

# LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Date:	Meeting Location:	Distribution:	Attachments:
September 25, 2007	Florida Avenue Baptist Church	Website: <a href="http://www.ledroitparkdc.org">www.ledroitparkdc.org</a> LeDroit Park Market	Attendee List

7:00 PM

1. Agenda overview by President Mr. Robert Sullivan.
2. Reading of July 24, 2007 Meeting Minutes by Ms. Andrea Feniak.  
Motion:
  - To approve as written.Vote:
  - Unanimous, Yes.**Motion Passed by Unanimous Vote.**
3. Public Safety Committee Report:  
Report by Ms. Dina Lewis:
  - Security Camera
    - The security camera will be installed the week of October 1, 2007.
    - Simon, the owner of the LeDroit Park Market had provided a DSL line and power to operate the camera.
    - Dina will advise when the final completion date is determined. The mayor has expressed interest in attending an unveiling ceremony.
    - The cameras will be aimed to cover 4th Street from North to South and T Street from East to West.
    - The camera views will not include the Smith's residence. The installer has tested the views and has assured the committee that this request can be accommodated.
    - The camera is only a monitoring system for use in the event of a crime. If a crime occurs, only MPD will be able to access the data. No one in the Civic Association or Market can access the information at any time.
  - LeDroit Park Market Robbery Update:
    - A case number hasn't been assigned
    - Impact statements from the community at sentencing will be effective
  - MPD Food Drive
    - Officer Kyle is collecting canned goods to distribute to families for the holidays. A collection box will be located in the Market and at the Rite Aid at 13<sup>th</sup> & U Streets NW.
  - The Public Safety Committee Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 309 T Street NW. The next meeting will be on 10/22/07.
4. Nuisance Property Update:  
Report by Mr. Robert Sullivan.
  - An updated list is on the community website: [www.ledroitparkdc.org](http://www.ledroitparkdc.org). A hard copy is available upon request.
  - 511 U Street NW: It was determined that the renovations are in violation of the permits, zoning, trash and debris. Approximately two weeks ago, the property was secured by government officials.
  - This will be an ongoing problem because the building is in violation of zoning requirements and is stuck "in legal limbo"; it can't be torn down nor can construction continue.
  - 605 Florida Avenue: The property has been condemned and the owner is currently seeking permits to rebuild
  - New tax bills will be issued in October and approximately 30 vacant property owners will see their taxes go up.

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## 5. Treasurer Report:

### Report by Ms. Donna Morris:

- Currently there are only 33 members of the Civic Association.
- Membership is from June to June of each year.
- Mr. Sullivan commented that we need everyone in the community to join and support the Civic Association.

## 6. Anna J. Cooper Circle Update.

### Report by Ms. Alice Aughtry:

- Every second Tuesday has been designated as a work evening in the park.
- **The next event will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 6:30 PM.**
- It's almost time to plant bulbs!

## 7. Citizen Milestones.

### Report by Ms. Andrea Feniak:

- This is a new segment of the meeting agenda where resident milestones can be announce. The intention is to celebrate the accomplishments and life passages of LeDroit Park residents. Examples include birth, death, marriage, graduation, work or school awards, birthdays, etc.
- The community is invited to make their announcements during this time or to submit information to Andrea Feniak at 1903 4<sup>th</sup> St. NW; Ph: 986.7680; email: [Feniak-Buchanan@att.net](mailto:Feniak-Buchanan@att.net)
- The community mourns the death of former LeDroit Park resident, Mr. James Bernard Carter on August 4, 2007. A letter of condolence on behalf of the community was sent to his sister, Mrs. Loretta Carter Hanes.

## 8. Howard University Homecoming:

### Presentation by Mr. Steve Johnson:

- Homecoming will be on Saturday October 20, 2006. The football game will be against NC A&T and will begin after the conclusion of the parade. The parade route will be altered this year due to the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project.
- The parade will not affect parking in LeDroit Park.
- Parking on in Howard University garages will be made available to attendees in an effort to reduce the impact on the community but there will be a large number of out-of-town visitors to our community and it there will be some inconvenience to residents.
- It was noted that all university sponsored homecoming events on campus will be over when the football game ends (approximately 5:00 PM). The only university event on Saturday night will take place off campus at the Armory.

### Discussion:

- A resident asked how the University handles off-campus parties.
  - Mr. Johnson response: Any incidents should be report to MPD who is working closely with HU Police. He noted that the IMF meeting is happening that same weekend which may affect MDP's response times.
- A resident asked if there is a student affairs representative that could be contacted to report unacceptable student behavior.
  - Mr. Johnson response: He noted that during homecoming many people visit DC and the campus who have never attended nor have any affiliation with the University. Unfortunately, in past years bad behavior has been linked to non-students.
  - It was noted that all students must sign a "Code of Ethics" document that they are required to abide by. If there is ever an on-going issue with students in off-campus housing, the Dean of

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Student Services, Dr. Barbara Williams should be contacted. Call the main number and ask to be connected to her office: 202.806.6100.

9. Special Guest:

At-Large-Councilman, Kwame Brown.

