

**Mount Rainier CERT Meeting**  
**Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Attendees:**

Jack Priestley  
Nikki Priestley  
Sandra Joseph  
Melissa Barringer  
Mark Grisar  
Tim Jenkins  
Robin Bliss  
Nayeli Lucero (Office of Emergency Management CERT coordinator)

**Highlights:**

Nikki and Jack Priestley handed the torch to new officers of CERT and discussed next steps. Sandra Joseph is taking over for Nikki as training officer. Melissa Barringer is assuming the office of president. Mark Grisar will act as secretary. Robin and Melissa offered to collaborate on notes for this meeting.

Nikki brought Chiefs Award of Excellence plaque awarded to CERT from former Chief Morgan in 2020 for their service during the pandemic. CERT members agreed that we would ask the city if we can hang the plaque in City Hall.

Melissa asked about legal coverage for CERT members.

Nikki and Sandra offered that CERT falls under the city's insurance.

Nayeli informed the group that Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has started the process to do background checks and get members covered in case CERT members are deployed through OEM, but this is a slow process.

Melissa, Mark, Rachel Bush and Karen all recently completed the CERT training course.

The next training course is in August. Members are urged to sign up for this training.

Sandra will send out information about upcoming CERT trainings.

CPR training is not part of the CERT training, but can be found through other venues. OEM offers a two hour course.

Stop The Bleed training is another aspect of emergency readiness that deserves attention.

Nikki suggested searching Event Bright and CERT/ Hyattsville to find CPR trainings dates

The CERT goal of doing the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the shortest amount of time is at the top of the list of Melissa's vision for our group.

Her vision includes devoting a portion of each meeting to reviewing / practicing training, so that we can have a meaningful presence in the City, both in times of emergency and at City events.

The two-day CERT certification training was a lot to take in and she thought it would be good to have refresher training for a portion of the training at each meeting. Discussion ensued about who could give training. OEM is understaffed and only offers their trainings every other month since they do not have the staff to offer more frequent trainings. Nikki suggested that Officer Simms of Mt. Rainier Police might be a possible resource since he leads the Young Explorers group. Other CERT members may also be able to help train on skills. We may also reach out for qualified trainers on the City's List Serve

Another aspect of Melissa's vision is to help train families in emergency preparedness. We can get literature from OEM and have a table at city events to hand out literature.

Tim suggested that we may want to focus on emergency preparedness for situations we are likely to encounter – like preparedness for heat or power-outage emergency. He wondered if there was a cooling center. Jack suggested that the police community room could be used as a cooling center. Jack shared that there was a diesel generator that they had purchased that is still in the police department. The police would have to be contacted and agree.

CERT can be deployed by the Police Chief (Chief Alston) or the Mayor. Either the Chief or the Mayor calls the CERT president in order to activate CERT.

Nikki will introduce Melissa to the Mayor and the Chief via email and will share contact information. CERT members shared phone numbers.

Mark will write the rest of the CERT members for phone numbers, so we have contact information for each CERT member.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM**  
**The next meeting is Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**