falcon Heights. A number of groups were invited and some did attend. Some hope to attend other meetings. The format was helpful for honest sharing. One group had a good mixture from outside of FH and within. Some recognized more need for community involvement. There were questions about the city council and the appearance of inaction. Some people are invested and want to know where to start. There was frustration with elected officials. Eight months is too long to address a tragedy.

There were stories of business people and residents manifesting racism. One suggestion was to have police officers in each group. One was fearful to talk at other sessions but felt this was a safe place to talk. Facilitators did a fantastic job.

One question was, why wasn't there an apology from the city. This was a difficult event and hard to manage as an elected official. The job is especially tough when the whole nation is looking at you. Police work is challenging with being part social worker, part therapist and cop.

Some had seen racial bias in police stops. There are also opportunities for people to learn how to spot incidents and how to report them.

Notes were taken in each group. Common themes and keywords along with the context will be compiled for further analysis.

People seemed guarded at first and comfort level went up as the evening went on. One black male talked about living here three decades. He always feels suspect and this is fatiguing. This was a learning opportunity others and an example of courage to talk about race.

Recommendations will come at a later date. How do we show progress? People will talk about the experience whether good or bad. People seemed willing to keep the process moving forward.

#### V. Translating Values into Policing Operations.

Members assembled in groups of three looking at the community values statements and how they relate to police operations.

List to work with from the whiteboard:

Life safety

Patrol functions. Passive. Observation. Traffic enforcement.

Active. Call and response.

Administrative- hiring, training, performance review. Communication. Reporting. Internal investigations.

Data collection. Data release.

Community engagement - citizen training. DARE, School resource officer. Crime prevention.

Investigation. External.

Court Duty. Testifying.

The topic of trust building came up. This falls under community engagement but currently there is no purposeful effort to build trust. Crime prevention, national night out and citizen training are police initiated. Some neighborhoods don't have many children who have typically been more interested in the police cars. Regarding the Falcon Heights Community Engagement Commission, police attend and are looking for ways to engage community.

If a civilian review board makes sense it would go under administration.

What are police operation priorities?

Patrol

Life and safety

Response to calls

Passive patrol

Reconvene at 9:09pm

There were three groups of three. The exercise was challenging. Some process is needed for providing feedback after an encounter with the police. Community review is needed. Training the police on community values would be helpful. Having a known face patrolling FH might add credibility. Include race or ethnicity data in police interactions. When hiring police, look for people with cross cultural experience. Ongoing training is also needed. Citizen tips for callers and how to handle situations.

What areas do task force members want to focus on with specificity? A review board? More data? After this look at things you can do within these areas. Think deeply about what will give the greatest return.

There will be a competing police contract when we get to that point. This will be needed given the amount of money involved. Think about whatever you might recommend when we reach this point.

Updates and announcements

St. Anthony police did experience a significant leadership change in June of 2016 when the chief and captain retired. After the shooting, Interims Chief Mangseth and Captain Spiess were officially placed in their new roles rather than waiting until the fall as originally planned.

9:38pm adjourned