



Heart of Arlington Neighborhood Association

General Meeting

DATE: February 13, 2017

TIME: 7:00pm

Subject: Homelessness and Vagrancy

Speaker: Lieutenant Kyle Dishko, Arlington Police Department

Speaker: Sheila Griffith, Community Outreach Officer

Present: Sipriano Lujan, Code Compliance Officer II

ATTENDING:

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Rebecca Boxall, President, Barbara Salser, Vice President, Dick Thomas, Treasurer, Kathleen Dionne, Secretary, Phil McConnell,

Board Members: Dale Bergeron, Gene Prater, Joe Schaefer, Jim Gayda, Grace Darling

Also, Attending: Don Boxall

Ms. Rebecca Boxall, President, introduced Lt. Kyle Dishko. Lt Dishko, commented on the cost of arresting homeless individuals which became expensive and with little or no results. The police department now turns them over to the Community Outreach Officer Program to see how they can be helped. The Pan Handlers you see are usually not homeless and strongly suggested not to give them money. Lt. Dishko, introduced Ms. Sheila Griffith who is with the Community Outreach Officer Program. Ms. Griffith, works with the homeless and those who may be at risk of being homeless, her Supervisor is Ms. Stephanie Gillespie, Community Services Manager with the Arlington Police Department and co-authored the City of Arlington's 10-year Homelessness Plan. This department works 99 square miles of Arlington and came into position in 2008. There are several charities or Resource Providers, that this department works with doing their best to help the homeless by getting them into an apartment with vouchers, medical attention at JPS who offers services to low income individuals, Mission Arlington, Code Enforcement, Arlington Charities, Arlington ISD, and Veteran Affairs just to name a few. There have been camps established in areas such as Johnson Creek and Ms. Griffith has asked that we call whenever we see camps being established, please do not give money to the homeless instead call the Outreach so that they can get them help. In regards to homeless veterans, their DD214 is looked up and may be eligible for housing or shelter assistance and healthcare. There is a Veteran Center in Pantego which is mainly a counseling center. Arlington Housing, has homeless prevention funds and contracts out with hotels, HUD offers housing funds, and the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition has a list of resources available. There are 3 Shelter's in Arlington; The Arlington Life Shelter (private), The Salvation Army for families with children under the age of 15 have 15 rooms and Safe Haven, a women's Shelter. Ms. Griffith, spoke of some of the success stories with the homeless which helped in making this all worthwhile.

Kelly Rodriguez, of Commissioner Andy Nguyen's office made a statement that they are wanting to help out the Historical Cemetery on Arkansas Lane. But was not clear in what that entailed.

Meeting adjourned.