

**WEST PACES/NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.
MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY SECURITY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Meeting Held via Zoom**

*Minutes will be officially approved at the next board meeting.

President's Welcome: President Jim Hannon opened the meeting at 7:03PM. Tonight's meeting was held virtually through Zoom secondary to the COVID19 pandemic. Board attendees were as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>
Jim Hannon	X
Rip Black	X
Alva McGovern	X
John Stebbins	X
Jill Cooper	X
Alcina Dalton	X
Steve Dickson	X
Mike Elting	X
Maxine Feinstein	X
Tom Frolik	X
Matthew Grabowski	X
Charles Hoke	
Alfred Kallingal	
Anne Muller Wise	X
Eddie Padgett	
Sherry Perchik	X
Emily Richardson	X
Margaret Roberts	
Rick Robbins	X
Teresa Shell	
Meredith Shaughnessy	X
Stephen Weizenecker	

Also in attendance was Anna Sonoda, Fred Assaf, Henry Feinstein, Officer James Hoos, Zone 2 Precinct Captain Williams as well as several interested neighbors. The purpose of the meeting was to address recent

criminal activity in and near our neighborhood. Jim introduced guest Zone 2 Precinct Captain Williams.

Captain Williams reported on the recent criminal activity. In part because of the "APD Summer Plan" in place, the APD were quickly able to apprehend two 15-year old offenders in a recent shooting outside the Apple store at Lenox Square. He stressed that many offenders are from out of state, including at least one of the offenders at the Lenox incident. He explained the 'summer plan' increases the number of police officers in areas of increased crime and violence such as nightclubs and restaurants. The officers also investigate those businesses for compliance to city codes.

Captain Williams said the CVS films at 3401 Northside Parkway were viewed but not helpful in their investigation of the recent shooting there. In another incident, the perpetrator of the recent shooting on West Wesley Road was experiencing a mental health crisis. That shooting resulted in one resident being hospitalized and another victim lost both of his legs.

He reported that 171 weapons have been stolen in Zone 2 this year. He said it only takes 30 seconds to steal what is inside an automobile. He said residents need to be more mindful of property left in vehicles. One neighbor asked about setting up checkpoints, however Captain Williams said the practice is unethical.

Although camera license plate readers are quite helpful, criminals have started replacing license plates with drive-out plates. He said the blue light cameras are monitored 24/7 and to his knowledge all are functioning properly.

Captain Williams explained that areas with the greatest prevalence of crime have historically received the greatest police coverage. Until 2 years ago, Zone 2 was a low crime area of the city. The major focus now is on restaurants and clubs, which report higher levels of crime rather than residential areas where there is less crime.

Captain Williams admitted that crime happens even when police officers are present because of the current lack of respect for police. He believes legislative changes are needed. He believes the most effective tool is cameras.

Finally, he said Zone 2 officers work hard and are good officers and appreciate gestures of appreciation. We thanked him for his work and for attending our meeting.

Officer James Hoos gave an update on crime in our area, which he sees as minimal. He checks the crime stats daily. He suggests our neighborhood pays below the hourly market rate for patrol officers.. We have 5 officers covering our shifts with 2 being retired from APD and the other 3 are active APD. He said citizens still need to be aware of their actions like locking doors, not carrying valuables in their autos, etc. Officer Hoos did not feel a patrol car would strengthen the presence of our officers while on duty as each officer has an APD magnet for his vehicle. If a patrol officer sees a suspicious person, he does not have the authority to randomly stop or approach the vehicle. Instead, he can call Zone 2 to report it when he feels a stop would be appropriate.

A discussion of possible options to enhance security in our area ensued after Officer Hoos spoke. Some of the suggestions included:

- Blocking off some exits to the shopping areas;
- Drafting an open letter to the Mayor, and the Buckhead Coalition suggesting that our businesses are more vulnerable to crime given the close proximity to the interstate;
- Engaging local businesses to be more proactive in crime prevention;

Jim Hannon agreed to reach out to the neighboring Association Presidents to determine the interest level of collectively addressing security issues.

It was agreed that a Security Task Force should meet to develop further plans and actions. The Security Task Force will be comprised of WPNA residents, both Board members and non-Board members. Anna Sonoda, Mike Elting, Alcina Dalton, and either Joanne or John Fitzgerald will make up the Security Task Force.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Alva McGovern
Secretary