

*Important Info
for Board Meeting*

To: Bd. of Comm's
Mr. Denck
FYI: Pres. O. Brum

11/9/10

October 30, 2010

10th Ward Community Meeting Concerning CPD Training Facility

Speakers

ITEM 38

- Alderman John Pope
- Lieutenant Raymond Hamilton, Chicago Police Department
- Fraternal Order of Police representative Sidney Davis
- Police Benevolent & Protective Association representative Lieutenant Mike Ryan
- Kimberly Worthington, Department of Environment
- Aaron Durnbaugh, Department of Environment
- Representatives from Huff and Huff engineering

Organizations Present

- Village of Burnham
- South-east Chicago Observer
- Southeast Environmental Task Force
- SOAR
- Calumet Environmental Protection Association
- Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce
- M&M Windjammer
- Chicago Audubon Society

Brief Summary

- Alderman Pope opened the meeting with a welcome and greeting
- Lieutenant Raymond Hamilton gave an overview of why the facility was needed, steps that were taken to identify this location and to address the concerns of the community, environmental groups, and birdwatchers. He said the Department is willing to provide access to the bird-watching community once the property is under the Department's control. He also said that numerous businesses in the community are excited about more police presence and the possibility of economic benefit from officers traveling to and from the location.
- Representative Sidney Davis of the Fraternal Order of Police spoke about the need for this facility and that his membership supports the project.
- Representative Michael Ryan of the Police Benevolent & Protective Association spoke about the need for this facility and that his membership supports the project.
- Aaron Durnbaugh from the Department of the Environment spoke about the success of the Lincoln Park Lagoon Project and that it had no long-term effect on the bird population. He also related that birds are extremely adaptive and that this was very evident due to the large amount of industry in the Hegewisch region. Aaron talked about the millions of dollars that

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have been spent by the Department of the Environment in the region for preservation of land and wildlife. He understood and related that people and animals in the area must coexist.

- Huff and Huff Engineering talked about how the sound study was conducted and expanded due to requests from community groups. They also addressed boring samples, groundwater samples, and background levels of contamination on the site.

Concerns Discussed

- Carolyn Marsh of the Chicago Audubon Society addressed the group regarding her concerns about the impact this facility would have on wildlife in the area. Specifically, she stated that she saw 18 nests of egrets and blue herrings during a visit on July 29, 2009. She specifically addressed the representative from the Department of the Environment and stated that the only study that was done was via a computer and that on-site monitoring was never performed. She furthermore questioned the truthfulness of statements made by Lieutenant Hamilton and Aaron Durnbaugh. She stated to the group that a long-term study was needed to determine what impact a shooting facility would have on the birds in the area.
- Judith Lihota asked for clarification from the sound engineer about how and where the readings were taken. She also raised concerns about the runoff from the CID landfill onto the location of the proposed training facility and the need for that to be monitored.
- Peggy Salazar of the TIF Advisory Panel raised concerns over why this panel was told that the CID landfill when closed would be developed as a public space. Kimberly Worthington from the Department of Environment related that she viewed the long-term plan of the CID landfill and that it was not in the permits to fully open this facility. Alderman Pope also added that it had never been part of the long term plan.
- Mayor Robert Polk of the Village of Burnham asked questions regarding whether or not gunfire would be heard by his residence. The sound engineer explained again how the measurements were taken and that no noise would be heard in his village. The Mayor also inquired as to whether jobs would come from building this facility. Lieutenant Raymond Hamilton responded that he couldn't speak to the availability of construction jobs. But many of the local business leaders were excited about the influx of officers coming to train and frequent businesses near the facility. He also raised concerns about the impact this would have on the proposed bike path. Lieutenant Hamilton responded that this would not affect the bike path project.
- One couple from Indiana spoke to the group about residing near a live fire range. She related that she heard gun fire and that it is troublesome. Lieutenant Raymond Hamilton again emphasized that procedures will be

put in place at this facility to ensure no disturbance to the residents will occur.

- The Lake Calumet Ecological Association related that they had fought against the Calumet airport expansion, and was not fighting the police, but stated that the firing range was not part of their vision.
- The Southeast Environmental Task Force stated that they were skeptical, because the city did not come to them. Rather, they heard about this project via other sources.