

CHECKS FROM 4

city commissioners.

Repurposing the Education Board was another issue on Drosky’s mind this week. Pointing to the poor ratings posted recently by the city’s schools, he said the board’s “mission one” should be to find the reason for the poor results.” If our Education Board had its finger on the pulse of things, maybe things would be different,” he said. “We should find out what’s going on.”

Hudak said young families don’t move here when they see the city’s public school rankings are Ds and Cs and added, “This is a huge challenge. I don’t know what influence we can have.”

Said Preston, “Until the school board becomes outraged, we will have little effect. We should unanimously say, these results are unacceptable.”

Renewed gun violence in Pompano prompts familiar calls for prevention

By Diane Emeott-Korzen
New Pelican Writer

Pompano Beach - At the first commission meeting of 2024, Jan. 9, Jocelyn Jackson, often a cheerleader for the city, asked for answers to two recent shootings that happened over the holidays.

At approximately 7 p.m. on Dec. 18, Broward Sheriff’s Office (BSO) deputies responded to a report of an injured person lying in the 600 block of Northwest 2 Terrace. Deputies located a juvenile male suffering from a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

At around 8:40 p.m., on Dec. 26, deputies responded to a call involving a shooting inside a convenience store at 401 NW

27 Ave. Deputies located two adult males, Quaavon Ellis and Brandon McNair, suffering from gunshot wounds and immediately began life-saving measures. Pompano Fire Rescue paramedics transported them to a nearby hospital where both were pronounced dead. The preliminary investigation points to an altercation between the shooter and the two men with shots fired inside the store. Deputies detained the shooter on scene for questioning and do not believe any others were involved.

Asked whether youth gangs were involved in the incidents, BSO Senior Public Information Officer Carey Codd said there is no indication of gang involvement in either incident. Both cases are

still under investigation, and will be presented to the Broward State Attorney’s Office to determine if criminal charges will be filed.

Said Jackson at the meeting, “I respect and understand BSO has poured out millions of dollars to keep us safe. What is in place to remove the corner stores in our community? What are we doing to solve these murders? And what about the BSO substation?”

The substation is slated to go in next to the Community Food Store where 35-year-old Dayvon Johnson and 31-year-old Delana James were killed almost a year ago.

One man, 18-year-old Damian Wastene Charmant, already

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GUN VIOLENCE FROM 5

in custody for another crime, was arrested for his role in the double homicide, but with 62 rounds fired police are looking for additional suspects. To date, the names of additional suspects have not been released. Codd said it remains an active investigation.

“Our community is dying out here. The community is crying out. We need some answers,” Jackson said of the latest shootings.

Commissioner Beverly Perkins also spoke strongly about the situation. “I’m very disturbed there is nothing we can do about the killings. What does the city do to combat it? We’ve got to address it and bring a solution. I don’t know what we do.”

Perkins recalled that on Dec. 18, the young man who had just turned 16 was tragically killed. “I just went to his funeral on



Saturday. It was very sad.” And when she picked up calls Dec. 26, she found out one person died Christmas night, one more the next day.

That made a total of four killings in the 400 block of NW 27 Avenue, “and there are probably more we don’t know about,” said Perkins. “A lot of people think I don’t like BSO. That isn’t it. I will work with whomever - the city manager, Capt. Daryl Stallings, Major Wayne Adkins, and the community will too . . . but we’ve

got to have a law enforcement that we trust. When you trust law enforcement, you talk.”

Calls for action are nothing new in Pompano Beach. Residents and city officials have come together multiple times over the last several years, both in meetings and public demonstrations, to address gun violence.

Perkins went on to say that BSO is paid \$59 million out of the city’s \$400 million budget, “and there is nothing we can do. Everyone up here voted to

give BSO a raise. We have the CORE team. I was excited about that until I realized people don’t know who their CORE officer is. We have the district’s Real Time Crime Center (to respond quickly to violent crimes when they occur), and ShotSpotter technology.” When a gun is fired, ShotSpotter’s audio detection technology is used to determine where the shots originated.

The current ShotSpotter program for Pompano Beach runs through March of 2024. There are discussions underway between BSO, the city, and ShotSpotter regarding extending this agreement, according to Codd.

As of press time, in response to the latest shooting here, BSO arrested 34-year-old Jeramie Smith on second-degree murder charges in the Jan. 10 fatal shooting of his roommate, 46-year-old Paul Rivera, in the 1300 block of Northeast 4 Street.

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