

CAPD Meeting Minutes March 7, 2017

1. Rick Cofer (Chair) called the meeting to order.
2. Member introductions
3. Judge Herb Evans (Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5) announcement
 - a. Retiring May 1
4. Resolution to appoint Nicholas Chu as JP 5 to complete unexpired term of Evans (Cofer)
 - a. Discussion concerning commissioner's court appointment and qualifications and experience for appointment (Chu)
 - b. Motion, second, vote
 - c. Resolution approved unanimously.
5. Speaker introduction - Caritas of Austin Refugee Resettlement program (Ken Craig)
 - a. Rick Schneider – Landlord Outreach Specialist
 - b. Mamadou Balde – Program Manager
 - i. US gov't agencies (State, DHS, HHS) involved in refugee resettlement and services subcontract with local services/agencies – such as CARITAS
 - ii. Any refugee has only \$1,125 – one-time payment – to provide safe, affordable housing and hygiene
 - c. Rick Schneider
 - i. Works on finding affordable housing in Austin for refugees
 - ii. Individuals must be paired together in a 1 BR apt; families of 6-7 are settled in a 3 BR unit;
 1. Units are chosen with considerations of price, food, locations, schools, bus routes, grocery stores, etc.
 2. CARITAS works with various apartment complexes throughout Austin;
 3. \$25 million of rents brought into Austin by CARITAS
 - iii. Settlement includes furniture, leases, and orientation
6. Question/Discussion Session
 - a. More than 90% of refugees do not speak English
 - b. Case Manager and Employment specialists assist refugees in finding work
7. Eva Gonzales – Inside Books
 - a. Getting books to incarcerated persons, esp. dictionaries, bibles.
 - b. Challenge – 100 paperback dictionaries (incl. English/Spanish) within a month
8. Constable Lopez –
 - a. 60th Birthday
 - i. also celebrating 40 years of employment with Travis County
 - b. AFL CIO – 4/20/2017
 - i. 5:30 to 8:30 pm
9. Open Discussion
 - a. Rodney wants to revisit bylaws (more possible to be grassroots) and resolution proposed to oppose increase of military budget
 - b. Recognition of Gerard Washington (Ken Craig)
10. Adjourned