



**Minutes of the  
Safe Neighborhoods and Crime Reduction Committee  
SEDD Conference Room, 800 Washington Street**

**February 2, 2023**

The SEDD Safe Neighborhoods and Crime Reduction Committee met on February 2, 2023, at 800 Washington Street.

The roll was called, and the following members were present:

**Present:** Roosevelt Wright, Jr., chairman, Otis Jones

**Absent:** Preston Hopkins

Advisory members present were: Minister Verbon Muhammad, Jeanette Modicue, and Damin Coleman.

An invited guest was City Marshal Robert Cherry. SEDD chairman Tony Little was present as an observer.

There was a quorum.

After an invocation, Mr. Wright gave an overview of the committee's function.

**Community Policing**

The committee discussed its intent to develop a master plan for crime reduction in South Monroe by May to be presented at the June SEDD meeting. The master plan will show what role various groups in the city will play in creating a less violent atmosphere in South Monroe.

The first component of the plan will be to explore community policing. The committee discussed using city marshals as the primary law enforcement agency for community policing because they were

considered firm but friendly. In the three model communities being planned for SEDD in 2023, a community policing component will be included in each.

The committee explored the pros and cons of having a single deputy live in each of the prescribed neighborhoods instead of three deputies assigned to each neighborhood in eight-hour shifts. Marshal Cherry said his office would need to coordinate with the police department concerning many details. Marshal Cherry pledged to bring a complete perspective of how a community policing component in the three model neighborhoods could work along with projected costs. His projections and other community policing information would become a part of the SEDD master plan.

### **Ex-Offender adult mentors**

Damin Coleman proposed soliciting the services of “adult mentors” comprised of ex-offenders familiar with the criminal elements as service providers. He said there are about 15 ex-offenders who are actively trying to mentor young adult males in South Monroe; their efforts are isolated and unorganized. He said SEDD could take advantage of this untapped resource that would help some offenders from returning to lives of crime.

Mr. Coleman detailed how using ex-offenders to help resettled parolees and lead them away from becoming repeat offenders could help reduce crime since much of it is done by repeat offenders.

Minister Muhammad noted that the Nation of Islam uses a similar program to mentor ex-offenders. He explained how the Muslim program works.

Minister Muhammad and Mr. Coleman agreed to work together over the next month to combine their presentation ideas with costs at the next committee meeting with the goal of using adult mentors as a part of the SEDD crime reduction master plan.

### **Other Components**

The committee’s discussion concluded that resolving the crime problem in South Monroe will be a slow process involving hundreds of individuals, schools, churches, and civic organizations. Each role will be spelled out in the SEDD crime reduction master plan.

Mrs. Modicue and Rev. T. J. Stevenson were assigned the task of formulating ideas for involving youth and civic groups in the plan, detailing program ideas and costs to include youth mentoring and recreation into the crime reduction master plan.

Mr. Little emphasized that crime reduction will come when the community works cooperatively with law enforcement it trusts. He said it could not be done with raw police “force” but would happen when neighbors, civic groups, and hundreds of volunteers join together to make it happen.

Mr. Wright thanked Mr. Jones for allowing us to meet in the comfort of his comfort room which was used as the first conference room for SEDD many years ago.

After one hour of deliberation, the committee adjourned.