



Tuesday October 18, 2022

7:00 - 8:31

Brewers Alley

MINUTES

NAC 11 COORDINATORS: Present: Nkem Wellington, Marge Rosensweig, Bruce Albaugh, Ricardo Bairan, Matt Edens, Steve Jakubczyk; Not Present: Eric Nicholson

CITY STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS: Lauren Paulet, Community Liaison; Katie Nash, Alderperson; Derek Shackelford, Alderperson; Shraddha Praharaj, Engineering Department

MINUTES: Marge Rosensweig

POLICE REPORT

Officer Eric Morton, Directed Patrol; Sargant Vincent Brown, Directed Patrol

FPD would like to thank the community for their active involvement and support. Camera footage and cooperation from the community are extremely vital to case closures.

Crime Stats: September 18-October 18, 2022

- Calls for Service: 1,012
- Proactive Enforcement: 230 patrol checks; 56 traffic stops
- Arrests: 118 criminal arrests; 13 traffic arrests
- Significant events: June 19th firearm discharge area of N. Market and Church Sts. Arising from altercation. Crowd dispersed. Case forwarded to CIS.

Focus Four Crimes:

- Robbery: 0
- Burglary: 0
- Theft of Auto: 0
- Theft from Auto: 0

Crime Patterns/Trends:

- Residents are advised to lock residence and auto windows and keep items out of view in car/residence
- Don't leave outside objects (e.g., rocks, bricks) that can be used to break windows
- Invest in doorbell camera and/or surveillance system for peace of mind and aid to police in identifying suspects and solving crimes.

Community Policing:

- FPD Job Openings. The FPD is currently hiring police officers and dispatchers. For more information please visit: <https://frederickpolice.org/>
- Call the FPD non-emergency number to report incidents of concern (301-600-2102).



OLD BUSINESS

North Market Street Public Safety

- Some improvements have been noted (e.g., Carmen's, in the 3rd Street block, is closed) which can be attributed to the cooperation of police, residents, Frederick County Health Department, etc., with emphasis on the vocal input/response of citizens.
- The Hookah bar and the after-hours activities that take place in the Carmack-Jay parking lot are still a concern for some residents. Sgt. Brown acknowledged the issues with the parking lot, i.e., it is privately-owned, so FPD cannot close it at night. Sgt. Brown also mentioned that some funding has been allocated to place officers in specific locations during problem times, which has had an impact on the area's problems.

Skateboards and Bicycles

As a follow up to the September 2022 NAC meeting about skateboards on sidewalks, it was noted that signs posted to prevent this activity are placed too high up, are too wordy, and should be revised. Other discussion include:

- Sgt Brown said the issue with enforcement is that the prohibition is an ordinance, which carries a very minimal fine. FPD can issue citations and make the violators aware of it.
- A suggestion was made to reach out to stakeholders within the skateboarding and bicycle communities to make them aware of the ordinance. Sgt. Brown said FPD has reached out to skate shops and will revisit their prior public education campaign (10 years ago).

Other questions/answers:

- **Use of Segways:** Segways are allowed on the sidewalks.
- **Resident-led Community Safety Patrols:** FPD is not aware of any but will reach out to CID.
- **Loitering/Excessive Loitering:** Loitering ordinances/laws were deemed unconstitutional because they violated the right to assemble. As long as pedestrians have a clear passageway along the street, there is no violation. Moreover, public property cannot be posted with no trespassing signage. However, private property can be.
- **Drunk driving enforcement:** Whether any proactive steps (e.g., random stops and breathalyzer tests) can be taken to limit drunk driving that occurs due to alcohol service and overservice in downtown. Sgt. Brown explained that a driver has to be stopped and must agree to a breathalyzer test. He noted that multiple officers are downtown looking for drunk drivers.
- **Speed cameras:** Can the technology and equipment granted to the City/FPD be used to acquire speed cameras or speed boxes? Sgt. Brown has no knowledge of the uses of the grant. The Downtown Frederick Partnership (Partnership) has applied for funds for two speed boxes which would be dedicated to the downtown area for a specified amount of time. These tools are not speed cameras but they can gather data about peak times for speeding violations so enforcement can concentrate on those times.

