

LeDroit Park Civic Association

Meeting Date:	Meeting Location:	Distribution:	Attachments:
October 23, 2007	Florida Avenue Baptist Church	Website: www.ledroitparkdc.org LeDroit Park Market	Attendee List

7:00 PM

1. Moment of silence.
2. Reading of September 25, 2007 Meeting Minutes by Ms. Andrea Feniak.
Corrections:
 - Public Safety Committee Report Section 3: Revise to "The next meeting will be on 10/11/07".
 - Howard University Homecoming Section 8: Revise to "...Saturday October 20, 2007..."
 - Elks Lodge Liquor License Renewal Update Section 12: The following discussion comment is attributed to Mr. Jeff Herron: "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."Motion:
 - To approve as amended.Vote:
 - Unanimous, Yes.**Motion Passed by Unanimous Vote.**
3. Public Safety Committee Report:
Report by Ms. Dina Lewis:
 - Security Camera: The security camera installation has been delayed by the contractor. Councilman Graham's office has intervened to assist the committee in getting a response. Ms. Lewis anticipates receiving a response tomorrow.
 - LeDroit Park Market Robbery Update: The suspect in the case has been released from custody and is back in the community.
 - MPD: A new captain has been assigned to LeDroit Park. His name is Captain Lamont Coleman, 202.671.6776, Lamont.Coleman1@dc.gov
 - Reminder that next Wednesday is Halloween and if you are participating you should leave your light on for safety.
 - The Public Safety Committee Meetings are typically held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 309 T Street NW; however the next meeting will be on 11/15/07.
4. Treasurer Report:
Report by Mr. Robert Sullivan:
 - Currently there are 43 members of the Civic Association. Several new members have joined this evening and are not counted in this tally.
 - The Camera Fund currently has an \$840 surplus that will be reserved for future maintenance of the camera.
5. Citizen Milestones:
Report by Ms. Andrea Feniak:
 - The community mourns the death Officer Michael Wright of MPD's Third District on October 8, 2007. MPD held a fundraiser on October 12, 2007 for Officer Wright's daughter and some members of the community attended.
 - The community celebrates the accomplishments of Mr. Lawrence Guyot who was featured in an article in the Washington Post District Page on October 18, 2007.

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- The community celebrates the accomplishments of Mr. Sedrick Muhammad, Constituent Services Specialist for Councilman Graham's Office who was featured in an article in the Washington Post Metro Section on October 23, 2007.
- The community is invited to make their announcements during this time or to submit information to Andrea Feniak at 1903 4th St. NW; Ph: 986.7680; email: Feniak-Buchanan@att.net

6. Elks Lodge Liquor License Renewal Update

Report by Mr. Jeff Herron:

- Ms. Simms at ABRA hosted an informational meeting on 10/11/07 where she reviewed the processes and procedures for renewing a liquor license. A copy of her Power Point presentation has been posted to the LeDroit Park website at www.ledroitparkdc.org.
- The meeting was attended by Jeff Herron, Constance Razza-Thomas, Myla Moss, Dina Lewis and a Lodge Representative.
- Ms. Simms confirmed that a protest is logged when it is received in their office. The protest must be received before the deadline and a post-mark is not relevant. Acceptable protest letters may be submitted via mail, fax or email.
- Protests may be submitted by adjoining property owners, groupings of five residents (or more) who reside in the vicinity, Community Groups and the ANC.
- When a license is up for renewal, a placard will be displayed alerting the community.
- ABRA's investigation and protest processes are separate reviews. Ms. Simms is acting in an out-reach role and provided a compliant form for submission to the investigative review. The next investigative meeting is scheduled for 10/24/07. There is no public information on what licenses are being investigated.

Discussion:

- It was noted that "Voluntary Agreement" is a legal term and suggested that the ANC no longer refer to it in future discussions.
- It was noted that the Elks have been approached about a Security Plan but the Exalted Ruler is on Travel.
- A resident of 1857 3rd Street NW who has resided in the neighborhood for 22 years indicated that the LeDroit Park Community needs to encourage the Elks to be part of the community. One idea is for them to offer Adult Classes or more civic minded activities.

7. MDP Report:

Report by Officer Wilson:

- Sergeant Durriyyah Habeebullah-Pettegrue has been promoted and the new Sergeant for LeDroit Park will be Sergeant Mark Johnson, 202.673.6923, Mark.Johnson@dc.gov

Discussion:

- Mr. Bill Frazier: Metro riders are being harassed when they walk past the Howard Theater.
 - Officer Wilson Response: MPD is focusing on the ABC establishment in that area which is selling alcohol at that corner. Police presence has been increased.
- Ms. Betty Stallworth: Asked if there is still a bicycle officer assigned to LeDroit Park.
 - Officer Wilson Response: No. An officer is assigned to the 1400 block of U and the 2000 block of Georgia.
- Mr. Clifford Dowe: Noted that there is drug activity and fires being set in the vacant property at 535 Florida Avenue.
 - Officer Wilson Response: Noted that 537 is also a problem.

