

Month of Reported Progress:

July

PACE EH Coordinator/Contact Name:

Julianne Price

CHD Name:

Indian River

EH Manager/ Administrator:

Cheryl Dunn

Has EH Manager/Administrator reviewed and approved this report?:

No

Is your PACE EH survey complete?:

Yes

If your PACE EH survey is complete, list your PACE EH community's top identified issues.:

Top identified issues: lack of housing choices, transportation, neighborhood lighting, lack of business opportunity, and expanding community parks

Concisely summarize this month's activities.:

"Do what you can, where you can, with what you have."- Teddy Roosevelt This month's PACE EH activities included a pivotal moment when two divided groups in the community came together and resolved misunderstandings for the betterment of the community. Both groups are just starting out and are trying the best they can to take what resources they have and do something good for the community; however, miscommunications had created tension among community members and were beginning to divide the community. One group is a non-profit geared towards making housing improvements for those in need in Indian River County and the other is re-activating the Fellsmere Civic League. The tensions arose because the group re-activating the Fellsmere Civic League wanted the community leader, Annie Mae, who is the individual starting the housing improvement non-profit, to lead the civic league. Annie Mae declined, but instead wished to focus on her group. Rumors swirled that Annie Mae didn't think the Civic League was worth reactivating, and that she was trying to start a Civic League of her own.

Because of all the controversy, I chose to focus on resolving it at this month's community meeting on July 19th. I let both parties tell their sides and also discussed the history of the Fellsmere Civic League. After the residents were given "the facts" we discussed having the two groups work together and the community was in agreement that this was a good thing. Conversations regarding elections for the Civic League were discussed and in general, peace was made, and plans for the future discussed by the community as a whole. Unity occurred at the meeting and this was a very important accomplishment this month. I reiterated to the community that they must work together and highlighted the progress we have achieved thus far.

The City Manager, Jason, gave updates on the paving of the roads, the park improvements, and street lights. DCA requested additional paperwork, but physical improvements should be made within a few months. CRA funds for the community's residents were discussed and contractors were at the meeting to interact with resident's for the purpose of giving them the required three bids to make the CRA application complete.

Much of my time this month was spent researching and having one-on-one conversations with alleged "trouble makers" in the community who were spreading rumors and miscommunications. I had to find out the facts and facilitate a repair to the breach of unity. Sometimes pausing to take the time to do this is worth it as it's better to repair it now before the breach become a large divide. No, it's not focusing on EH issues directly but essential to moving forward with the progress we have accomplished thus far. It's social capital building of sorts and essential to the PACE EH process to enter this realm as holistically, it's looking at the big picture. If you can't see the big picture, you won't be able to put the pieces together. You can try, but they won't fit and you can't force them together.