

BOLTON HILL SOCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

2016 Impact



Civil Unrest in Baltimore in 2015 after the Death of Freddie Gray

On April 12, 2015, Baltimore Police Department officers arrested Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old African American resident of Baltimore, Maryland. Gray sustained injuries to his neck and spine while in transport in a police vehicle. On April 18, 2015, after Gray's subsequent coma, the residents of Baltimore protested in front of the Western district police station. Gray died the following day, April 19, 2015, a week after the arrest.

About SATF

Baltimore 21217



► History

Following the unrest in spring 2015, the Mt. Royal Improvement Association (MRIA) encouraged neighbors to form a group that would identify ways that residents can make a positive impact in 21217 resulting in SATF.

► Mission

To encourage facilitate and initiate personal engagement between the Bolton Hill neighborhood and the surrounding 21217 community. By highlighting the many great organizations serving our community, we hope that our collective efforts will create a more healthy vibrant, just and safe community for everyone.



4

Parties with a Purpose

~\$2K

Donated

>12

Organizations supported

2016 Impact

Other activity includes set-up of a Facebook page for engagement of the community and production of a Holiday Volunteer Guide to facilitate gift-giving to organizations making a difference in 21217.



January Party With a Purpose

On January 29, over 60 neighbors attended the inaugural Party with a Purpose at the home of Rich and Shereen Zellars, collecting \$200 in donations for the No Boundaries Coalition (NBC), and almost 100 books for Reading Partners' "Take Reading Home" program. The Thread mentor program which provides support to local high school students was also featured. Attendees also engaged in a brainstorming session focused on community engagement.



Stoop Party with a Purpose

A traditional Baltimore style stoop party held at the home of Andrew and Kendra Parlock, 1529 Bolton St. \$500 was donated and given to Whitelock Community Farm and a local arts program. Books were received and donated to Reading Partners. Attendees walked together to the Boundary Block Party.



Boltonstock

Outdoor music festival at Bolton Hill's Sumpter Park sponsored by MRIA. SATF volunteered at the event. Jubilee Arts, The Feminist Art Project: Baltimore Chapter, Midtown Academy, Hope Forward, No Boundaries Coalition/FRESH, Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School, Brown Memorial Tutoring Program, Whitelock Community Farm organizations were offered tables to promote awareness and receive donations.



Halloween Party With a Purpose

This Halloween festival was held outside of Kappa Alpha Psi's Youth and Community Center at 1207 Eutaw Place. 120 children decorated pumpkins and many received costumes. Young men from Kappa Alpha Psi's Guide Right Program, MICA art students and SATF members volunteered at the event. \$300 in donations received.

**ACTIONS
SPEAK
LOUDER
THAN
WORDS**

Reengagement and focus post 2016 election

Many neighbors reached out directly to SATF to initiate discussion on reconciling feelings and strategizing on action after the 2016 elections.





What is Bolton Hill?

Neighborliness (commitment to public life)

Village in a big city (how do we not have gates?; fear)

Boundaries (person-made) and our history of restrictive covenants

No businesses within Bolton Hill; largely residential- sets up dynamic of not having a reason to be in neighborhood

Lots of artists and creatives (MICA)

Very dense in volunteer associations (flip side of no retail)

Diverse but different from other neighborhoods in Baltimore

More white than other neighborhoods

We aren't engaging everyone; more renters than home owners

Economically diverse?

Neighborhood previously matched Baltimore's demographics

Retirement communities

Few neighborhood children go to Mt. Royal; kids coming and leaving- opportunity to cross bridges

Privilege in having a say in what goes on; resentment

Need to support what others are working towards



Role of SATF within the neighborhood?

Research; awareness; facilitating connections

Moral compass

Focal point; focus energies

City-wide advocacy efforts; following the lead of other organizations

Amplification- information gathering- guidance (vetting ideas)

Committee of MRIA and pushing its boundaries and comfort zone

Community building within the neighborhood (introducing new neighbors)



What are your concerns and how do they affect the SATF?