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- Ms. Anita Rice: Noted unsavory activity in the house behind Frazier's Funeral Home.
- Ms. Andrea Verstrete: Noted that cars were inconsistently ticketed.

8. Special Guest:

Mr. Keith Miles, Chief of Staff for the Provost Office, Howard University, 202.806.2100, KMiles@Howard.edu

- The University is aware of the complaints against several off-campus student houses and has drafted letters to the occupants notifying them of the complaints.
- He indicated that the University is sensitive to the situation and apologizes to the community. If there continues to be problems report them to MPD as well as to the University.
- The University is in the process of preparing a document to distribute to students that encourages them to reach out to the community and immediate neighbors.
- He noted that the University does not sanction fraternal/sorority houses as it is inconsistent with the university's policies.

Discussion:

- Mr. Corry: Commented that the community enjoys the Homecoming Parade but wishes that the Band would also march in it. He also suggested that Howard include a member of the community in the parade preparation.
 - Mr. Miles Response: The Band does not march the entire route because the timing conflicts with the football game.
- Dr. Bennett: Noted that after complaints were made, the University went door-to-door to meet with students. She noted that Dr. Chambers is reviewing the Code of Conduct and how it relates to students who live off-campus.
- Mr. Verstrete: Some of the parties are not only Howard students. He noted that a party next door to his house included high school age students.
- Ms. Andrea Verstrete: Asked how to identify if a group house is a fraternity.
 - Mr. Miles Response: Provide as much descriptive information such as identifying Greek letters, symbols, colors, signs, etc.
- An unidentified Howard Student: Asked if the community has ever reached out to student groups.
 - Mr. Miles Response: He indicated that he would contact the Howard Student Association (HSA) to set up a community liaison process.

9. Nuisance Property Update:

Report by Mr. Nick Majett, DCRA Deputy Director

- He noted that he will be testifying in front of Council about limiting the exemptions for vacant properties.
- Mayor Fenty recognizes that the Condemnation Board has not been working properly and changes are expected city-wide with the new appointment of Mr. Tim Handy to the Director position.

Discussion:

- Ms. Anita Rice: Noted that her house was damaged by a fire in the vacant building next door to her (1828 4th Street NW). She asked what rights she has. The owner of the vacant property keeps being granted extensions. The enforcement of vacant properties is not effective.
 - Mr. Majett Response: He noted that he will personally look into the situation and will take immediate action ensure that the vacant building is meeting the 13 criteria points. The owner will be fined \$2000 per violation.
- Ms. Constance Razza-Thomas: Noted that 507 T Street NW is not Vacant.

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- Mr. Sullivan Response: The address will be removed from the list.
- Mr. Clifford Dowe: Noted that he has seen rats, raccoons and squatters coming out of 535 and 537 Florida Avenue NW.
 - Mr. Majett Response: He will look into getting having the rodents removed and the building secured.
- Dr. Lynette Munday: She noted that she purchased 404 U Street NW on July 10, 2007 and to please remove it from the nuisance property list (the property currently vacant and she is planning to renovate).
 - Mr. Majett Response: He recommended that she call his office to resolve. 202.442.8937.
- Mr. Lawrence Guyot: Expressed concern about the protection of homeowners. In some situations a humanitarian process should be applied.
- Mr. Richard Meyers: Commented that cases should be reviewed individually to protect homeowners that find themselves in situations like Ms. Rice.
 - Mr. Majett Response: Exemptions are granted for good cause. If a hardship is identified then he will act accordingly.
- Ms. Dina Lewis: Noted that along with Jim Graham's office, the community went to great effort to identify special cases.
- Ms. Sylvia Lawson: Noted that she received a large tax bill on an heir property even though an exemption was granted.
 - Mr. Majett Response: He recommended that she call his office to resolve. 202.442.8937.
- Ms. Elizabeth Floyd: Asked at what point will the city take over a vacant property and is it possible for the city to have too many vacant properties.
 - Mr. Majett Response: The city has a Home Again program for renovating vacant properties.
- Ms. Andrea Verstrete: noted that 212 T Street NW has been vacant for three years.
 - Mr. Majett Response: He will send out an inspector tomorrow.

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 27, 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