

April 4, 2018
City Manager's Roundtable
The MERGE Building
Meeting time 12-1 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Anderson, Anthony Branch, Ashley Monroe, Bill Campbell, Chad Dyson, Charlie Eastham, Geoff Fruin, Henri Harper, James Throgmorton, Jean-Paul Mugemuzi, Jody Matherly, Joe Coulter, Juli Seydell-Johnson, Kristin Watson, Mazahir Salih, Melva Hughes, Orville Townsend, Sr., Rafael Morataya, RaQuishia Harrington, Royceann Porter, Shannon McMahan, Simon Andrew, Stefanie Bowers, Susan Craig, Tracy Hightshoe.

Others present: Melody Dworak, Bob Miklo, Kate Moreland, Pastor Lear.

Meeting overview

Iowa City Area Development Group & MERGE

The Iowa City Area Development Group (ICAD) is committed to enhancing the economic vitality of the Iowa City area. The organization works to strengthen local communities with a strong business climate and employment opportunities.

MERGE Innovation Space is designed to create and cultivate a knowledge ecosystem for entrepreneurs and startups, it offers vital resources and connections to successfully create, launch, and grow new companies in Iowa's Creative Corridor.

Preserving Black History in Iowa City

Iowa City recently received a grant from the National Park Service to help preserve the Tate Arms Home, 914 S. Dubuque Street, and the Iowa Federation Home, 942 Iowa Avenue. The grant includes developing educational material about the history of the homes. Both homes provided residency to Black University students from 1870s to 1940s when the University excluded Black students from campus dormitories.

Police Department Update

The Police Department is sponsoring a program on Hate Crimes, along with the Department of Justice, the NAACP, FBI and the University of Iowa Department of Public Safety. The event is scheduled for April 9 at 6:30 PM in the University Capitol Centre.

The Community Police Review Board's Community Forum will be held April 23 at 6 PM in meeting room A at the Public Library.

Only 30 percent of persons receiving B.U.L.B.S! vouchers are actually using them to fix their vehicles. The Building Unity Linking Businesses for Safety, or B.U.L.B.S!, was started in the fall of 2017 by the ICPD and partnered with local repair shops to replace burnt out vehicle lights for free for those who cannot afford to replace burnt out lights. While officers can still issue citations for equipment violations, the goal of B.U.L.B.S! is to give an option to officers to assist a driver experiencing financial or personal hardship a means to avoid costly fines, repairs, and the inconvenience and frustration of being stopped due to a burnt-out light.

Fliers were distributed throughout the United Kingdom that read, "Punish a Muslim Day" and made their way through social media. The Police Department was made aware by the FBI of these fliers being distributed in the United Kingdom, but do not believe any were distributed in the states.

Items of Note

The library does allow youth the ability to check out books over the summer even if fines are owed.

Youth in the community have been frequently visiting the Police Substation afterschool to hang out.

The 2018 Building Business Basics course for entrepreneurs will be held on May 5 starting at 9:30 AM. The event will be held at the Kirkwood Community College Iowa City Campus.

Parks and Recreation has many improvement projects occurring at City parks over the course of the summer.

The next City Manager's Roundtable is Wednesday, June 6.

Notes prepared by Stefanie Bowers.