

St. Johns Civic Roundtable Meeting
August 8, 2016

Call to Order: President Lofgren opened the meeting at 9:07am.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the July 11, 2016 Civic Roundtable meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: A balance of \$512.59 is currently in our account with 11 paid organization members.

President Lofgren introduced our featured speaker St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar. Sheriff Shoar's extensive educational and service background was outlined beginning with the St. Augustine Police Department in 1981. After rising in the ranks to Chief of Police and achieving a Bachelor' and Masters Degree in Criminal Justice from the university of North Florida, David was elected to his first term as Sheriff in 2004. He was re-elected in 2008 and 2012 and is currently a candidate for another term. Sheriff Shoar also attended the FBI Academy course on ethics in policing.

Sheriff Shoar is most proud in helping to develop a baccalaureate program at Flagler College in Public Administration. It's low cost has helped many in public service become college graduates.

Intelligence led Policing: This model has moved the focus of policing in the Sheriff's Department from a "reactive" mode whereby police respond to crimes, to a pro-active mode attempting to prevent them in the first place.

Sheriff Shoar introduced Lt. David Tarbor, who explained some of the intelligence work used to identify the most active criminals and the effort to suppress the activity of these prolific offenders. This approach developed by Dr. Jerry Ratcliffe (Temple University) has been shown to reduce the high crime rate by these selected "bad guys". This contributes to the "Common Sense" policing model used in our county.

St. Johns County is divided into four districts, each with its' own police commander. The total area is 609 sq. miles with a population of 200,000 not counting visitors. St. Johns County is faced with a rapidly growing population (53,000 new residents since 2004). The number of patrols has stayed about the same with future growth making more demands on a limited budget.

Interesting Statistics: Of 1000 crimes only 410 are reported. Of those, 287 are written up by police ultimately resulting in 75 offenders detained. 37 of those offenders are summoned resulting in 15 convictions. The final result is 4 convicted offenders are handed a custodial sentence.

Sheriff Shoar pointed out the role of drug addiction and mental illness in contributing to criminal activity. The department has donated \$150,000 to establish detox facilities to serve the addicts in our county. The funds come from seized assets . Of the 500 prisoners in the county jail, 25% belong in other facilities that could treat their underlying problems. The department is about to hire their first mental health professional.

Rise in heroin use tied to Rx pain reliever addiction.
Most noticeable increase in white middle class women.

The future:

- 1) Training center needed – land has been purchased. St. Johns County has 1.2 police per 1000 population vs. a national average of 1.9 per 1000.
- 2) A variety of other issues were covered including police in libraries and schools, police violence issues, new drugs to escape current laws, and domestic violence

President Lofgren introduced Joanna Nelson, MPH, senior epidemiologist from the St. Johns County Health Department. Ms. Nelson gave us an update on the Zika virus situation.

The Zika Virus was first noticed in 1947 in Africa became endemic in some pacific islands finally spreading to South America and parts of the Caribbean.

It is spread primarily by mosquito (*Aedes Aegypti* and possibly *albopictus*) bites that transfer the virus from one human host to another.

Tips: 1) Know where you are traveling.

2) Check CDC web page for information

3) Sexual transmission: Several cases of sexual transmission reported.

4) If infected you may remain infectious for 3 weeks after returning from endemic area

5) Microcephaly and serious neurological defects have been caused by infections during pregnancy. We have no natural immunity and a vaccine is not currently available.

While there have been no locally acquired cases, Miami Dade County has reported some cases in the Wynwood District.

Ms Nelson noted that mosquito borne virus is not new to us noted the warning issued for Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

Sentinel chickens are placed in various places around the county exposed to local mosquito populations. They can give early warning to the presence of various virus threats. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos, the vector for Zika have been found in central St. Augustine, but not in the

surrounding areas of the county. These mosquitos unlike many other species are active during the day.

The caution was to dump & drain bird baths frequently as these as well as other still fresh water receptacles that can be breeding sites for mosquitos. Some plants (Vermillion) can hold water that may be a suitable breeding site.

Joanna Nelson is available to speak to organizations on public health issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08am

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis Froio, Secretary