

**Federal Hill Neighborhood Association  
Crime Update Meeting  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020  
(via Zoom)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Beth Whitmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
There were 56 participants on the Zoom call.

**ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

A special meeting of FHNA and other neighborhood associations was held to discuss the recent increase in violent crime on the peninsula. Major Conaway and Eric Costello were invited to address the neighborhood regarding the recent events.

There have been several incidents over the last few days.

- 8/25 – Carjacking - 9:51 p.m. 1300 block of S Hanover Street
- 8/27 – Robbery – 3:50 a.m. 300 block of Warren Avenue
- 8/29 – Robbery – 12:40 a.m. 1200 block of William Street
- 8/31 – Carjacking – 11:05 p.m. 1600 block of Light Street
- 9/01 – Carjacking – 12:08 a.m. 400 block of Grindall Street

Two people have been arrested related to these incidents. The BPD has been increasing the number of car stops and business checks. Major Conaway indicated that these incidents are not related to the Federal Hill Park gatherings. There have been large gatherings in the Park with loud music and dirt bikes but they are not violent. The central district has been providing help in controlling the crowds but they need to be mindful of tactics used.

Eric Costello provided an update on the dirt bike incidents. He shared that three arrests have been made and the stolen dirt bikes were confiscated. Eric has spoken to the police commissioner about the issue and the commissioner has committed resources to deal with it. With continued and consistent enforcement, the problem will be resolved.

Major Conaway shared the details of a brick throwing incident that had been shared on social media. A man was walking along Hanover Street and another individual came up behind him and struck him in the back of the head with a brick. The victim immediately fell to the ground. A surveillance video showed that the victim had been in the 7-11 store where he was in an altercation with the individual who used the brick. The victim was found and interviewed by the police but did not want to move forward with the investigation.

A member of the community asked Major Conaway what the community could do to support the police in reducing crime in the neighborhood. Major Conaway suggested:

- the community needs to be more alert, especially when walking to their cars late at night or early in the morning
- do not keep valuables in the back of their cars
- keep porch lights on
- call 311 to report street lights that are out
- do not keep empty boxes of purchases outside your house for recycling
- install private security cameras (there is a rebate program in place for those that install cameras)

One issue is that when crimes are committed, the victims are not willing to talk to the police.

A member of the community asked if the lack of police is a reason for the increase in crime. Major Conaway shared that more officers would be helpful to increase foot patrol. He estimates that the southern district is down 10 to 20 officers. Eric Costello offered to hold another meeting to discuss the recruiting for open positions of police officers.

Another member of the community shared that he thought the neighborhood associations should be more proactive in sharing information on crimes committed in the neighborhood on a timely basis to keep the community informed.

A member of the community asked about the reason for the increase in police helicopter activity. Major Conaway indicated that some of the increase lately was related to Mike Pence's visit to Fort McHenry in addition to helicopters being utilized to address the dirt bike situation.

Another member of the community shared that she and her husband had been assaulted at the corner of Key Highway and Light Street in broad daylight at 6 p.m. on this past Thursday. Three young juvenile men violently attacked and attempted to rob them. The police and EMT responded and the young men were identified. No other information has been provided. The community member wanted to share the incident to make others aware to be on alert.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.