

Eckington Civic Association

July 9, 2018

7pm

28 people in attendance

Summit at St. Martin's

116 T Street, NE

Washington, D.C. 20002

- Welcome & introductions
- Officer updates
- Committee Report
 - No updates
 - Development on RIA next to RIA metro, between 4th, 5th, 6th st NE. Have the developers come by recently? Ned is pretty sure they're doing by-right development, haven't heard any updates
- Metropolitan Police Department representative
 - Sargent Hakim
 - PSA 502
 - Few weeks ago – homicide at Lincoln Road, 19 year old decedent; still investigating
 - This weekend- another shooting at Lincoln Road, victim is uncooperative (not unusual)
 - Crime prevention is a collaborative effort between us and the community. We know there's a problem at Lincoln Road that's brewing. Ever since the shooting the other day, have an officer on Lincoln Road 24 hours; we're doing that because we want to prevent another violent crime
 - PSA502 overall, crime is pretty steady. A little uptick in property crime. I spend 80% of my week in PSA502 (my mother lives here). People who gets their cars broken into – you have to make sure your valuables are tucked away. A lot of car thefts are not in 502 – other areas of 5th district; at gas stations, people leave their keys in their car. In this area, it's just Lincoln Road and the bike trail.
 - Bike Trail – be cognizant of your surroundings, we've had some very early-morning situations, people walking to Union Station and got robbed. If you're on the bike trail – use gut and common sense. On the bike trail there's walkers and runners, bikers, and people not doing any of those things; when you see people not doing any of those things – I would get off the trail (e.g., R st – there's a warehouse building with cameras – you can hop off and call us – we'll come out and check it out). We have gotten more officers mountain bike trained – it's rigorous, we recently had 3 officers trained, put one on the MBT for every tour of duty. Our first roll call is at 5:30am, then they have to ride the trail, so we don't have anyone for the first hour of the morning to be there.
 - Question – does DC still has money in private security camera fund? Yes – it's only \$500 – you can get 2 cameras, up to \$500 rebated from DC. You should invest in it – got the Ring floodlight camera system; I'd been having problems with people playing craps in my yard. I got the Ring camera system, allows you to share access to cameras – I shared it with our entire gun recovery unit and every police officer who wanted to have access – you can see when a crime occurs and you can swoop down and get the guys. I'm a big advocate of Ring, it's affordable and you can share

it – there's a listserv, knows the locations where you put the camera; when I go onto Ring app, it shows me all neighbors who have had a problem.

- Verify – police will follow up; they called me to check on my cameras.
 - Girlfriend lives on Lincoln road – interested in what's going on – MPD: if you see something, and it's a non-emergency, shoot me an email, I'll have officers go out there and see what's going on. Or there should be someone there, I can have him go check things out. We need the citizens – we work for the citizens. That's our job.
 - Questions: What should we be doing to keep ourselves safe, and what time are these typically occurring, and how do we get information once something's happened? Answer: There's a listserv that all crimes happening should be coming out – Mr. Clark gets MPD listserv and twitter. Jonathan from McDuffie's office can get him on listserv. Be cognizant of your surroundings – I've been carjacked, I wasn't paying attention. When you live in an area that's busy, like a city, you have to be prepared to get out of your car and into your house. Pay attention, don't sit in your car when you get home. Had a burglary on 8th st NE – Dance Place – what happened was, it looks like there's a fence in the back, but whole back is open. There's no blinds on downstairs level, had lights on, guy came and saw apple computer, he took his time, broke the window, got all the computers. If they had room darkening blinds, he would never had broken in. Sit in front of your house and see what other people can see. Most people don't want a victim to be a witness against them; they just want to take what they can and go.
 - Specific times? Homicide was 1:15am; robbery on MBT was 5-5:30am; shooting the other day was during midnight tour. Stuff is happening pretty late. But they hang out all the time. To be honest, the more people call the police, the more police service you get. We're stretched pretty thin – Saratoga, huge problem. A lot of neighborhoods, people feel like they've been victimized by the police. Police have no reasonable expectation of privacy in public space, riots are being incited in Saratoga, have to have police over there. So the more you call the police, you'll get more police service.
 - Pair of shoes stolen from front porch; didn't have flood light – I think that would have been a big help. Just want to say, I think the officers who responded were very nice and helpful.
 - 4th of July – had bullet come through bedroom window, officers were very responsive (100 block Quincy Place). Your neighborhood also has officer 24-7.
 - Want to mention – parking lot in front of wholesale florist is becoming hangout place. It's part of the Eckington Yards development – they're going to break ground soon in next month or two. We're bringing JBG back in Sept to present community. All of that will be fenced off; can let JBG know that it's happening too. Hannah Powell will pass this onto JBG.
 - Trying to find right balance – being real hard line can do more harm than good. If owner puts up clear no trespassing signs, that's different. But it's a delicate balance. Want to see what we can do instead of arresting people, leveraging heavy fines. If people are hanging out under shady trees on private property, maybe we need to cut down the trees. Need to think outside of the box.
 - Email: zunnobia.hakir@dc.gov
- ANC5E Updates
 - Commissioner Powell
 - Met with JBG, bringing them back in September – they'll be started before then. They'll talk about construction timeline, noise effects, who to

