

Town of University Park

Council Committee on Police, Traffic and Public Safety

May 19, 7:00 PM
Conference Room
University Park Town Hall
6724 Baltimore Avenue

Present

Committee Members: Linda Verrill, Council Member, Ward 4; James Gekas, Council Member, Ward 2; Michael Cron, Council Member, Ward 6; Joe Thompson, Council Member, Ward 1; Roy Alvarez, Council Member, Ward 7 and Committee Chair
Guests: James Cook, TruCount Data and Resident of University Park; Wayne McCully, Captain, University Park Police; Jenna Beveridge, Melissa Sedwick, Kenny Manning and Cheryl Meyer, Residents of University Park; Michael Wynnyk, Chief of the University Park Police (arrived 8:05 PM)

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

Meeting Notes

Request for Traffic Control on Van Buren Street

At this committee's meeting on April 14, 2016, Residents expressed concerns about speeding and dangerous traffic on Van Buren Street between Adelphi Road and Wells Parkway. Additional concerns were expressed at the current meeting.

Captain McCully noted that the Town Police will increase traffic patrols in the area of concern. The speed display unit will also be placed in the area to alert drivers who may be exceeding the 25 mile an hour limit. Captain McCully also encouraged Residents to get the license numbers of speeding cars, if possible, and provide them to the Town Police. If the cars belong to Town Residents, the Police can then talk to the drivers about traffic problems in the area.

In addition, Captain McCully noted that the Town Police Department is investigating the purchase of a new speed display unit that can also record vehicle speed. Mr. Cook suggested that it would be very helpful for the Town to have a unit that takes a picture or a video of vehicles as they pass. Mr. Cook indicated that such units may become increasingly helpful when Riverdale Park Station opens, as traffic through University Park is likely to increase.

Mr. Cook did not see the need for a traffic study at this time. He noted that the speed display unit with photo/video capability and increased patrols by the police were the most reasonable options.

Request for Additional Sidewalks in Town

At this committee's meeting on April 14, 2016, a concern for pedestrian safety was expressed because of the lack of sidewalks in some areas of University Park. After discussion, the committee decided to request Council Members to survey the residents in their individual Wards as to the need for additional sidewalks in their Ward and where they are needed most.

The area of biggest concern at present is on Clagett-Pineway because of the amount of vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic there. The difficulties of using the Town's six-foot right of way in front of the homeowner's property in that area and the cost of sidewalk construction are two of the factors that must be considered. Chief Wynnyk suggested instead of constructing sidewalks in the right-of-way, parking on that street could be restricted to one side and a sidewalk could be painted on the road on the opposite side, with the possible addition of bollards to restrict cars from entering the sidewalk to protect pedestrians.

Mr. Alvarez will contact David Caskey, Council Member for Ward 5, to develop a plan for surveying the families on Clagett-Pineway to discuss options for pedestrian safety in that area.

Old Business

There was no additional old business to discuss.

New Business

Mr. Thompson noted the likely increase in traffic through Town when Riverdale Park Station opens later this year or early next year. He volunteered to check with the Town Attorney to determine what measures are available to the Town for restricting traffic on Town roads, especially in Wards 1 and 3 where the traffic increase is likely to be highest. He will report to the committee at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.