

Midtown Benefits District Public Safety Committee Meeting February 17, 2010

The committee met to discuss lighting initiatives, crime statistics, the budget, tours of Johns Hopkins security camera modeling center and joining forces with other public safety committees in the area.

Present: Joseph Palumbo, chairman; Carlo Van Greiken, Steven Shen, Stephen Davis, Paul Snyder, Lat Naylor, James Erny, Michael Molla

Staff: Peter Merles

Recording: Danielle Bowly

Lighting initiatives

- Look into starting a campaign for lighting. Focus on installing light fixtures in front of homes. Find ways to advertise this initiative by designing flyers, postcards and working with neighborhood associations to get the word out.
- Look into grants for installing light fixtures on homes.
- Look into a New Jersey based organization that gives away free light bulbs.
- Another idea was to buy light bulbs in bulk and pass along the savings to the communities.
- Inform landlords that they will be in violation of a multi-unit dwelling code that says you must have a light on in front of your property from dusk till dawn. To help us enforce this, we would ask the off-duty police officers and other community members to help us keep track of who is in violation so we can contact the proper authorities.
- Discussed ways to use the \$20,000 dollars in this year's budget that was allotted for lighting. One way the money could be used would be to give up to \$200 dollars to a homeowner for the installation of an approved light fixture on the exterior front of their home.
- The committee will compile a list of electricians for the homeowners to choose from.
- Lighting polls in alleys- get in touch with Midtown for help.
- Mike Molla will see if he can get a copy of the photo metrics.
- Find a BGE rep. that can give us more information on mounting flood lights from street polls. Also schedule a meeting with Central Baltimore Partnership.
- See if BGE has a grant for lighting or if they would help sponsor our lighting initiative.

Crime Stats

- We were presented a summary of crime statistics for Bolton Hill, Mount Vernon, Charles North and Madison Park from January 2009-January 2010.
- Some small increases in crime. Director Davis suggests we look for trends and speak with community associations and the police department to isolate when crime happens..
- Two new services that gather crime/city information- SpotCrime and Nixle Text.
- Upgrading the receptionist position to include creating a database from crime stats, which would be updated daily.
- Off-duty police patrol program seems to be going well. 2 officers in Charles North/ North Ave. and two in Madison Park/Bolton Hill on Friday and Saturday night.
- This year's budget will support 2 nights of patrols with 4 officers through the rest of the fiscal year.

Budget

- A budget was produced for next year at the same level of income as this year's and will be presented to the Budget Committee this evening. (2/17/10)
- The budget is still operating with a \$60,000 dollar deficit and the committee needs to find ways to support the budget with either grant money or fundraising.
- The safety coordinator position, if full time will use \$35,000, part time \$17,500.
- Police patrols-\$79,000.
- Safety materials- \$10,000.
- Make a motion to the board to isolate funds for lighting.

Tour of Johns Hopkins Security Camera Modeling Center

- Organize tours of Johns Hopkins Homewood /Medical Campus to view their security camera modeling center.

Joining with other safety committees

- We discussed joining forces with other committees to share information. We could share minutes, agendas.
- Extend an invitation to the Central Baltimore Partnership and Reservoir Hill to have a representative attend our monthly meeting.

*Our next meeting is scheduled for 3/10/10 at 8am in Brown 413.