

**Town of University Park**  
**Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety**

October 4, 2017

7 PM

Conference Room

University Park Town Hall

6724 Baltimore Avenue

**Present**

**Committee Members:** Joe Thompson, Council Member, Ward 1; Linda Verrill, Council Member, Ward 4; Martha Wells, Council Member, Ward 6; Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7 and Committee Chair

**Guests:** Michael Wynnyk, Chief of the University Park Police; Michael Cron, Former Council Member, Ward 6 and former Committee Member; Mackenzie Roche, Journalism Student from the University of Maryland

**Excused**

Committee Member Joe Shultz, Council Member, Ward 4

**Agenda**

**1. Review of Previous Actions**

**a. Parking Restrictions on 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenues at East-West Highway**

Signs have been installed and Town police are enforcing the no parking zones. Restrictions are making turns in and out safer.

**b. "Sidewalk" Proposal for Clagett-Pineway**

The Mayor is investigating the cost for a full sidewalk for the area. There is concern for what the Town can legally do on the road. The Chair will contact the Town Attorney to discuss what actions the Town can legally take using the road to make the area safer for pedestrians.

**c. Deployment and Use of Electronic Speed Control Sign**

The Town police are moving the sign to different areas in Town depending on the need. It appears to help control the traffic.

**d. Traffic Control on Van Buren Street Between 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Forest Hill Drive**

The Chair was told by a resident of the area that there has been some improvement. The resident noted that several families are parking their cars on the street to help

control the speed of traffic. Problems with speeding is more evident in the early morning and around 5:00 in the afternoon.

**e. Traffic Control on College Heights Drive Between 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Wells Parkway**

The electronic speed control sign is currently on that section of road. The Town police are monitoring the area. Information from the soon-to-be-completed traffic study may be helpful in developing a plan for that area.

**f. Security System Rebate Program**

Chief Wynnyk has been mentioning the program in his column in the Newsletter. Several residents have received \$100 rebates for installing security systems. The Committee will work to make the program better known among residents. Chief Wynnyk has received several discount coupons for the **Ring Video Doorbell** security system which he will distribute to interested residents.

**g. Additional Signage for Entrances to University Park**

The two green and gold "Town of University Park" signs, one on Wells Parkway at Calverton Road and the other at Beechwood and 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue indicate to those who enter that they are in our Town. The signs let those entering our Town know that we are a community. In addition, the Department of Public Works has replaced worn street signs with new street signs that contain the Town seal, further indicating to people that they are in our Town and that we are a community.

**h. Access for Emergency Vehicles to Queens Chapel from Baltimore Avenue**

The Town police have received no recent complaints about emergency vehicles having difficulty entering Queens Chapel Road from Baltimore Avenue in the last six months.

**i. Problem of Residents' Driveways Being Blocked Near University Park Elementary School**

Only a few tickets were issued so far this year for cars parked blocking residents' driveways. There have been no recent complaints from the residents who live in the area.

**j. Four Way Stop Signs and Stop Bars at Woodberry Street and College Heights Drive**

Due to the odd configuration of this intersection, the stop signs and stop bars appear to be helpful in making the area safer for pedestrians and driver.

**k. Traffic Control on Tennyson Road Between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the Park**

There have been no recent complaints registered to the Town police about traffic in that area. It appears that the directional signs and the larger sign indicating there is no outlet on that section of the road are working to control traffic in the area.

**l. Truants from Northwestern High School in Town**

The situation has been discussed with Dr. Kevin Maxwell, CEO of the Prince Georges' County Public Schools. Dr. Maxwell indicated that someone from his staff would contact the Town to discuss the situation further. Chief Wynnyk has discussed the situation with the Chief of the Hyattsville Police Department. Chief Wynnyk will also discuss the truancy issue with the security officer at Northwestern High School.

**2. New Business**

**a. Traffic Safety Procedures at University Park Elementary Opening and Closing**

Town police are assisting children crossing the streets in the morning and at the end of the school day. Chief Wynnyk has ordered some traffic signs to place in the area to alert motorists to drive more carefully near the school.

**b. Illegal Entry to Riverdale Park Station From Van Buren Street**

University Park Police have ticketed some drivers who have avoided the barrier and driven directly across Baltimore Avenue to Riverdale Park Station. Several trip planning apps are known to direct traffic straight across Baltimore Avenue. Results from the soon-to-be-completed traffic study may assist in planning for better traffic control at that intersection. A sign or green arrows in both directions may be helpful to motorists.

**c. Areas of Focus on Traffic Control Study When Completed**

The Committee will be looking closely at intersections and traffic in Ward 1. Another area of interest will be "cut-through" traffic, along with traffic volume and control in all Town Wards.

**d. Committee Organization and Direction**

Since five of the seven Council Members in Town are on this Committee, the Committee will need to keep the remaining two Council Members and the Mayor informed of Committee activities.

**e. Additional New Business**

**i. Appropriate Use of Police Cell Phone**

The cell phone is carried by the officer on duty. The cell phone should not be called in an emergency. Emergency calls should be made to 911. Town police will be dispatched if appropriate. The officer on duty is not always available to answer the cell as he or she may be attending to other business. Call backs by the officers are made only if requested by the caller.

**ii. Parking for the New Playground**

Parking spaces will be designated on the pad near the new playground. The Town police will enforce the no parking restrictions in the circle on Wells Parkway near the school. The Town police will monitor parking in the area and Chief Wynnyk will let the Committee know if parking becomes a problem for residents in the area and possible solutions will be discussed if necessary.

**iii. Red Light Camera on East-West Highway**

Chief Wynnyk has requested that a red light camera be installed, but construction in the area seems to have delayed any implementation of the request.

**iv. Information from Chief Wynnyk**

(a) Captain McCully will be on leave for six to eight weeks due to illness.

Sergeant Enig will assume his duties during that time.

(b) The new police officer is in training for certification.

(c) The Police Department is planning to start up a program to check on

seniors who live alone. Interested people should contact the UP Police.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.