



Rotary Club of Battle Creek RotoScoop

September 9, 2024

City of Battle Creek Community Oversight Board



City of Battle Creek DEI Officer Kimberly Holley, speaks on the formation of the Community Oversight Board, whose members are chosen and will be introduced to the community soon.

In reaction to a national surge in interest in Police Brutality during the pandemic, there are now 250 civilian oversight committees in the nation. Before this era, most of these bodies were reactive, created in response to consent decrees after communities experienced inappropriate behavior by officers. However, many newer boards are pro-active, working to create rules around law enforcement before abusive practices begin.

In Battle Creek, seven board members and two alternates were appointed (out of 20+ applications) last month to implement a Review Focused Model, where review takes place following a completed internal complaint process. The model was developed with leadership from Carey Whitfield, former head of the NAACP; a community survey; a City Commission Workshop; and the DEI Officer. It was discovered that a similar government body was called to creation in 1980, but never found implementation. The ordinance was finally enacted, and the process moved along quickly from there. Soon, the body will be able to review complaints and appeals (a process that used to be done by the City Manager alone). It will also provide a bridge between law enforcement and the Battle Creek community. The entire process was community-driven; it is a true grass-roots initiative.

Kimberly explained that the police chief, Shannon Bagley, is experienced with and enthusiastic for the board after working with a review board in Kalamazoo. She explained that even the police union weighed in on the board creation, so it is fair and all parties have had input and consideration.

An important part of the creation process has been the parallel call for data to track 'progress' with the change. This means years of paper files will be digitized and reports will be created to establish base-lines on police behavior and community reaction. NPCs will also be considered as the City reviews the NPC model. There is currently an officer in each part of the City that is represented by an NPC.



OTHER NEWS

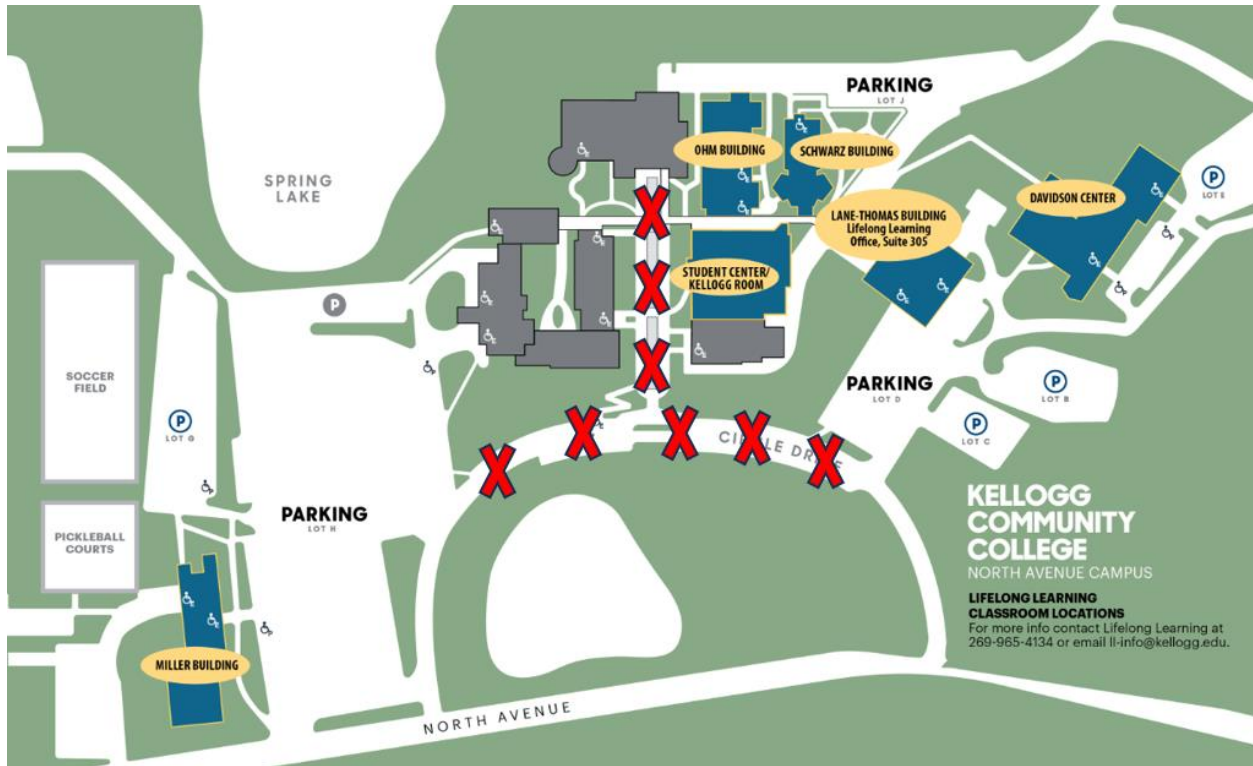
Good Deeds

In upcoming meetings, President Rod will ask Rotarians to share stories about the work or good deeds of Rotarians or Rotarian Clubs in our local, District, or International Rotary Community. Let Rod know if you would like to share a story!

KCC Campus Construction

[LLL-Map.png \(3300x2000\) \(kellogg.edu\)](#)

The reflecting pools, grand stairway, and accessibility ramp are all under construction for the next several weeks. Please arrive early and be prepared for a good walk. Some Rotarians had luck parking in Lot J (off of Central Street) and entering in the back door of the Kellogg Room.



Pay Your Dues Online!

Invoices for the first quarter were sent out on July 9th and were due July 31st. By clicking the link included in your email invoice, members may pay online via an ACH transfer or a credit card payment. Please [email](#) or call Kathy Gallagher at 269-209-5949 if you have questions.

Upcoming Speakers and Events

- 9/16/24 Gilmore Car Museum – Fred Colgrem
- 9/23/24 Student of the Month; Double Tree Hotel – Anna Rogers
- 9/30/24 5th Monday Social; Double Tree Hotel 5:30-8:00; hard-hat tour and pizza. Invite prospective Rotarians, friends and family!

Rotary Vision Statement

Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

Board of Directors July 2024–2025

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