

ATLANTIC CITY
TOURISM ADVISORY COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE
TOURISM ADVISORY COMMISSION

Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: 15 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

PRESIDING: David Greenblatt, Chair

PRESENT: William Cheatham, Keturah Jackson, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Maher, Cortez Martin, Keith Mills, Ali Reynolds

ABSENT: Sarah Beth Johnson

CRDA STAFF: Susan Thompson, Sharon Dickerson, Chris Filicello, Heather Walls

OPENING STATEMENT

The meeting of the Atlantic City Tourism Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:00pm. The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012. Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Mr. Mills. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Commission.

COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMATION GRID – The Cordero Group

Susan Thompson introduced CRDA staff member Chris Filicello who traveled to East Orange with Atlantic City officials to get a first-hand preview of the technology program. Chris introduced Jose Cordero and Tamer Zachery who presented an overview and demonstration of their technology.

The Chair thanked Mr. Cordero for a very informative presentation and inquired if the cameras could be construed as a civil liberties infringement. Mr. Cordero stated the

system does not replace a human factor but helps police be more effective. Mr. Cordero further stated there are safeguards and policies in place to prevent violations in privacy.

Keturah Jackson inquired how the non-computerized residents could be involved. Mr. Cordero stated they have obtained funding in other communities for training and older computers. Ms. Jackson also inquired about damage to cameras to which Mr. Cordero replied the camera cases are bullet proof. The criminals will test them but they will give up eventually.

Joe Kelly stated the police force needs to embrace the system.

Councilman Marty Small agreed with Mr. Kelly and stated the Mayor, Commander Gilbert and Director Glass all supported the technology and were willing to work towards a change in the culture to make the system as effective as it could be.

Cortez Martin inquired to the training cost and the cost of the cameras. Mr. Cordero stated the training and cameras are included in the cost of the technology.

Joe Maher inquired how a police department would know that its staffing has reached an optimal level. Mr. Cordero stated this would happen when patrols could be redirected to other purposes like community involvement due to less crime.

Mr. Martin inquired about monitoring specific crimes in certain areas. Cordero stated the system can be specialized to certain problems.

Ms. Thompson stated that CRDA is not a possible funding source for this technology as it has already committed to \$3 million in other technology upgrades.

Ms. Jackson inquired if funding grants were available. Councilman Small stated the city is investigating all funding sources. Ms. Thompson suggested inviting Director Glass and Commander Gilbert along with Councilman Small to a Commission meeting to discuss this and other technology upgrades. Mr. Martin inquired about the parking income to which Ms. Thompson stated that income is already designated for another purpose and cannot be redirected.

INTEGRATION of PACE

Ms. Thompson explained the purpose of the PACE (Protecting Atlantic City's Environment) Task Force and suggested combining forces with them since they have more public participation and TAC (Tourism Advisory Commission) has the avenue to make suggestions to the CRDA Board. The structure of the Commission would not change and the members of PACE would become the public for TAC.

Mr. Maher confirmed the protocol and procedures of TAC would be kept in place.

Keith Mills recommended the merger. Ms. Jackson stated she would attend the PACE meeting this week and suggested the group be invited to the next meeting to see how it works.

Ms. Thompson stated it would be discussed with PACE and consider a possible merger in March.

Mr. Kelly stated the agenda needed to be tight and the meeting needs to be managed by the Chair.

TOURISM DISTRICT CELEBRATION

Ms. Thompson stated as a result of the recommendation of the Commission, a video celebrating the anniversary date has been created and will be shown at the next meeting. The next step would be a public viewing of the video (possibly at Dante Hall) but would need some sponsorship by local business or the Chamber. Mr. Kelly said the Chamber could consider the sponsorship. Ms. Thompson credited Kim Butler for facilitating the making of the video.

Hearing no further business or public comment, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Mills. Motion was approved by unanimous vote of the commissioners.

Approved by the Commission on February 28, 2013.