complain to. Especially impactful for people who live on R st; alley access, construction noise, etc.

- Hopefully this fall you'll start to see some retail by the 300 block of S st between trail and 3rd st on S, there's some new retail coming in – where Stable arts collective, as well as Salt and Sundry space, pickle company, caterer, other cool maker space. Should start opening up in next few months.
 - Nomination season for ANC. I will not be seeking reelection. It has been a pleasure. I am self-employed and at some point need to make money. But will still be very involved. Really want to encourage people to run. Everyone's up for reelection and we are only as good as how active our constituents are. If you have any questions, reach out. I encourage everyone to get involved, want to have someone for my seat. Nomination ballots were made available today; you need 25 signatures from residents in your district to be on the ballot in November. You have until August 8 to turn in completed registration. I look forward to working with you all in a different capacity come January.
 - Question – any updates on park? No, some small remediation work – soil is apparently really bad. Some minor stuff done, but NoMa BID is on it. They are really eager to see things happen – don't feel the need to pressure them. We will definitely bring NoMa parks back in the fall to give an update.
 - Comment/Question: Thank you for your work. Question about JBG and timing – they're breaking ground? Answer – demo is starting – equipment will be on site soon, don't have exact date. Haven't looked at construction management agreement, supposed to meet with us 30 days prior. Mike Aiello, president of condo association, he was very involved in original construction, he and I met reps of JBG, they got laundry list. All that stuff – they're going to come back to us with. Sept should be full report. They hadn't selected construction supervisor. If there's specific things you want to know about, we can tell them in advance of meeting. Also waiting on zoning modification – fire code issue. S
 - Have space on committee for anyone who wants to be involved.
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- Elected Officials
 - Jonathan on behalf of Councilmember McDuffie
 - Will start having community meetings throughout the ward in the mornings and at the end of the day, to discuss issues in the community. Be on the lookout for our newsletter, and we'll disseminate that info through the civic association.
 - Will happen during recess (begins July 15)
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- Vice President elections
 - Candidates did not show
 - If you want to run – only for the rest of this year, welcome you to run in September; email Hannah Putman or Katrina
- Northeast Boundary Tunnel Project, Alan Etter
 - Hadiah – DC Borders Clean Rivers Project
 - Introductions – Shane, Scott, Nicolas (Community liason), Alan Etter (public outreach)

