

Improving the Efficiency of Fire Services in Seven Southwestern Cuyahoga County  
Communities

A Joint Project of Area Majors and Baldwin-Wallace College

Community Relations Team Meeting  
August 18, 2006

Attending Meeting: Jim Astorino, Bernard Benedict, Powell W. Caesar, III, Eric Fingerhut, Jack Kafer, Kim Lammers, Patricia A. Pell, and Martin Zanotti.

Introduction: Eric Fingerhut- all the teams are working well, happy how progress is being made.

Responsibilities of Community Relations Team:

- Strategy Team will handle the day to day press releases and questions.
- Nancy will work directly with the Strategy Team and try to attend or send an associate to the Community Relations' meetings.
- The Community Relations Team is responsible for long-term plans.
  - To keep aware of the public and community feelings.
  - Make plans and send publications out.

**Grants**

The project applied for a Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service grant. Letters of support were written by Jim Astorino, Martin Zanotti, and Congressman Denis Kucinich. Senator Mike DeWine's office has been updated on the project and seems to have positive feelings toward the project, we may have his support.

The team was given a short overview of how to apply for a grant through the Cleveland Foundation. First, we will need to write an inquiry and if okayed, then we will submit a grant proposal.

The Community Relations Team will be expected to help fund raise, when possible.

**Union**

The union members still fear job-cuts with the idea of regionalization. The team will meet with the union members to update slightly before they meet with the press.

The Community Relations Team felt that a newsletter or pamphlet of some kind would be beneficial to keeping rank and file, council members, and local chambers of commerce updated. Suggested that the newsletter be sent out either every other month or quarter, on an as needed basis. The newsletter will describe who the newsletter is intended for under the title (i.e. keeping rank and file, council members, and local chambers of commerce). It was suggested that the newsletter be made electronically available so that it might be e-mailed or put on the web-site. The newsletter will be created by Sean Gilmore and some of his students.

### **Speaking**

Martin Zanotti will be speaking with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the project. A team of speakers (or a representative of the speaker) will be invited to attend including: Jim Astorino, Bernard Benedict, Eric Fingerhut, and Martin Zanotti. An invitation will be extended to other chambers to attend and the goal is to have this accomplished by the first quarter of 2007. The speakers' bureau will enlist Sean Gilmore and some of his students to create a PowerPoint presentation.

### **Groups to Contact**

The city councils must be kept up to date on the project; they must know what is happening ahead of the community. The speakers' bureau should speak with all 7 city councils in the first quarter of 2007. At the end of the year set up a meeting with the mayors. By the end of the year a broad outline of legal and finance for the project will be developed.

Senior citizens' groups must be kept aware of what is happening with the project. The speakers' bureau will need to get in touch with such groups by the first quarter of 2007. The same is needed for other groups including, but not limited to: PTAs, School boards, Kiwanis, Rotaries, and Ministers. Police and other service industries may have questions as to how regionalization will affect them.

### **Other Issues**

Suggested that the Finance Team research city budgets to demonstrate the percentage that each city spent on fire and EMS for 1985, 1995, and 2005. This information could be added to the newsletter. Also, polling and statistics from the study may be added to the newsletter.

The next Community Relations Team meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 7:30am. The meeting will be held in the Colony Room in the school Union.

## **Tasks**

Please find single contacts for as many of these groups as possible:

Chambers of Commerce

City Councils- Mayors (Mayor Zanotti will be responsible to contact)

Senior Citizen groups

PTAs

School Boards

Kiwanis

Rotaries

Ministers

Others

I need a contact for each group from each city. Each of you will be responsible to gather as much information as possible from your city. If you are unaware of any contacts please navigate me toward a person who may know. Some cities are doubled up on, but the more information the easier it is on me.

Powell Caesar- Parma

Chief Benedict- Middleburg Heights

Joe Campagna- Parma Heights

Chief Duchoslav- Brooklyn

Jack Kafer- Berea

Mayor Patton- Brooklyn

Pat Pell- Parma and other local chambers

Mark Ramach- Brook Park

Mayor Zanotti- Parma Heights

Kim Lammers- Olmsted Falls

Thanks for your help; perhaps some of these organizations will have contacts for the same group in other cities.

Sean Gilmore- your tasks include designing a newsletter and a PowerPoint presentation for the speakers' bureau. Ask Eric.

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