



Citizens' Advisory Council Monthly Meeting

Metropolitan Police Department

Fifth District

February 26, 2009

Meeting opened at 7:17 pm

Moment of Silence

Change in agenda Councilmember Thomas here today. Some absent because at other meetings.

Issues with the CVS. Have been resolved. Management acknowledged that had error in judgment when dealing with the kids. CVS is a good corporate citizen. CVS rep spoke to the group. Mr. Braxton said that it was the people in this area that CVS is there because church wanted to but all that property.

Mr. Brannum suggested 5D do a food drive (because of the bad economy). Do a food drive in Ward 5 to help replenish the Food Banks stocks. Mr. Braxton made motion to do so . Motion was 2nd and passed.

Councilmember Harry Thomas – Encourage folks to support the PSA meetings. Public safety is one of the most frequent issues that comes up for citizens. You can now get email alerts on your cell phone, including things like descriptions of suspects. Also apologized to Joyce Robinson-Paul who is starting the Hanover Civic Association. Also Community Development at Catholic University this weekend. 10 am at Prespice Hall at Catholic U.; Ms. Robinson Paul asked Councilmember his opinion about tuition increase at UDC. He said he asked the Council to oppose, but that is just his opinion. UDC is a global school. UDC has its own Board of Trustees that decides issues like tuition.

Reading of the Minutes – Michael Henderson; minutes were read, motion to accept, 2nd; motion passed.

Commander Greene –Crime Stats; YTD 12% overall reduction; homicide down 30%: Trinidad area homicides are down; everyone is experiencing a rash of thefts; in office buildings, schools, economy is partly why; 2 arsons this year, one last year; all PSA's have reductions in overall crime except PSA 501;

spike in crime there; lot of robberies in 501; deployed resources in that area; McKInley Tech kids were robbed; closed those cases with arrests; unfortunately many are juveniles; made 13 arrests for those so far; look out is the same – young black makes many fleeing back to NY Avenue area; deploying light towers as well; be careful in the NC street corridor; Heanue, Bryan, evening watch Commander for Metro spoke as well; they report crimes by millions of passengers traveled; crime is a lot lower on metro; they work with Metro; RI Avenue is an example where three officers were involved with an armed robbery; moved over a million people on inauguration day; Michael Taborn is the Chief of Metro; Frances Penn asked about “derelicts” hanging around in and around Metro; it is a fine line because the public has a right to be there, but public has right to feel safe as well; chances are it is the same people every day; at 901 RI Avenue tonight a woman had her purse snatched and were run down and caught just now; officers are patrolling the area hourly; Robert asked how is MPD responding to kids gathering at CVS and shoplifting; they can send officers through there but often CVS hires off duty officers to work their location; Commander recommended they hire someone to be there regularly; happens half hour before school and half hour after school; Joyce R-P said problem on O Street with kids who just got out of jail; need to maybe chain the lock to the place they are using to sell drugs; 34 O Street is selling drugs; if they live at 34 O Street they can’t be barred from that location; Commander will check with CSOSA to see which ones may not be allowed in the area; Frances talked about how one principal dealt with kids in Safeway; Robert A said at Brookland station some girls getting pocketbooks snatched; Metro rep said most Metro officers are assigned to foot patrols; PSA 502 Officers are patrolling the area in Brookland that had robberies; also put plain clothes officers at metro stops and intervened/arrested suspects; n Joyce Faye is the new Police Chief at trinity University – she said there were 3-4 cars broken into on Michigan Avenue; have an officer at the front gate of Trinity; thief has a crow bar then breaks the window; another man said they are taking radios out of cars by breaking window; Commander said they are looking for signs of GPS in car, break in, so clean off window where suction cup sits; they are 200 dollars new; also, please report your crimes; car owners should do the report; there was more discussion about robberies and reporting them; resident spoke about the person taking the call when she reports something; Commissioner Wright said person taking emergency call should not ask so many questions; Commander Greene said just say you don’t know, but they must ask for the safety o the Officer; maybe we should have someone from the call center to come out and explain how the process works; metro transit police rep said call taker is asking so they can get you all the help you need;

