

**CITY OF NORWALK
YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Shirley Sarkin, Co-Chair; Jessica Fogg, Maria Borges Lopez, Candice Mayer, NHA; Sgt. Ashley Gonzalez, NPD; Darlene Young (4:06 p.m.)

STAFF: Linda Wilock, Youth Service Director; Jasen Getner, Youth Services JRB Case Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sarkin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2009

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, please change the ATTENDANCE section from:

ATTENDANCE: Shirley Sarkin, Acting Chair; Jessica Fogg, Council Member Anna Duleep, Candace Mayer, Betty Karkut, Michael Mocciae, Ashley Gonzalez;

To:

ATTENDANCE: Jessica Fogg, Council Member Anna Duleep, Candace Mayer, Betty Karkut, Michael Mocciae, Sgt. Ashley Gonzalez, Norwalk Police Department

Page 1, under STAFF: please change the following from: "Donna Young" to "Darlene Young."

**** MS. MAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2009 AS CORRECTED.**

**** SGT. GONZALEZ SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CITY BUDGET FOR 2010-2011

Ms. Wilock said that the pro-forma budget requests have already gone out and were due on the 11th. She also noted that there was a typing error on the Agenda and that it should read "City Budget for 2010-2011" rather than "City Budget for 2010-1011".

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Ms. Wilock said that her budget was basically staff and that she had very little room to reduce the figures. Some of the funding for Early Childhood are from private grant foundations. Ms. Mayer had a few questions about the funding for Ms. Wilock's position, which Ms. Wilock reviewed with the Board members. She also reviewed the budget process and the various steps involved. A discussion then followed about the amount of funding available for the Youth Service Director position and how this might affect the grant funding for Youth Services.

NEW LAW REGARDING 16 YEAR OLDS

Sgt. Gonzalez said that currently if a sixteen year olds are arrested they are treated as adults. A few years ago, the law was changed to have sixteen year olds being treated as juveniles. This will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars because there will be a need for more judges and Youth Service workers. This law will take effect January 1, 2010. There are many issues that have not been resolved regarding the nature of incident. Juveniles must be kept separate from the regular adult criminal population and they must have the parents called before an interview is conducted. Sgt. Gonzalez said that his case load will increase dramatically.

Mr. Getner explained that the Review Board only takes up to sixteen years old. Now the case load will increase. There are several concerns about the amount of work and the level of supervision that will be available with the increased case load. Mr. Getner said that currently it was designed for him to handle 50 cases, which could result in his handling 25 active cases at once. Sgt. Gonzalez reminded everyone that the majority of the states do not regard sixteen year olds as adults. He added that no one anticipated the increase. Sgt. Gonzalez said that he had looked at the last year and there were 200 arrests for 16 and 17 year olds. He said that he would attempt to break down these arrests into first arrests and those who had prior offenses.

UPDATE ON PEER OUTREACH AND YSB ENHANCEMENT GRANT

Mr. Getner said that the Peer Outreach has been available in the high schools for the last twenty years. He said that the outreach program has seen a tapering off in attendance. Last year, there was a inquiry from the middle schools as to why the program was not available to the middle schools. A trial program was done and the attendance has held steady at 21 students along with a waiting list. Mr. Getner said that recently, the group had an airbrush artist come in and talk about his history as a juvenile offender and how he

turned his life around. A Parent Night has been added, also and the goal is to have a Parent Night once a month. Mr. Getner said that the parents were bringing their children to the program. One setback is that the overtime funding for the program has been cut. However, there is a possibility of another revenue source for that. A discussion about raising additional funding then followed.

OTHER

Ms. Wilock asked what the Board members thought about the scheduling for the meeting in January. A brief discussion then followed about the date of the next meeting which will be moved to the third Tuesday in January.

Ms. Mayer left the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

A brief discussion about the budget and possible discussions with the Mayor then took place.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. LOPEZ-BORGES SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services