

# Town of University Park

## Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety

Thursday, November 13, 2014

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Conference Room

University Park Town Hall

6724 Baltimore Avenue

### Present

Committee Members: Joe Thompson, Council Member, Ward 1; James Gekas, Council Member, Ward 2; Linda Verrill, Council Member, Ward 4, Michael Cron, Council Member, Ward 6; Roy Alvarez, Council Member Ward 7, Committee Chair

Guests: Michael Wynnyk, University Park Chief of Police

Also in attendance: Brad Hess, Council Member, Ward 1; Laurie Morissey, Resident, Ward 1

### Meeting Notes

1. Discuss a request to restrict parking to permit holders only on the south side of Van Buren Street from the end of the new no-parking zone to the intersection with 44th Avenue and the east side of Queens Chapel Road from the intersection with 44th Ave/Clagett, north to the intersection with Route 1.

The Committee will request that the Town Council establish two-hour restricted parking in the areas requested unless the vehicle is owned by the Town, has a Town sticker, or has a valid Town visitor's pass. It was suggested that enforcement be complaint driven.

The Committee believes that the area on Van Buren Street should be restricted because street parking has been eliminated on that section of the street except in that small area. This restriction gives residents and their guests priority parking in that location.

The Committee believes the restriction on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue is necessary to provide priority parking for Town Residents and their guests; Town employees and Town vehicles; plus persons with business at Town Hall.

## 2. Proposal to Town Council re: incentives for Town Residents who install security cameras or security systems

The Committee decided to send the recommendations for a rebate program listed below to the Town Attorney for review and input before making a formal presentation to the Mayor and Town Council:

- A. \$75.00 rebate per household should be given to residents who install approved security equipment that costs \$150.00 or more.
- B. The amount of \$1500 (20 rebates) should be established to fund the program for the next fiscal year. No rebates will be given for the remainder of the fiscal year after the \$1500 has been distributed.
- C. Types of equipment that will be eligible for rebate will be limited to motion detectors, alarm systems (commercial or individually installed), and outdoor floodlighting.
- D. Residents will submit a request for a \$75.00 reimbursement by completing a form which will include a request for the name and cost of the security item(s). This should be done before the actual purchase to determine if the item(s) are eligible for approval.
- E. The Committee and/or the Town Chief of Police will approve or disapprove the request and inform the Resident.
- F. The Resident (or his agent) will then install the security item(s) and provide the Town Chief of Police with a copy of the receipt for the cost of the item(s) and for installation.
- G. Town Police will then check the security item(s) for proper installation. When proper installation is approved, the Committee and/or the Town Chief of Police will request the Town to issue a check for \$75.00 to the Resident.

The Committee would like to know if the Town would incur a liability by subsidizing security equipment, especially equipment that includes cameras.

## 3. Possible signage for entrances to University Park

Signage that informs people of the name of the community is known to alert those who would cause harm in the area that the residents look out for each other. This technique is often referred to as "branding" a community. To this end, the Committee will ask the Mayor and Town Council to purchase two additional signs similar the "Town of University Park" sign at the corner of Pineway and Route #1. It will be recommended that one of these signs be placed at the intersection of Wells Parkway and Calverton Street near Wells Run and the other sign placed in the island on Beechwood Road near the entrance from Adelphi Road.

Chief Wynnyk volunteered to discuss with Mickey Beall the cost of larger, more legible street signs that could be unique to University Park and further brand our community. The Committee will also ask Mr. Beall if he could investigate what the cost would be for signs in the shape of the Town crest that could be placed around Town providing a welcome to the Town and information about the Town speed limit.

#### 4. Enforcement of Maryland bicycle helmet law in University Park

Chief Wynnyk recently wrote an article in the Town Newsletter encouraging the use of bicycle helmets. He noted that he and his officers talk to individuals who are not wearing helmets, emphasizing their benefits. At times he has also been able to provide helmets for children who did not have them. The Chief will check with NITSA to determine if they are distributing free bicycle helmets and, if so, how the Town could obtain some for distribution. It was also suggested that the Town Police use the Fourth of July community parade and picnic as venue to encourage helmet use.

#### 5. Discussion of safety tips for the Town website.

The Chair will discuss with Tracey Toscano, Town Clerk, the possibility of having a "Safety Tip" placed on the front page of the Town website with a link to more information at another location. The first Safety Tip to be placed will be the following:

*Keep valuables out of sight in your car.*

*Theft from autos is one of the most common crimes in this area. It is a crime of opportunity that can be prevented by eliminating the opportunity.*

1. *Lock your car!*
2. *Remove valuables from your car when you park.*
3. *If you must leave valuables in your car, keep them out of sight. Hiding valuables under the seat is better than leaving them in view, but removing them from the car or putting them in the locked trunk or glove compartment is much safer.*
4. *When shopping, keep all purchases in the trunk, out of sight.*

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2014, at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room at Town Hall.

Submitted by Roy Alvarez, Chair