- Have project webpage –
- Major project of Clean Rivers project, purpose is to reduce combined sewer overflows to Anacostia and to reduce chronic flooding to area.
- Focus is on 4th st and RIA NE.
- Going to build tunnel system. The Anacostia river tunnel connects from Blue Plains to RFK stadium; from there is where we will connect boundary tunnel – 5 miles from RFK to RIA to R and 6th st. for it to work, this tunnel will be 100' underground. You have to connect existing sewer system to tunnel. Wet weather system – when we have a storm that our sewer can't handle, have overflow to river and chronic flooding. Identifies a number of places with flooding – building Diversion Facility – will connect existing sewer to funnel system.
- You will feel impact of us building diversion system – 4th st & RIA at metro station.
- 4th st, begin work in late August/beginning of Sept – have to mobilize site, get ready for construction, and then begin work. When we start work, there will be impacts that we will mitigate – traffic – RIA is major thoroughfare; we will be taking lanes, but there will always be a lane open each way. 4th st – constructing diversion facility, we will only have 1 southbound lane open. You won't be able to make left turn onto 4th st; may see construction between North Cap & Lincoln road – removing median so when you're going eastbound, you can make left turn so traffic can connect to 4th st. You won't be able to go north on 4th st.
- This week – tunnel boring machine which will be digging tunnel; had christening event – named it Chris after beloved employee of Clean Rivers project. Boring machine will be lowered down at RFK stadium this week.
- Work begins this week; will not end until 2022
- Question: Boring machine is 100 ft. underground; have had problems from vibrations from Metro trains. Any problems with boring machine? No – you won't feel anything; we're tunneling in "soft ground" – heavy clay and clay sand. You won't feel any vibration; small train, conveyer belt carries muck. When we did tunnel from RFK to Suitland Parkway, no one complained about hearing anything. I've gone out when it was tunneling, put ear to sidewalk, couldn't hear anything.
- We employ engineer who is noise and vibration engineer, monitors all sites, to make sure we're in compliance with local & fed guidelines
- Question – what is being done to protect pedestrians where we're removing median? Signalization. There will be crosswalk. Just removing middle part in middle of street – have to remove that to allow left turn lane. DDOT wants to keep median removed. Only left-turn for traffic going east on RIA.
- Question – plans for DDOT to monitor intersection? Signalized left turn? Yes, will be signalized.
- Comment – too bad we're losing mature trees from median.
- Hannah Powell – decision was made years ago about left turn lane; never happened, but came up with this project that they need lane for.
- Question – is it definitely going to be permanent? Answer – that is DDOT's intention, but until we have some data to back up why this is a bad idea, it's going to be hard. Suspect we're going to get more commuter traffic on Lincoln.
- Commuter outreach – we know RIA is a major thoroughfare, have major commuter outreach plan. We'll be working with ANC, civic associations, listserv, email, traffic media, our website, to keep people informed and encourage them to use alternative routes.
- Will work on read line be completed by end of August when this starts? Answer – don't know full start and end date; median removal was accelerated because of project. We are in coordination with them, don't know exact date – early September.
- Comment – it's going to be harder to get out of Eckington, especially as metro is down for repairs.
 - Will have maps to show people how to get around. But the more we hear from you and hear your concerns, the more we can work together and address those things. This is a long project and it's going to be difficult, you're going to be frustrated with us, but we're going to do the best we can to address those concerns. Will come to community meetings, will have Tunnel Forums where we can talk about construction in the area, give update, hear from you how we're doing to address things as we can.

Next tunnel forum will be in September. Encourage you to come to format – can have more dialog about the things that concern you, how we can address it.

