

## **SMILE Community Safety Committee Meeting 10-24-2021**

**Attendees:** Rose, Committee Chair, Simon Fulford, SMILE President, and SMILE Members Rachel, Elise, Paula, Charmaine, Steven, Lance, Rosemary...

Rose welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their time. Rose stated that our intent was to gather input, ideas, concerns and interests. We then went around introducing ourselves and sharing thoughts:

Rachel: concerned we have many folks seemingly with mental health distress. Fear and concern for self and children in community. What more can we do for our community safety?

Elise: has called the police twice in the last month and had excellent response. Police seem understaffed and stretched.

Paula: Don't feel as safe as 18 months ago. Huge growth in tents and encampments. Health and safety concerns. Have had good interactions with the police.

Charmaine: Seen many car breakins. Concerned about mental health of individuals.

Steven. Police did not stop when he called about a house break-in. Looks like over 100 tents down near Oaks Bottom. Trash and hygiene concerns.

Lance: Recently moved to Sellwood from NW Portland. Seen and experienced many verbal assaults and threats of violence. Homicide occurred at the end of their street recently. Feels like a lack of information from the City on what is happening, crime, safety issues and how to keep self safe.

Rosemary: Been actively involved in community distributing care packages to homeless. Issue is getting worse. Hearing more gun shots.

Simon: Keen to see what role SMILE can play in supporting the community, what we can do City-wide on issues such as crime, safety and homelessness. SMILE can and should bring neighbors together, find common ground, local ways we can make the situation better and work with City and experts on the bigger picture issues we can't control.

Rose: Gave an overview of the City change from "Crime Prevention" to "Community Safety" and from "Neighborhood Watch" to "Neighbors Together". Provided hand out from Office of Community and Civic Life.

### **Ideas and Proposals:**

- Continue letter writing from SMILE to City and County officials with our concerns and requests for impact on community safety
- Would like to know who are community police officers are? How to link with them? Share info with community.
- We should share relevant reporting phone lines and info for different situations. When to call 911, 311, other numbers/web-portals....
- Suggested we create a better link between NET and Community Safety Committee

The group requested that the Community Safety Committee have a set meeting time and schedule, perhaps once per quarter. Rose to take forward getting schedule set up.

Meeting ended at 3:33pm.