



Black Hawk County

Citizens Advisory Council

# Establishment of the Citizen Advisory Council for Black Hawk County Inmates & the Community

While campaigning for Sheriff, Tony Thompson found a desperate need for more community involvement and input regarding the jail and its daily operations that were largely misunderstood by the community.

He promised during his campaign to venture into some sort of effort that would allow greater community interface with the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office.

His endeavor was to provide an extremely transparent style of leadership (both publicly, as well as within his agency). The Citizens Advisory Council would be an alliance to provide an objective view of the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office operations.

# CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The foundation that has been laid by the CAC Steering Committee, designing a Constitution and By-laws, has been largely uninfluenced by the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office.

Strong, community-minded individuals were solicited from a variety of backgrounds and personal interests assuring that an environment and atmosphere that will facilitate an openness of ideas, and provoke a dialogue to ensure that we meet and exceed community expectations with regards to how this organization will operate and interact with the Sheriff's Office.

# CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

One of the ultimate goals for the Sheriff's Office is to ensure that the establishment of the Citizens Advisory Council creates better communications, improving and bridging the gaps of misinformation and misunderstanding, and legitimately generates a stronger bond between the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office and the citizens that they are charged to serve.

Through this effort the Sheriff's Office hopes to ensure that we are providing a better, higher quality, more professional and integrity-driven service in the process.

# CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Sheriff's Office intent is to establish a strong, dynamic and flexible system for incident review, policy and procedure evaluation, and administrative decision advocacy that will spur greater interagency relationships.

The Citizen Advisory Council and the Sheriff's Office will provide a model for other similar organizations to better improve their own operations or partner with us to provide similar services.

# Comments:

“I truly believe that we are starting on the right track and have established both an operational tempo and an atmosphere of professionalism and cooperative progress that will ultimately result in the inevitable success of our efforts. For that I thank each of you for your hard work, focus and dedication!”

~Sheriff Tony Thompson

# STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Linda Ahrenholz (Facilitator)  
*Independent Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC) Provider for the Elderly and Mentally Impaired; Founder Of the Northeast Chapter of Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE); Participant with the Department Of Corrections Kaizen restructure in 2005 resulting in being a DOC Advocate for Inmates in our State Prisons; Member of Heartland Vineyard Prison Ministry; Member of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People(NAACP)*
- Jerome Amos Jr.  
*Employed at John Deere for 30+ years; Current Chairman of the Waterloo Human Rights Commission; Current Chairman of the Iowa Workforce Development; Board member of the Black Hawk County Sanitation Allocation*
- Jeff Grell  
*Employed as a Probation/Parole Officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Department of Correctional Services for 31 years; Vice President of AFFCME Local Union 3289 for Statewide Community Based Corrections; Current Vice President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Black Hawk County; Member of the Black Hawk County Local Homeless Coordinating Board; Member of the Black Hawk/Grundy Coalition Against Domestic/Sexual Violence Board*
- Tracey Fischels  
*Board member of The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); Cedar Valley Community Service Volunteer;*
- Bill Tate Jr.  
*Employed as a Probation/Parole Officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District of Correctional Service for 20 years; Member of Black Hawk County Local Homeless Coordinating Board; Member of the Boys and Girls Club of America; Member of Wrestling Museum and Community Advocate (BMOE) David Goodson*
- Tavis Hall (Consultant)  
*Caseworker for Congressman Bruce Braley's Office; Current Vice President of Social Action Inc.; Current Vice Chair of the Black Hawk County Democratic Central Committee ; Current Political Committee Chairman of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People(NAACP)*



# MEMBERSHIP in CAC

- Membership requirements for the CAC shall be composed of fifteen (15) citizens interested in the operations of Sheriff Office and concerns of the inmates and families as well as the community.
- These members shall participate and support the development of this organization to meet the needs of the community.
- The CAC members shall serve on various committees to advocate for inmates and citizen concerns, and may provide the public with informational sessions to represent CAC and its purpose.
- All members are subject to serving on the Review/Advocate Committee.
- This organization will consist of two (2) categories.
- Voting members ( A Voting member must abstain from voting on any issue before the Council if their vote will create a conflict of interest)
- Non-voting members



# CAC

## **MEMBERS RIGHTS AND LIMITATIONS:**

- Members of the organization shall be accepted without discrimination on basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, sex, sexual preference, age, creed, marital status, parental status or veteran's status.
- Members must be a resident of Black Hawk County that are interested in the advocacy of inmates and citizens and serve as an advisory council for the Sheriff's Office.

## Citizen Advisory Council Mission Statement

To serve as an advocacy and an advisory group to develop a sense of understanding, education and communication within the community by providing citizens and jail inmates an avenue to pursue concerns and advocate for human rights and fair treatment.