

**CRIME FREE HOUSING ORDINANCE TASK FORCE
(APPROVED)
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday March 21st, 2013 7:00P.M.**

Members: Alderman Ken Kinsella – Chairman
Alderman Dean Hardt
Kevin Bouse
Linda Havlin (Excused)
John Masur
Dan Nollman
Tricia Tialdo
Mayor Eckert

Staff : Assistant City Attorney Brian Flynn
Robert Sabo

Guests: Alderman Tim Carpenter
Alderman Phil Elmore
Alderman Joe Hayden
Alderman Dorothy Meyer
Alderman Lillian Schneider
Alderman James Musgrove
Jeff Dell
Lillian Munie
Michael Hagberg
Lee Griffin
Kyle Anderson

Chairman Kinsella called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M.

The Crime Free Housing Ordinance committee was introduced.

John Masur made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 14th, 2013 meeting second by Alderman Hardt.

After the Pledge of Allegiance Chairman Kinsella gave an overview of the Crime Free Housing Ordinance draft specifically outlining sections 33-3-2 Crime Free Housing Committee, 33-3-3 Scope, 33-3-7 Rental Property Registration, 33-3-8 Administrative Appeals, 33-3-9 Rental Property Registration Form, 33-3-10 Local Agent Required, 33-3-11 Crime Free Housing Certificate, 33-3-12 Rental/Lease Agreement Addendum, 33-3-13 US Comprehensive Criminal Search, 33-3-14 US Comprehensive Criminal Search Verification, 33-3-15 Crime Free Rental Agreement Addendum, 33-3-16 Reporting of Activity at Rental Units, 33-3-17 Crime Free Housing Certificate, 33-3-18 Crime Free Housing Certificate Suspension and Revocation, 33-3-19 Fines and 33-3-20 Section 3 Expiration Date, which was agreed upon to expire on April 30th,2017.

Chairman Kinsella asked for comments from the committee members.

Kevin Bouse related that the appointed committee will be able to monitor the crime statistics for effectiveness and make revisions as needed to this ordinance..

John Masur stated that as a landlord himself, it will have an impact on him however the overall benefit will be a team effort to resolve issues. The appointed committee will also be able to monitor the financial spending of the fees collected.

The Mayor wished to place on record that the money collected from this ordinance would be used to hire one full time Housing Officer and one support staff personnel. Additional cost would be towards a Hearing officer. All money collected from this ordinance would be accounted for.

Chairman Kinsella advised that under the Crime Free Housing committee section it should read in part: The mayor shall appoint the committee and it shall consist of two home occupied property owners, not two property owners.

Chairman Kinsella opened the floor for comments from the guests.

Alderwoman Meyer had a question regarding the hiring of a police officer as to whether it would be a current officer on the force or a specific hire for the housing department. Mayor Eckert responded that the hiring would be at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Alderman Elmore inquired as to the police officers' role in the Crime Free Housing Ordinance. Kevin Bouse responded that all police officers on the department must be orientated in the Crime Free Housing program.

Alderman Carpenter questioned the fee collection and the cost of the program itself. He also was concerned with the aspect of eviction for engagement in illegal activity outside of the rental property. Kevin Bouse stated that the fees collected will be used for an additional officer and support personnel. The illegal activity is generally related to the property itself.

Joyce Schriber does not believe that a background check is necessary if she rents to a relative. John Masur explained that the committee did not wish to start making exclusions for certain renters.

Michael Hagberg requested that the wording in section 33-3-2 be changed from two times a year to every six months to avoid back to back meetings. The Committee agreed to change the verbiage to a minimum of every six months.

Kyle Anderson believes that under 33-3-10 Local Agent Required 24 hours should be changed to 48 hours. The Committee felt that as worded, whom can be contacted on a 24 hour basis, was appropriate and could be reviewed later by the committee.

Alderman Joe Hayden wanted clarification on the four calls in a six month period and the exchange of the RIF information. It was explained that the calls do not pertain to petty offenses such as children playing out in the roadway and that the RIF form itself is an exchange of information between the police and landlords. Mr. Hayden also questioned the verification for the background checks. It was expressed that the background checks are a tool for the landlord/owner to use in determining whether to rent to a potential tenant.

Lillian Munie asked if a background check was necessary on her present tenant. She was informed that a background check is for new tenants' only, not existing ones.

Lee Griffin spoke of the absence of minorities on the committee and housing department itself. Mr. Griffin complained of harassment by the housing officers.

Alderwoman Lillian Schneider commented that this ordinance should go through the legal ordinance committee and should not be voted on before the election. Mayor Eckert related that there was no pressure to rush this ordinance before the election and that it would not be before the City Council until

April 15th at the earliest.

Bob White discussed the eviction process and wanted to know the possibility of having a City Court. He was informed that the development of a City Court could be considered at a later date.

Alderman Joe Hayden supported the idea that the Crime Free Housing Ordinance Draft should first go through the Health and Housing committee and then to Legal.

With no further comments from guest, Chairman Kinsella closed the Public Hearing.

John Masur explained the process the committee went through to develop this ordinance and expressed that there was no pressure by anyone to rush this through before the election.

The Committee decided to bring the Crime Free Housing Ordinance to the Health and Housing Committee on April 3rd and then hold a joint Crime Free Housing Committee and Ordinance Committee on April 11th.

With no further business John Masur made a motion to adjourn second by Alderman Hardt.