Safety committee meeting, March 16, 2021

1. Introductions
2. Brandon: Shootings at Westhaven a few days ago. A bullet came close to hitting a child at Westhaven. Buck Squad was not at Westhaven that night because they were short staffed.
3. Resident: shots were fired from Westhaven that went all the way to Anderson Street. What are we dealing with here? Being blamed on Hardy Drive. What kind of ammunition is being used?
4. John Sales: did not happen on the property but happened across the street from the property according to a resident. But the paper said it was the 800 block of Hardy Dr.
5. Wandae Johnson: two additional residents don’t think that this happened at Westhaven.
6. Resident: lives at Westhaven and didn’t hear anything and right in first driveway if you come from the side near the hospital. No arguing, no gunshots, no large crowd
7. John Sales: questioning if it happened in Westhaven.
8. Resident: was security around? Did they see anything?
9. Shooting happened at 7 am and security was not on site at that side?
10. Resident: thinks there should be a police investigation to see if the shooting really did come from Westhaven since our communities are already cast in a bad light.
11. Resident: Hard to have a community response when things are so confusing and not clear if this happened in public housing at all. Perpetuates stereotypes of the community
12. Resident: Where did the news get their information from? How do they have information that no one else can get information from?
13. Mr. Sales: will reach out to the PD to get more information
14. Resident: Saw Buck squad over by South First Street on Thursday. Few kids interacted with them
15. Ms. April Oliver: See Buck Squad around a lot. Concept is great. Reservations are the news cameras that were brought to South First Street on Thursday. News cameras at S. 1st St. is a safety issue because people can find out where people live. Residents should be aware when media is present.
16. CRHA staff did not know that the event was going to happen in advance but will work with Buck Squad to make sure that they let PHAR know and things can be properly noticed in the future.
17. Buck Squad joined PHAR internship program on Friday. Talked about how the Buck Squad is trying to build connections in the Westhaven community.
18. Resident: Buck Squad is focused on younger children rather than older men, but wants attention on the older men, too.
19. Resident: can we get more coordination between the Buck Squad and services that are already there such as the Westhaven Clinic. Need coordination and boundaries.
20. Mr. Sales: normally have an MOU with organizations that come in saying what they can or can’t do. CRHA is legally liable for orgs that come in. Right now, no contract or funding. Think we should get an MOU together until a contract comes through.
21. Ms. Oliver: build a role model relationship for children with this group. Mr. Sales agrees that a community-based model is best
22. Feedback on Century Force: residents are not impressed. Residents don’t think they’re engaged, felt Millennium was more engaged and did more walking around. This team does not seem to do any of that. Watched them watch people. Not that familiar with the community. While Millennium was almost too familiar, Century Force doesn’t know where to start to build relationships. Matches what we were told about their duties in terms of observing and reporting but a desire for them to be more involved.
23. Brandon Collins: If Century Force can’t intervene in bad situations and can’t issue barments, then they aren’t serving the community.
24. Wandae Johnson: If we move more towards community safety initiatives, that’s great, but Crescent Halls might still need security.
25. April Oliver: community based services will be more effective in her opinion.
26. Resident: we need to come together either through these meetings or in some other capacity to decide what a community-based solution looks like for us. Have to think carefully about this. Wants to know what this will look like.
27. Mr. Sales: want to take a collaborative approach to this issue. Let’s schedule a workshop to figure out what community wants.
28. Brandon Collins: If we start to consider getting rid of security, can we peel off the Crescent Halls situation there? Don’t want to get rid of something before having a plan to replace it with something that’s going to be better. We should also clarify what the Buck Squad will do, especially if they’re billing themselves as not a security company.
29. Lots of problem with bus transit routes and shelters. Bus shelter at Lankford A S. First got shot to shreds twice and CAT refused to replace it.