



Legislation Details (With Text)

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GPD's Restorative Justice Program (B)

GPD's Restorative Justice Program development began in September 2006 with staff attending a Best Practices conference in Missouri to understand what Restorative Justice is, the method it is delivered and the infrastructure necessary to support such a program. Gainesville faces complicated issues when contending with crime and quality of life. These issues can interfere with the security and peace of our community while at times hampering the system created to maintain peace, prevent crime, provide law enforcement services and the ability to deliver justice. Many argue the system leaves victims and the communities affected feeling like third parties with little involvement in the outcome or remedy.

Restorative Justice is a diversion program aimed at creating binding agreements between victims, offenders and community boards. These agreements place emphasis on repairing the harm to the victim and the affected community while attempting to help offenders develop the competencies necessary to not re-offend. Typically, cases referred involve first time offenders and minor crimes.

The focus on victims and our communities makes this program compatible with our policing mission and envelop all affected stakeholders in remedies. Community based resolution is responsive and prudent. It has been our experience that success in police/community initiatives is dependant upon collaboration and involvement by all stakeholders during concept development and planning.

To date, the following has occurred:

- 1) Staff to Best Practices Conference in September 2006;
- 2) Stakeholder Presentation November 2006;
- 3) Presentation to existing Diversion Program Coordinators March 2007;
- 4) Staff Research;
- 5) Identified the Program Planning Committee;
- 6) Hired Dr. Pat Grunder as our Community Relations Coordinator and Project Manager for our Restorative Justice and Center for Community Conflict Resolution Programs March 2008;
- 7) First Planning Committee Meeting June 2008 - This committee will serve as a Policy Board/Steering Committee and consists of the following members: GPD Chief Botsford, Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell, State Attorney Bill Cervone, Public Defender Rick Parker, Victim Advocate Director Loretta Golden, Gainesville City Attorney Marion Radson, Gainesville Assistant City Manager Paul Folkers, Juvenile Justice Circuit Supervisor Wayland Clifton, Chief Circuit Judge Frederick Smith and GPD Community Relations Coordinator Tony Jones.

None

The City Commission hear a presentation from staff.

