

**Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
(via Zoom)**

CALL TO ORDER:

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Public Safety Update:

Maryland State's Attorney, Marilyn Mosby, joined the meeting to explain the process of handling murder cases. She said that they assign a prosecutor to the case and meet with the next of kin, the detective, victim witness advocate, and therapists from the family bereavement center to talk about the process and offer assistance. The State's Attorney Office works hand in hand with the police department to ensure convictions. Last year there was an 84% conviction rate. When the community participates in the process, they secure convictions. Marilyn will provide a full briefing memo on cases in our area to Beth to share with the community

Community Liaison for the Maryland State's Attorney Office, Evelyn Vargus, explained her role. She is a personal contact for any information needed from the Office. She stressed the importance of Community Impact Statements. The more Community Impact Statements they receive, it makes a bigger impact on the court system. Evelyn provides updates on cases to the community. If they have a conviction, then they need the Community Impact Statement. It is basically a letter to the judge indicating who you are, how you are related to the case, and how the crime has impacted the community. The statement goes to the Assistant State's Attorney and is presented to the judge at sentencing. Beth Whitmer shared that all of the presidents of the peninsula community associations draft the Community Impact Statements together on behalf of the community but any individual can submit their own as well.

Major Byron Conaway provided an update on crime in the Southern District. He stated that there has been an improvement in every area except homicides. The increase in homicides is related to 2 rivals battling over 2 months. Following is an overview of the crime statistics that Major Conaway provided:

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Homicides | 64% increase (11 to 18) |
| Non-fatal shootings | 7% decrease |
| Rape | 22% decrease |
| Robbery | 32% decrease |
| Assault | 13% decrease |
| Burglary | 45% decrease |

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Larceny | 19% decrease |
| Auto theft | 7% decrease |
| Arson | 11% decrease |

A member of the community asked Major Conaway about the fireworks in the neighborhood every night. He indicated that he reached out to the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to help with the issues.

Another member of the community asked Major Conaway about the nightly partying at Federal Hill Park and what was being done to stop it. He said that they have increased police presence at the Park and do random checks. He welcomes people to call to report people in the park after hours.

A member of the community asked about the issue of dirt bike riding through the streets of Federal Hill. Major Conaway said that there is a Dirt Bike Task Force that focuses on locating and ticketing for dirt bike riding in the neighborhood.

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership:

South Baltimore Gateway Partnership Community Outreach Specialist, Marissa Ramirez, shared that they are currently looking for Board nominations. On July 1, applications to join the Board will be available and they are due by August 14. Go to sbgpartnership.org for the application.

Federal Hill Business District Reopening:

Cathy Rosenbaum, Executive Director of Federal Hill Main Street, shared the general plans for reopening in Federal Hill. They have developed a plan to be submitted for a permit on Monday. The proposed plan will close both sides of East Cross Street and make Light Street and Charles Street one way for 2 blocks to expand restaurants' footprints into parking spaces. In order to prevent a bar crawl atmosphere, several conditions are attached to the permit:

- Restaurants/bars are responsible for their own identified space
- There must be an entrance and exit into the space
- There must be a host/hostess on site
- All patrons must be seated
- All sanitation protocols must be followed
- There must be sanitation stations
- There must be garbage collection
- There will be no public seating/tables
- The seating area must be disabled after hours

Once the permit is approved, the restaurants/bars can serve food outside. Each restaurant/bar will then need to get the required liquor permit.

Matt from the Liquor Board shared that once the FHMS permit is approved (usually 7 days) it will take 1 to 3 business days for the Liquor Board approval.

Cathy shared that the Fire Dept., Police Dept., and Emergency Services will all be reviewing the FHMS permit application prior to approval.

Delegate Luke Clippinger added that he is not concerned about creating a situation similar to that which occurred in Fells Point last week because Federal Hill Main Street has been proactive in creating a plan and rules around implementation. The situation in Fells Point was due to no plan being in place and Broadway Square being taken over while the restaurants and bars were closed. FHMS is creating clear rules that can be enforced.

Letters of Support from FHNA:

4 businesses in Federal Hill presented their plans for expanding their footprint and are asking for letters of support from the neighborhood association.

Sean White shared that Banditos is using their back parking pad to create a patio for seating. They have received support from the landlord and neighbors. There will be 6 picnic tables with 6 seats at each table. The patio will close when the kitchen closes. He also shared the plans for expansion outside for Wayward. There will be a patio off of West Street with 15 picnic tables, a service bar with 5 seats which will close when the kitchen closes. Both restaurants/bars will offer seating from inside by a hostess.

Dave Rather shared the plan for Mothers outside expansion. They will use the parking lot for additional dining with 15 tables that will close at 9 p.m. during the week and 10 p.m. on weekends. There will be all tables and no bar. There will only be outside bars during game days.

Dave also shared the plan to hold outdoor live concerts by the 8x10 during the week until they can reopen. The concerts will be held on Mothers parking lot from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets will be sold by table and no one will be allowed to stand. It would hold 100 to 120 people with lighter music (not super heavy or loud) to attract the 35 and older crowd.

If you are a current member and attended this meeting, please email ehillsider@gmail.com or whitmeba@gmail.com within 72 hours to indicate your support or non-support of the proposed plans.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

6/25/20 Addendum Email Vote Results : 24 votes received all in favor of writing letters of support for Bandito's, Mother's Wayward and 8x10.