

## **February 23, 2021 TGHNA meeting: via Zoom**

7:17 Welcome

Greeting and intro from Patrick Weber, 2021 TGHNA President.

**SLMPD Neighborhood Liaison's report : Officer Slade:** He is retiring. His replacement is Officer Nicole Walker. We will miss him.

There were 2 Cat Converter thefts earlier this month and 2 burglaries. Toyota Prius and Honda Element seem to be the targets for the Cat Converter thefts. Warn your friends and visitors if they have one of these cars. We will keep rotating the Sky Cap.

**15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderperson Megan Green's report:** no report tonight. Not present.

**Neighborhood Improvement Specialist report: Katie Wolf:** No report. Not present.

**Guest Speakers: Mayoral Candidates:** Each will introduce themselves and then will answer pre-submitted questions:

**Andrew Jones:** "I'm an ordinary citizen, like in the movie "Taken". (Note: I've not seen that movie so have no idea what that means). I'm a Utility Exec with a MBA. The City is in horrible shape. I'm the Plan Man. We need an Economic Development Plan. We need to allow our police to do their jobs and not scapegoat them. Public safety is a huge issue and also bringing down the homicide rate.

**Tishaura Jones:** We need to deal with the harsh realities of the past. Where do people go when tragedy hits? It took me ten years to get over my mother's death from cancer. People should be able to succeed in our city regardless of race, gender, sexual preference, etc.

**Lewis Reed:** Thank you to TGH for having this forum. It's critical to do these kinds of things. I've had personal tragedies. My brother was shot and killed. I was homeless in high school. We need safer neighborhoods, econ recovery from Covid, better schools, and a stronger, safer and more unified StL. I was Alder in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward and did good things there.

**Cara Spencer:** Thank you to TGH for inviting us. I reigned in the payday lenders, and took the lead in stopping the privatization of the St Louis airport. We must get serious about the violence in this city and make StL what we all know it can be.

### **Questions:**

**What is one thing we all do not know about you?**

**AJ:** I'm a voracious reader and like to read about history and human capital.

**TJ:** I'm a nerd. I like Star Wars and Star Trek.

**LR:** I'm a skateboarder and I race dirt bikes. I take a big trip every year on my motorcycle. I like show tunes and chicken wings.

**CS:** Cara was still at a previous meeting and missed this question.

**What are the 1 year and 4 year goals of your public safety plan?**

**TJ:** 1 year: different deployment of police, and public safety. We need fewer police involved shootings.

4 year: There will be no police involved shootings. Crime will be down. The Workhouse will be closed. The City Jail will be rehabbed and the jailed will be treated with respect. There will be no cash bail for non-violent offenses.

**LR:** 1 yr: There will be a comprehensive data-driven public safety plan, we will reduce in size the police districts. They are currently too large. There will be a 50% reduction in the murder rate. We will do this through the Cure Violence Program.

4 yr: There will be a 70% increase in the closure rate of murder cases.

**CS:** 1 yr: I will study what other cities have done to address violence. What we are doing now isn't working. Cure Violence is a long term solution. We need short term solutions too. We will focus on those most at risk.

4 yr: We will have addressed deficiencies within the police department.

**AJ:** 1 yr: The people doing the homicides are less than 1% of the population. They are involved in drugs, narcotics and gangs. We must get these criminals off the streets. We need more police. The police are not the problem.

4 yr: did not address.

**What role can neighborhood associations play in strengthening the city?**

**LR:** Next Door can help. It is currently in all of our neighborhoods. Neighborhood Associations play a major role in redevelopment, and budget meetings.

**CS:** I was on the Boards of the TGE and the Marine Villa NAs. Our neighborhoods have been carved up into Wards which are not always a good fit with the actual neighborhood. SLACO can help.

**AJ:** The neighborhoods are the eyes, heart beat, ears and moral compass of our city. They implement best practices.

**TJ:** All are not created equally. Some NAs on the North side don't have meetings as well attended as this one; for various reasons. I would try to get more people involved. I would bring department heads to meetings.

### **How can the Mayor's office improve vaccine distribution in the City?**

**CS:** The State and Federal governments have failed us. We got the vaccine late. Our application was late. I have been holding meetings through my aldermatic committee on Health. We need mass distribution sites now and we need to make sure people have access. The County now has some mobile sites. I will try to get them for the City too.

**AJ:** Everyone is having a problem. There is no maliciousness on anyone's part. Bringing businesses back is just as critical as vaccines.

**TJ:** The City Health Dept. doesn't have services now. I'm open to a partnership with St. Louis County.

**LR:** The Governor and the State have absolutely failed us. Why are the vaccines being funneled through St. Louis County? Our State has failed us. People need access. They need ways to be put on the lists for vaccines. The Convention Center could be a great mass site for vaccines, but first we need them in hand.

### **What is one positive program currently that you would not change?**

**AJ:** The police, EMS and the Fire Department.

**TJ:** I would not change my College Plus savings program for school children. I would also like to have free college for them.

**LR:** It would be the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. It helps families in desperate need and they have great employees.

**CS:** Cops and Clinicians. Social Workers help answer 911 calls and go with police officers to respond to mental health issues. I would expand this program that began under the Krewson Admin.

### **Closing remarks from each candidate:**

**TJ:** Thank you to TGHNA. I have 8 years experience in the Treasurers Office. I have a huge budget and staff. I dream bigger in terms of real, transformational change.

**LR:** Thank you to TGHNA and thanks to all of you for staying engaged in your community. I learned from my mother that it is not about you, but about the people that you serve. I've been in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair for many years. This is one of the most divided cities in the Country and I'd like to work on that.

**CS:** Thank you all. In 2015, the only free pool on the Southside, Marquette, closed. I worked to get it open again. It's a symbol of what we can do if we try. And selling off our airport is not the answer to our problems.

**AJ:** I'm duty-bound to do something about the City of StL. We need new blood and a new philosophy. I'm it. I have a corporate background.

**President's Report: Patrick Weber:** none

**Treasurer Report: Rick Stein:** There were no expenses in Jan. We took in \$675 in memberships and \$315 in Gazette ads. There was a \$50 donation for Safety. Our net worth is \$10,848.37.

**Membership report: Jean Iezzi:** via email: 404 members. We are still handing out Welcome Packets.

**Social Committee:** none currently. We are looking for a Chair.

**Block Captain report: Debra Knox Deierman:** Still not meeting. BCs are delivering Gazettes.

**Communication Committee: Debra Knox Deierman:** we have 739 on Mail Chimp and 732 contacts.

**Safety Committee Report: Ryan Barry:** via email: We are working to set up a fundraiser for a bench in TG Park in Officer Bohannon's honor. We will also be conducting a sidewalk survey to identify sidewalks in need of repair this spring, and present the findings to NIS Katie Wolf.

**Adjourn:** 8:42 PM

Submitted by Sharon Angle