

16th Street Neighborhood Association
Final Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2016

The meeting at Simpson-Hamline Church was attended by 15 neighbors. The minutes from the February meeting were approved by attendees with no corrections.

Old Business:

- According to the DC Department of Transportation, the paving of the 4300 block of 15th Street will be completed in the Spring.
- Security Camera Subsidy Program: Unfortunately, PSA 404 is not included under this program because our crime level is relatively low.

Crime Report by Lieutenant Figueras (PSA 404):

- The number one crime in the neighborhood (*i.e.*, PSA 404) at this time is robbery. Robbery means the taking of property from a person or from the person's possession. The greatest number of these robberies are occurring around the Petworth/Georgia Avenue Metro and the nearby Safeway. So far this year, there have been 29 robberies in the PSA (lower than last year's 48 robberies in the same period of time).
- In our more immediate neighborhood, robberies often victimize single people walking on the sidewalk. The perpetrator(s) either walk up from behind the victim or jump out of a car. In the latter case, after taking the victim's property, the perpetrator(s) jump back into the car and drive away. Most of these robberies occur at night, after 7-8 PM, and more so on weekends.
- Recently, a business at Allison and Georgia Ave. was robbed at gunpoint by an apparent juvenile. Many of the robberies in the PSA involve juvenile perpetrators who live outside the neighborhood.
- The other frequent crime in the neighborhood is assault with a deadly weapon. Typically, the victim and the perpetrator know each other and many involve domestic disputes. There have been seven ADWs in our PSA since the beginning of the year and arrests may occur soon for six of these cases.
- Overall, relative to the turn of the century (*i.e.*, 1999-2000), our neighborhood is much safer today. There was only one burglary in the last sixty days in PSA 404.
- Nuisance Behavior Discussion: DC Code makes it illegal to drink in public or smoke marijuana in public. Additionally, the noise statute enforces quiet from 10 PM to 10 AM daily.
- Police Staffing: Lieutenant Figueras said that PSA 404 is fully staffed at this time. Currently, there are more civilian employees working for the department and most of the officers are on patrol or working in specialized units. For example, there is only one officer covering the 4D station because civilian employees are hired for most jobs. There are going to be many officer retirements in the

future simply because there was such a large class of new police officers hired in 1990. Many of these officers will begin to retire in the next few years because it is common to retire after 25 years of service.

- Neighbors can help police by turning in unused license plates and reporting their lost license plates. Auto thieves will commonly replace the license plates on a stolen car with other plates to avoid the police.
- Neighbors can follow crime reports through the MPD listserv at MPD-4d@yahoogroups.com.

New Business

- Easter Egg Hunt Planning (Carrie): The Easter Egg hunt will take place at Upshur Park on March 19, 2016 and begin at 11:00 AM, ending at about Noon. There will be three separate hunts for candy-filled plastic Easter eggs. Carrie is asking neighbors to provide candy for the eggs; you can get empty eggs from Carrie if needed. Carrie can pick up your filled Easter eggs from your home. Please use candy that is wrapped and does not contain nut products. In the past, about 100 children have participated in this event. We encourage neighbors with children to attend this year.
- Bus Barn Exhaust (Jack): Jack provided neighbors with background on the buses using the nearby bus barn on 14th Street (near Decatur). Most of the 153 buses at the location use diesel and hybrid/diesel engines which emit toxic substances that can pollute the air. For this reason, drivers are supposed to limit the idling times of these buses. There was a discussion about whether WMATA is enforcing these idling time limits.

About fifteen years ago, in response to pressure from our neighborhood association, WMATA conducted an air quality study around the bus barn. There was a discussion about whether there are any mandates today for WMATA to conduct air quality studies in our neighborhood and report on the findings. One attendee shared that some residents living near the bus barn experience respiratory problems. Apparently, the air inside the bus barn is filtered in the bus barn chimney before it is vented to the outdoors; but no one had information on the quality of the vented air.

Michelle Blackwell (Councilman Todd's Office) shared that switching to electrical or natural gas fueled buses may be the long term solution to air quality near the bus barn. Engaging with WMATA on their procurement decisions for new buses may be a good strategy. Jack suggested that WMATA could more actively monitor bus drivers (through the bus GPS) to enforce idling time limitations for diesel buses.

- Michelle Blackwell from Councilman Todd's office shared information on the recent oversight hearing for the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs ("DCRA"). This oversight hearing took over ten hours and many citizens testified on a variety of issues including, but not limited to, permitting practices and building code enforcement. Michele invited neighbors who have problems with DCRA to contact her at mblackwell@dccouncil.us.gov.

- Oversight Hearings: Cecelia submitted comments for the DCRA oversight hearing and announced that she would testify at the Zoning Commission oversight hearing relating to popup/popback conversion issues. Other oversight hearings for District Agencies this month include Education, the Office of Planning and the Metropolitan Police Department.
- Elisa announced the agenda items for the upcoming ANC meeting.
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 7:15 – 8:30 PM.

Cecelia Waldeck
Secretary