

**Safe Neighborhoods Committee Meeting
November 22, 2022**

A meeting of the Safe Neighborhoods committee was held at the Faith Harvest Baptist Church on Nutland Road, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Roosevelt Wright, Jr., who was appointed by SEDD president Tony Little at the November 8, 2022, board meeting.

The committee members present were: Roosevelt Wright, Jr., Otis Jones, Rev. James Jackson, Rev. T.J. Stevenson, Minister Verbon Muhammad, and Mrs. Jeanette Modicue. Rev. Sam Moore was absent.

Minister Muhammad was selected as the vice-chair of the committee representing community advisors.

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the November 12, 2022, meeting and the November 15, 2022, meeting with TBA Associates.

The members reviewed notes of the November 15, 2022, meeting with TBA Associates, in which Tim Brandon, TBA president, said his company will prepare a master plan for three model neighborhoods, one in each district that will be a snapshot of what SEDD is trying to accomplish in each district. His company will suggest several sites in each district, approximately six to ten blocks square, that can take advantage of special designations, tax credits, etc. SEDD will decide on the sites from the TBA suggestions. The model neighborhoods will all have closed ditches, underground utility lines, a police resource center, maximum night lights, a playground area, and security cameras.

TBA will develop the proposal for presentation at the SEDD December meeting. It will insure that all laws, codes, ordinances, and legal requirements are included. It will be a turnkey plan that will be executed in phases.

On motion of Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Wright, the model neighborhoods project was selected as the committee's top priority, with the unanimous approval of the committee's advisory members.

The Committee discussed all 14 of the projects in SEDD Goal #6. There was special emphasis on Project 5, police substations; project 2, pedestrian and handicapped access to public facilities; and project 14, increased mental health assistance.

Mr. Wright said the committee's objective is to review the committee's list of projects and submit two projects for the consideration of the SEDD board at its December 12, meeting. At the suggestion of Rev. Stevenson, a 15th project was included that would reduce homelessness.

The committee's discussion focused on crime reduction items in our project list and concluded that crime reduction should be the second major project of the committee. It was approved by both commissioners and all community advisory members.

The committee concluded that the model neighborhoods would be a costly item since it involved the development of a professional master plan. It concluded that the safe neighborhood projects would be planned initially from meetings with parish and city law enforcement officials, mental health professionals, and Monroe Housing Authority.

In subsequent sessions, the committee decided that it would begin work on the remaining 13 projects in our project list by developing a timeline and implementation strategy using volunteer resources where available.

Among the salient conclusions were:

—The importance of organizing landlords in South Monroe to encourage them to adopt similar rules as the Housing Authority that result in evictions if rental property tenants or guests were involved in criminal activity.

—The importance of seeking ways to expand mental health assistance, with a special note that this is a business opportunity as well.

—Organization of neighborhoods for citizen patrols and neighborhood pride would help reduce crime and increase resident involvement.

After 55 minutes of discussion and the adoption of two priority projects, the committee adjourned.