Department of Transportation – Mr. Allen Fye; Ward Planner for Transportation for Ward 5 and 6; would like to use 311 which is connected to the dept of transportation clearing house; requests get forwarded to dept of transportation; to provide a more efficient and transparent way of dealing with transportation issues; you will get a ticket number and tracking number; use the system (311); there is a full time staff dedicated to this; your tax dollars are paying for it so please use the 311 system; sign issues, speed humps, it will get directed to the right place; Robert asked about availability of transportation studies that have not been done or not made available to the public; Cloverleaf for example; or McMillan Project; moving forward but DDOT not requiring developers to do the studies; Fye said the Cloverleaf study is a joint study with several agencies; 25-30 years out; just coming up with ideas right now; does require developers to do an impact study of traffic; you are asking us to look at the combination of the developments together; there is a model that is built on a region-wide level not at a

city-wide level; however, district has different transportation patterns because there is much more pedestrian traffic in D.C.; lots of money is being invested into updating the model so that it reflects a more updated model for D.C. and will be more accurate; Robert said that does not answer his question; presenter said that is why we are updating the model; it is a issue we are hearing from the community; armed forces developer pulled out; Robert asked about Brookland – expensive work done in the area; sidewalk circus on 12th street is impeding traffic; please explain to him why trucks now can't turn, cut out parking for merchants, yet saying want business in that area; and they've "thrown those sidewalks"; please explain why happened without input from the citizens; he guesses that's why Mr. Cline didn't come tonight because he did not have any answers; presenter said he has well documented meetings with the citizens; also reducing where people don't have to mix as much with the traffic; Robert said that was not done with support of Metro because buses cannot make the turn; presenter said people were very involved in the process; Robert said tell him a place in the city where this is going on; presenter said it is in the plans of several areas; resident said emails were never followed up and was never informed about other infrastructure meetings about that specific area; they said they would be in touch and the next thing they knew sidewalks were being changed; Cynthia Greene asked if it should go through the ANC first?; Commissioner Wright said there are a lot people who have lived here for a long time; you can't account for a piece of paper; funnel the information through the ANC's and other organizations; community needs to be made aware of what's going on, especially; installations, etc; vetting the process is very important; she also asked how much DDOT was getting for infrastructure; presenter said 120 million; Frank Braxton said he hopes the presenter has learned from this; resident said since you did not go through the ANC you need to stop and take those bumps out of the road; Frances Penn asked what is going on with Benning Road; resident asked about PUD's in Ward 5 and is he going to testify; presenter said not sure

Twee Nguyen – DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs – Vacant Property Unit – vacant properties affect you if it is in your community; property values come down, breeds illegal activities; kids know them and hang out there after school; nuisance; Council requires owners of vacant properties must register, and get taxed at 10 for 100 assessed values; call her office to report a vacant property – owner will be sent a package to register the property; Joyce asked if these are properties recently sold; presenter said those were DC Gov properties (may not have paid taxes); resident asked about Wash Post list 3-4 pages of folks who have not paid their taxes; place near him has been vacant for 20-years; 202-442-4332 is her number to call to report vacant houses; they can cite violations – excessive growth, open doors or windows, broken windows, 3rd is graffiti and there is a 4th violation as well; each is a 500 dollar fine and a lean is placed on the property; owner gets a notice and given 7 days; Mary Harris used to be the Chair of CAC said she needs to come out to 16th street; prostitutes use the houses when owners try to make it look like someone lives there; 1550 Hamlin Street NE; when you call there is an inspection within 5 days; notice can be posted right there; then registration packet sent out; Commissioner Wright asked is there any way to meet the inspector when he/she comes out so they can inventory, maybe meet with a Commissioner; Alice Thompson coordinates with her office; many properties are getting away with it because her office is not made aware of it; this year only 2100 properties on her list; HER DIRECT NUMBER IS (202) 442-4406 (direct)

Residents asked what happens if owners continue to ignore; 1262 Oren Place has been vacant for 20 years; have called in and nothing has been done; Janice Evans also spoke about an abandoned house 3710 24th street NE; please follow up; it has feces, drugs, the resident is mentally ill, lots of criminal activity over a year; yesterday block club met with Councilmember Thomas about this; Presenter said please be sure you know the exact address correctly; Commissioner Wright said sometimes the inspector can usually figure it out, but if address is not there; you can determine it by using other houses on the block.

Jim B. - Awards Dinner – please buy tickets; or buy an add; need sponsors, corporate or other; because of the economy need to push a little harder;

Commissioner Wright would like to speak to Commander Greene

22nd and 25th New Generation Development Center will be doing a conflict resolution workshop; can an Officer from MPD come down and be a motivational speaker; Commander Greene said yes;

Please consider our scope of work for the rest of the year such as guest speakers;

Frances said South Central and Fort Lincoln starting a Junior Civic Association; started by the kids;

Frank Braxton moved that we adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Michael J. Henderson, recording secretary