

Minutes of Civic Association General (Dinner) Meeting
March 20, 2013

Meeting begun 7:00 pm at Homewood

Allan Carlson, president, welcomed members and encouraged participation in upcoming CA events. Allan specified the “Evening with the Youngs,” both candidate forums, and the holiday dinner and performance.

Allan Joseph, treasurer, succinctly summarized the CA finances: \$1,900.00 in the CA account.

Allan Carlson welcomed and introduced Thomas Ledwell, Chief of Frederick City Police and Deputy Chief Capt. Patrick Grossman.

Thomas Ledwell informed the audience of his early interest in police work. After graduating from Wheaton HS, he entered the Univ of MD as a business major and joined his older brother on squad car “Ride ons.” He changed his major, graduating from the police training academy. He has been involved in police work for the past 21 years in Frederick, gaining experience in various departments such as special operations, drug enforcement, SWAT, canine, and emergency preparedness, all while rising through the ranks.

Chief Ledwell then described changes that he has instituted in police work. These include using data driven crime analysis, creating a performance evaluation that reflects clear expectations and accountability for personnel and concise procedures for supervisors, liaisons for all communities via NAC meetings, and a focus on problem solving that is proactive and rational rather than reactionary.

Chief Ledwell gave examples of data used to predict crime. He described an algorithm that combines geography with other data such as time of day and type of crime to predict what is statistically likely to occur. Other data he shared, such as 8% of the population commit 80% of petty and bigger crimes, and the increased vulnerability of a crime victim to be revictimized within two weeks of the original crime were intriguing to the attendees.

Chief Ledwell now has a Masters Degree in Business and continues to lead the Dept. in evolving strategies for real-time data use to target deployments. Even though the department is short 20 officers, police can, during non-deployment times, be visible in targeted areas during statistically active times.

The final part of Chief Ledwell’s formal presentation covered the need for police to avoid becoming cynical due to limited interactions with only a small part of the city’s population. To counteract this, Chief Ledwell involves officers with a larger segment of their community through the NAC process, where problem solving, listening and meeting residents are key components.

Several questions from the audience followed the presentation. These included asking about involving officers in schools and with adults. Capt. Grossman explained that there is a PAL program outreach with juveniles, a Citizens Police Academy for adults, and officers assigned to elementary schools.

Other questions involved the data given earlier. Why is there a statistic likelihood of a repeat victimization? Chief Ledwell explained that this may be due to geography and patterns of behavior.

The dinner meeting ended at 8:35pm with Allan Carlson thanking the guests. A picture was taken with the officers and members of the Civic Association Board.

Submitted by Dedra Salitrik, secretary