- Haul routes for trucks on 4th streets should only be on major thoroughfare. There should not be any trucks going down small neighborhood streets. But if you identify a haul truck that belongs to our project, we have an 800 number, you can let us know. Will use a contractor, may not be clearly marked.
 - Have more information on the back of presentation
 - Question – have metro been contacted about D8 and G8 routes? Yes, those routes will be affected by construction, have some notes about that. Will send maps. D8 – northbound route will be affected, have detour route that goes from Metro up to 12th st, down Franklin. G8 eastbound route, rerouted to 12th st and Franklin, and then up Edgewood. Bus stops will be temporarily eliminated, bus stops added.
 - Question – pedestrian and cycling plans – do you have more details? Answer – we'll inform you of those plans. We're also trying to work with WABA, would like to have a meeting with them, hope they can send information to bicyclist community.
 - Comm Powell – know there was a panic when there was talk of closing Monroe St Bridge, which has been nixed. They were trying to close that bridge with metro closure, have backed away from that because people were concerned about other projects, including this one. You would have taken out miles of East-West routes. Every time we meet with folks, everyone's asking questions about all these projects, not clear that everyone's synced up. Ask that you please sync up – not sure the whole picture is clear, especially with this stretch along RIA. DDOT has RIA streetscape stuff, happening in the next year or two.
 - Answer – we do our best to coordinate; have weekly meetings with WMATA, trying to coordinate.
 - Question – work on RIA – closing 2 lanes on each side? Answer – no have to maintain 2 lanes in each direction. Still be 4 lanes open.
 - Question – retail coming at 4th and RIA, don't know if you've engaged w/ businesses; would love to hear if you have ideas on how we can support and foster this retail during this time. Answer – definitely, those businesses are important. Understand that just taking lanes and parking has impact. Putting business mitigation plan in place, can put low hanging fruit in place – parking, encourage people to support the business?
 - Really want your partnership – you have the pulse of the community. We are also available for SMD meetings,
- Zachary Parker, Candidate for State Board of Ed, Ward 5
 - Eckington resident, a former 7th grade math teacher. Work with schools every day – both district and charter. Running for state board of Ed.
 - Election is important because currently in Ward 5, less than 20% of students are proficient in ELA and math. Students are finishing school not being fully literate, not able to pursue college or career of their choice. All issues stem back to how we are educating our children.
 - There is currently a void of educational voice in Ward 5. Our educational council is not up and running. Our board of ed member, Mark Jones, have been there for 10 years and is stepping down. But many people would say they don't know him or don't see him. There's a sense of urgency and desperation, people need to know where to voice concerns.
 - I'm running because we need an educator on the board who brings classroom experience. I'm the only person running who works with schools every day. When Laura Phelen steps down, no one else on the board has K-12 experience.
 - Priorities: my vision is that we can improve our schools by investing our community and the process. Many of our education sectors operate in siloes. My vision in investing the community in the process, sharing why this process is so important.
 - Pushing for independent oversight of our schools. Not opposed to mayoral control. I've lived here for 6+ years; from Chicago – also a mayoral control city, but has independent board that is check and control. In DC, mayor has almost total control.

- Lottery system, which is a large gamble. Our most at-risk students cannot attend schools that would best serve them.
- Quality review of schools – work with Dunbar, Dunbar had 1% proficiency last year. Many might say that's horrible, what people won't tell you is that 95% of students who entered came below grade level.
- Petition – need 200 ward 5 signatures.
- Question: What would you propose changing about the lottery system?
- Neighborhood preference percentage (like Mundo Verde, has huge waiting list); emphasis on at-risk students or those most at-need or below grade level.
- Question: What is your current role? Senior director of school support with Achievement Network (ANet). Works with principals of both public and charter schools.
- Question: ideas for how to verify enrollment for DC public schools? There is a need for a registry – a registry would track all of our students, allow us to perform an audit of sorts (including homeschool students – they're often overlooked).
- Why can't we use the D40 to track students? I don't know. There's a host of options on the table. I think there needs to be a real *wanting* to solve the problem. Haven't seen many proposals. The council is now grappling with legislation to pass a noise ordinance. For that to be emergency legislation whereas our school system isn't,
- Early childhood education – multiple people have talked about the cost, getting quality early childcare, childhood education – it's a huge bar, tough to get. Answer: There's ample research to suggest that early childhood education prepares children in unparalleled way to other opportunities; it's something we need in the district that would be affordable to all families. Many moms have decided to stop working because it's cheaper to stay home than to pay for daycare. That's something parents should not have to choose between – whether to make a living or provide a strong future for their children. There's a growing emphasis on that by some of the councilmembers.
- Thank you all for listening. I hope to earn your vote by November. I would push you to educate yourself about education matters. I cannot stress how important this election is to Ward 5 and all of DC.

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