- He noted that he has introduced a Bill in Council to increase the penalty for violations of Class I, II & III property taxes. Class I will increase from \$0.85/0.88 to 5.00 per \$100 assessment. Class III violations for vacant properties will increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per \$100 assessment.
- Several loopholes for blighted properties have been closed.
- He commended the community for successfully raising funds for the crime camera and he pledged to make a donation

10. Mary Church Terrell Update.

Report by Ms. Alice Aughtry:

- The Mary Church Terrell and LeDroit Park Oral History celebration, with a special tribute to Mrs. Laurretta Jackson, was a great success.

11. DDOT 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW Reconstruction Project Update.

Update by Mr. Deinma Jamabo

- The project is approximately three months ahead of schedule and substantial completion will be on October 20, 2007 with final project completion in December 2007.
- It was noted that "substantial completion" is a technical construction term and that it does not mean the project will be finished in October.

Discussion:

- A resident asked if the "cobra head" lighting was going to be replaced with "Washington Globes" or pendants as originally discussed early in the design. It was noted that the large galvanized bases have been installed.
  - Mr. Jamabo Response: He will verify what's going to be installed and will report back to the community.
- A resident asked in the "speed table" was still going to be installed on 1900 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Mr. Jamabo Response: He would need to verify and would report back to the community.
- A resident noted that the construction workers have been parking in residential parking spaces (they put signs in their windshields).
  - Mr. Jamabo Response: The workers are not supposed to do this and he would notify the contractor that this is unacceptable.
- A resident noted that the workers are harassing/"cat-calling" to women and that it was unacceptable behavior.
  - Mr. Jamabo Response: The behavior is unacceptable and the DDOT will put the contractors on notice.

12. Elks Lodge Liquor License Renewal Update

Report by Mr. Jeff Heron:

- At the end of July the Civic Association sent the ANC a letter communicating that the community had not formally discussed the renewal because Mayor Fenty and Chief Lanier's presence interrupted our normal agenda.
- The ANC then drafted a letter to ABRA to request a temporary protest until the community-at-large could meet to discuss. The delivery of the letter to ABRA was not timely and ABRA renewed the application without hearing from the community. The letter was mailed 8/4, it was due 8/6 and it was received 8/8. ABRA has a set procedure in place and the protest did not meet the requirements for a timely submission.

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- The ANC and Civic Association invited the Elks Lodge to a meeting to discuss a voluntary agreement for the liquor license but the Elks refused to discuss the matter and are under no obligation to do so.
- Their license will be up for renewal again in three years.

## Discussion:

Residents in the direct vicinity of the Elks Lodged voiced their concerns.

- Mr. Alice Aughtry: The primary problems are noise when events let out at 2 and 3 AM, litter including liquor bottles and general trash in thrown in her front yard, fights, profanity and parking.
- Dr. Hill: Noted that the lodge membership itself in the community is all but extinct and the sole purpose is to rent to outside events. He noted that there are fights, sexual activity and parking problems.
- ANC Commissioner Myla Moss: Jim Graham is going to facilitate a discussion with Ms. Maria Delany of ABRA and members of the Elks Lodge. It was noted that prior to January 2007, the ANC secretary hand delivered all protests to ABRA. If any community members have complaints they need to report them directly to ABRA as outlined in their protest procedures.
- Mr. Robert Sullivan: Clarified that the Civic Associations has taken no position on the matter. The letter that was sent to the ANC in July was a request to defer the decision until the community could discuss and vote on a decision.
- Ms. Constance Razza-Thomas: The volunteer agreement can be discussed at any time but the Elks refused to meet. By law, the applicant is not required to come to the table. For a liquor license renewal there are three options available: 1 – Reject, 2 – Approve with restrictions or 3 – Approve.
- Ms. Cleo Belmar: She noted that she lives at 1883 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW for 10 years and the problem has been ongoing. There is fighting, cursing, trash, public sex, parking and noise at 2 and 3 AM. She noted that she has placed six security cameras around her home and will provide photo documents of the next incidence.
- Mr. Wilkins (Columbia Lodge): The discussion has been political propaganda – the Elks contacted the ANC Commissioner of Ward 1 because they did not feel that Commissioner Moss was working in good faith. The Elks will hold an open house in November to give a historical perspective on the lodge's activities within the community. Contact the Lodge at [columbia85@yahoo.com](mailto:columbia85@yahoo.com) or 202.232.3745.
- Mr. Bill Frazier: He is in support of Fraternal organizations but the behavior that is ongoing is inappropriate.
- Mr. Martin Taylor (Columbia Lodge): Asserts that in the past 6 to 9 months there have not been any incidents. The Elks are actively cleaning up the neighborhood. Crime is already present in LeDroit Park.
- Ms. Betty Stallworth: Has noticed that the parties have lessened. If they return, the police will be called.
- Any community comments on behalf of the Elks or complaints can be submitted to Mr. Robert Sullivan, President – LeDroit Park Civic Association. He will serve as a central gathering point for all comments, complaints, and incident reports related to the Elks Lodge. Please forward this information to him at [rsll@yahoo.com](mailto:rsll@yahoo.com). In addition, police and other authorities should be contacted as necessary.

## **12. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2007**

This memorandum represents our understanding of the events which transpired and the actions which were taken. If they do not conform to a recipient's understanding, prompt written notice must be communicated to the writer. If no corrections or objections are made, this memorandum will be relied upon as a factual interpretation of this meeting.

Submitted by,

**LeDroit Park Civic Association**

/s/

Andrea Feniak, Secretary

# ***LeDroit Park Civic Association***