

Town of University Park

Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Conference Room

University Park Town Hall

6724 Baltimore Avenue

Meeting Notes

Committee Members: Michael Cron, Council Member Ward 6; James Gekas, Council Member, Ward 2; Roy Alvarez, Council Member Ward 7, Committee Chair
Guests: Michael Wynnyk, University Park Chief of Police
Also in attendance: Linda Verrill, Ward 4 Resident

Agenda

1. Request for stop bar at stop sign near UPES circle

Committee Members discussed the merits of painting a stop bar on Underwood Street at the base of the stop sign that is placed before the bus circle at University Park Elementary School. The purpose of the stop bar would be to alert drivers to stop at the stop sign which is placed in an unusual location (i.e., not at a street corner). It was also suggested that the words "Stop Here" might be painted on the street instead of a stop bar. After discussion it was decided that there is no proof that stop bars help motorists to notice a stop sign. The area in question is patrolled at the opening and closing of the school day by the Town Police. The Committee decided that expenditure for placing and maintaining a stop bar at the location was not appropriate at this time.

2. Discussion of incentives for Town Residents who install security cameras

Committee Members decided to include alarm systems in the discussion. Security cameras and alarm systems are helpful for the Town Police. They appear to be a deterrent in some cases. Security cameras focused outside the home have been helpful for Town Police in several investigations. Currently, a security camera system with a reasonably clear picture can be purchased and installed by homeowners for approximately \$150.00, with higher definition systems available at higher prices. Also, home alarm systems can be purchased and installed by homeowners starting near \$200.00 and increasing in cost as they become more sophisticated. In addition, companies will install and monitor home security systems for a wide range of prices.

Committee Members decided to investigate the possibility of asking the Town Council to provide a monetary incentive for the installation of a home security system or a security camera, possibly in the range of \$50.00 to \$75.00 for units costing \$150.00 or more. Before any formal proposal is made to the Mayor and Council, a preliminary outline for a request developed by Roy Alvarez and presented to the Committee for additions and revisions. The proposal will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

3. Possible signage for entrances to University Park

Chief Wynnyk has noted at several Committee Meetings that he believes it would be beneficial to have signs at several entrances to the Town indicating to those who enter that they are in University Park. Such signs help to “brand” the area so those from outside the community know they are in University Park and that we care about our Town. He suggested that the signs might be something like the metal ones that are in College Park at many locations. The signs would be approximately 18”X 24” and state something like, “Welcome to University Park, Speed Limit 25 MPH.”

Ward 4 Resident, Linda Verrill, asked if signs similar to the “Town of University Park” sign at the corner of Route #1 and Pineway would serve the same purpose and be more esthetically pleasing. The Chief and the Council Members believed that they may be, although the speed limit would not be posted on the sign.

Chief Wynnyk will investigate the cost of the metal signs and Roy Alvarez will investigate the cost signs like the one at Route #1 and Pineway. They will bring the information for discussion at the next Committee meeting. It was also suggested that vendors at the MML Convention in Ocean City may provide an additional resource for signage.

4. Discussion of ways to remind Town Residents about safety issues

Council Members discussed how to assist the Town Police in reminding the Residents about safety in our community. The Chief’s column in the Town Newsletter is an ongoing source for spreading safety information. It was also noted that the recent “Safety Forum” and the “Safety Walk “ in Wards 4 and 7 held by the Town Police have been helpful in providing safety information. The Committee encouraged the Chief to do more “Safety Forums” and “Safety Walks” in the near future.

The Committee Members discussed the possibility of placing a periodic safety tip on the Town website and on the listsev used by many Residents. The safety tip on the website might be brief and perhaps placed on the homepage with a link to a paragraph or so in a different section of the site. Roy Alvarez will check with the Town Clerk to determine if this would be something that could be easily done. Committee Members were encouraged to develop a few safety tips for discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, at 7:30, at a location to be determined.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Submitted by: Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7
Chair of the Police, Traffic and Public Safety Committee