Sanity

Channels energy following the election

Need to be aware; we don't know what's going to happen

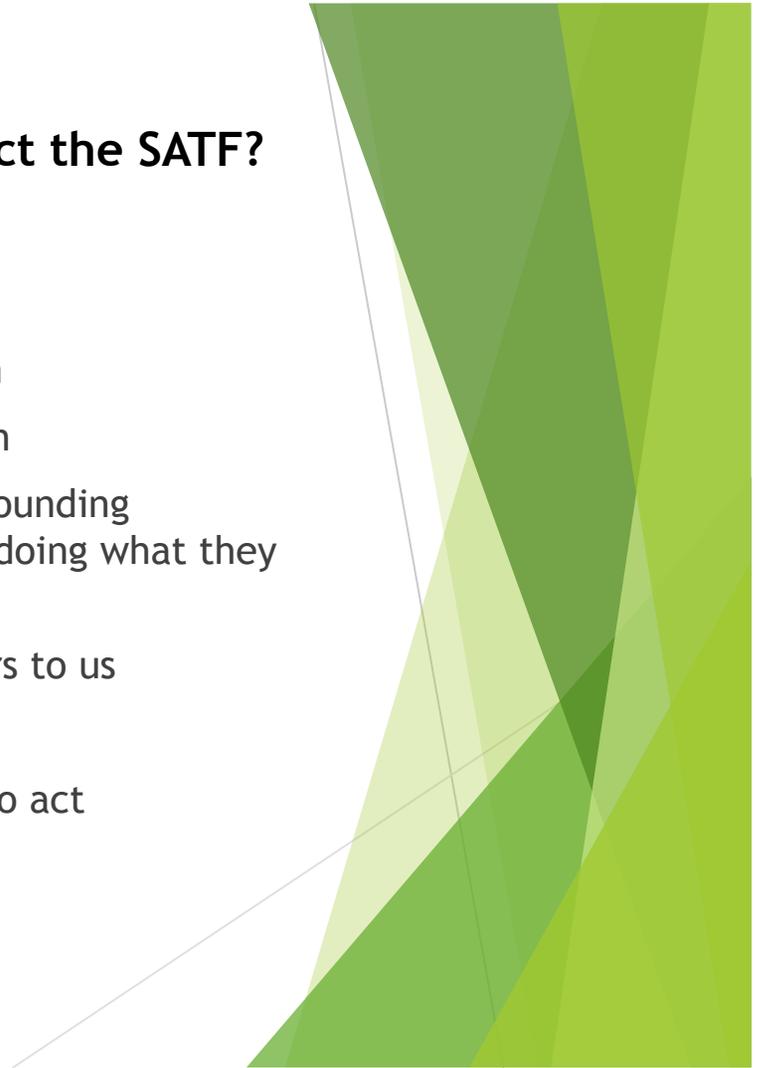
Social programs could be affected; pick up slack if we can

Need to also consider how we are different from our surrounding neighborhoods- very educated (resource); employed and doing what they want to do; everyone thinks the same

Safety net- know where to make a difference that matters to us

Opportunity for people do something in our community

Need to be proactive- if we are "social action" we have to act



SATF in 2017

- ▶ Key lessons learned
 - ▶ Many neighbors are eager to come together for social action
 - ▶ There are still more ideas for events, activities and initiatives
 - ▶ Strive to keep the focus on active organizations in 21217
 - ▶ Others?
- ▶ 2017 Goals and Event Planning



Get Involved

- ▶ The SATF meets regularly on the first Sunday of each month from 5 to 7 pm. Locations change, as meetings are usually held at an SATF member's home. See the Social Action Task Force (SATF) Facebook page for updates.
- ▶ Please join SATF to plan and produce upcoming events, bring attention to and support non-profit groups doing great work in 21217, and help with neighborhood-wide projects and initiatives.

- ▶ Current email distribution list

Kendra	Peter	Steven
Andrew	Aften	Grey
Kellie	Jessica	Briana
Rob	Stephen	