Traffic Calming

Aldersperson Shackelford apprised attendees about a Traffic Calming CIP (capital improvement project) to evaluate traffic calming requests and determine the best approach and methods. Praharaj described traffic calming as, “a tool to reduce automobile speeds or volumes, to improve the quality of life, and to increase the safety and comfort of walking and bicycling primarily within residential neighborhoods.”
[\(See this link for complete presentation.\)](#)

Questions/answers:

- **How can residents get traffic calming in a neighborhood?** Praharaj advised attendees to log on to the City of Frederick website and enter their traffic concern in the search box. The concern is then routed to FPD and, if appropriate, to the engineering department.
- **Is there a way for the recipient (i.e., FPD and/or engineering) to confirm to the complainant that the concern has been received and is being addressed?** Praharaj assured attendees she receives all engineering concerns that are referred to her office and citizens are responded to within a week or two.
- **What are the costs for a 3rd party traffic study?** Praharaj said that any traffic calming requests are routed to her office where it is addressed if appropriate or referred to a consultant. The FY 2023 budget includes some funds for a consultant-led traffic study and her department is discussing the time/financial resources that will be needed.

Speed Cameras:

- **An attendee asked how Montgomery County was able to install speed cameras everywhere while Frederick’s cameras are only located around school zones?** Aldersperson Nash explained that Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties worked through their State delegation to enact legislation/ordinances. The City would have to do the same. Aldersperson Shackelford noted that the Board of Aldermen has advocated for this change to the State delegation. Attendees suggested that delegates be invited to meet with residents (perhaps at NAC meetings) to learn about the importance of the issue from residents’ perspectives. Wellington noted that coordinators have discussed inviting state delegates and other NAC coordinators to such a meeting and opined that it would be helpful if the Alderspersons apprised residents about what they (Alderspersons) can and cannot do when issues arise as it is often unclear which government entity e.g., city, county, state delegates, are responsible for changing ordinances, legislation, and policies that impact overall quality of life.
- Nash reminded attendees that the City’s budget priorities discussion is 12/7 and to let Alderspersons know residents’ priorities. Unclear what the process is other than sending an email.



NEW BUSINESS

Block by Block Ambassador Program

Kara Norman, Partnership Executive Director and Anthony Boone, Regional Director, Block by Block, provided information on the Ambassador Program in downtown Frederick. Boone noted that Block by Block's main objective is to support business improvement districts. Currently over 100 sites nationwide and more than 300 ambassadors provide cleaning and hospitality five days/week. Frederick is one of the smallest sites. However, from January 1st until October 17th:

- Cleaning ambassadors removed 570 biohazards (e.g., blood, vomit, feces) and 164 graffiti stickers/tags. After a certain number of graffiti tags, the police are notified. More than \$1,000 was spent on weed removal.
- Hospitality ambassadors provided 750 hospitality assists (which is likely an understated number) and made 560 business contacts.

Attendees praised the ambassador program and its staff and asked questions about:

- **The power washing activity:** Norman noted that due to an equipment breakdown this was suspended but will work with DPW next year
- **Who pays for the cleaning service:** Norman said the City currently pays ½ and the Partnership ½. Fundraising is continuing for this purpose.
- **Who is responsible for cleaning the sidewalks:** Norman explained that DPW cannot perform some tasks which the ambassadors can. She advised that the ambassadors are only focused on public spaces cannot work on private property.

Public Art Design Workshop for 7th Street

Fountain Park is 130 years old and was the northern "entrance" to the City when Market street was a two-way road. Albaugh explained that the 7th Street project was initiated about 10 years ago to remove the pergolas at the north end of the park. Currently DFP is working to adorn the park with some art, envisioning a tall structure to the north, a stage, and sculpture. A meeting was convened November 9th to obtain feedback from area residents. The vision statement can be found here:

<https://downtownfrederick.org/work/projects/>

Norman replied to several questions about the fountain, green space, etc.:

- **Will local artists be used?** Best practice is to use both local artists and widen the field of potential artists to others.
- **Will the fountain be moved?** The fountain is in poor condition. It will be removed, refurbished, and replaced in the same spot. The Ausherman Family foundation is involved in this activity.
- **Will there be new green space?** There will be green space, though somewhat smaller than currently. Trees will provide a buffer with the street.
- **What kind of trees will be planted?** That is not yet determined though they will be chosen from a list of approved street trees.



Contacts

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NAC 11 MEETINGS – 7:00 pm Brewers Alley NAC 11 MEETINGS – 7:00 pm Brewers Alley 2022 Schedule	FREDERICK POLICE DEPARTMENT Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 301-600-2100 Anonymous Crime Tips 301-600 TIPS (8477) – phone 240-674-TIPS (8477) - text fpdcrimetip@frederickmdpolice.org
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