



## **Belle Meade Community Group-*Kickoff Meeting***

**Thursday, April 4, 2019**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Upstate Circle of Friends**

**29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, SC 29605**

6:30 P.M.     **Sign in/Dinner** (provided by Subway, 1119 Woodruff Rd., Greenville)

Residents were given surveys to complete and return

6:45 PM     **Welcome/Introductions**

- 18 Attendees

9:55 PM     **Purpose/Mission**

- Opening statement given by Adriene Atkinson

Reflections on the 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr

“Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.” –MLK

Reflections on the death of community influencer, Nipsey Hussel.

“As we work to build up our community, make sure that we are paying homage to figures of yesterday, but also working to pay attention and listen to what our young people have to say”.

–Adriene Atkinson

7:00 PM     **Community Officer -*Stanley Jones (Code Enforcement)***

-The objective of Code Enforcement is to promote a clean, healthy and safe environment for the citizens of Greenville County. The division works to enforce local ordinances related to environment control and property maintenance.

-You can report a suspected violation [online](#) or calling 864.467.7090

-When you call to make a complaint, you do not need to leave your name.

Code enforcement does not handle litter issues. You will need to contact Deanna Demato, Litter Ends Here. 864.467.7289. Residents encouraged to download app to report litter. (Litter Ends Here- Greenville County Mobile 311.

### ***Deputy Luke Wilkinson (Community Deputy)***

-Community deputies serve as liaisons between the community and law enforcement Officer's work on community based projects that help raise up the neighborhood.

-If you notice non-emergent issues related to drugs, prostitution, property maintenance etc. and you want them to be addressed a code enforcement officer would work to address these issues.

-Bell Meade does not have a specific community officer assigned to the community but, the division hopes to have someone in place soon.

-Adriene Atkinson requested reports of criminal activities/reports in the Belle Meade area. Deputy Wilkinson will forward that information to Adriene via email.

### **7:10 PM      Community Resource Spotlight (Upstate Circle of Friends)**

-Non-profit organization founded in May 2006. The mission of the Organization is to expand opportunities, enhance the quality of life, and the progression of at-risk children, children with disabilities, and their families through various educational recreation, and social programs

George Singleton, Upstate Circle of Friends Vice President/COO

“District 25 is a focal point at the county and local level. It is important that the community is informed”.

-UCoF has new FEC (Financial Empowerment Center) onsite, which gives residents FREE access to credit counseling, budgeting, etc, via Greenville County Human Relations Commission. Residents may request appointment to receive services

### **Belle Meade Pavilion**

-The organization is currently working on developing a Pavilion. The Pavilion will be used to help strengthen resources offered to the organization's charter school (Quest Leadership Academy) and the community as a whole.

Quest Leadership Academy- Mr. Singleton reports that 95% of school's students are on free or reduced lunch. Teachers are in need of assistance from community mentors to help with managing students.

-Interested in volunteering? Contact 864.277.7575

7:25 PM      Wrap Up

**Vision 25** - Dr. Ronald Ray Smith, Executive Director

A Grassroots organization dedicated to transforming and developing District 25. Vision 25 serves as a connector and provider of information and resources to help each of you or each of your neighborhood associations within the district develop their plan for how they want their neighborhood to look and how resources are handled.

Although he was unable to attend, Dr. Ennis Fant County Council, wants you to know that he is concerned and that Vision 25 stands with the community and any changes that you would like to see made to improve the quality of life within the community.

There are things that are happening and plans that are being developed district 25 community members need to be involved.

Please visit: <http://visiond25.org/index.php>

-Adriene Atkinson reminded residents that along with Dr. Fant, other District 25 legislators, including Senator Karl Allen and Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson are also a part of the community, and invited to attend community group meetings.

-Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 2, @ 6:30 PM, Upstate Circle of Friends

-Attendees were given contact information for community group, including phone number for Adriene Atkinson, as well as the group's email and social media pages.

7:30 PM      Adjournment