

Notes – MICA/MRIA Safety Town Hall

February 1, 2016

Attendance: 240 residents and students

Sammy Hoi– President, MICA - HOST

Michael Marcus – President, MRIA – Introduction

In the foyer – People to teach you how to use apps to find cell phones (iPhone and Android), Companion app, new police app, Maryland case search app, City Watch and personal security camera information.

Grey Maggiano, Pastor, Memorial Episcopal Church – Facilitator

Marilyn Mosby – State’s Attorney

State’s Attorney will be pursuing violent offenders vigorously. We have a few recent convictions for violent crime and these were cited.

Mosby lives in the neighborhood, North of North Avenue.

20% increase in # of crimes in City from 2014 to 2015. Trended down in 2016. These events taxed current prosecutors –each are handling 54 cases at a time. They have an 80% conviction rate. Their major priority is sexual assault predators/serial predators, and violent crimes.

Pre-trial juvenile crime prevention for non-felony crimes for kids under 16. Over 16, they are charged as adults.

Mosby advised that her division only prosecutes. They do not set sentences, the judges do. *She advised that residents needed to be involved in the criminal justice system. We need to be present during the trial so that the judge knows we are watching. And the victims and the community need to file community impact statements.

14 robberies recently reported in Bolton Hill with only 1 arrest (Park Avenue Café). 27 car jackings.

Kevin Davis - Police Commissioner

100 new positions on the force will be filled.

The apprehension of the Park Café robber was good police work; He was a smart criminal with a long record. But, innocent until proven guilty.

If you see suspicious activity, call 911 (not 311). First obtain a detailed description of the person or group: height, weight, clothes (especially shirt color, etc. under the coat), skin color.

Osborne Robinson – Chief of Patrol – Discussed strategies that police are using to engage community. Experience indicates that even small interactions with youth can dissuade potential offenders.

Catherine Pugh – Mayor - brief appearance

Stated that she takes crime seriously. Understands that people that live in Baltimore need to feel safe, and she is putting additional resources behind prevention.

Mayor's office working with BGE to install 6,000 new street lights.

Gavin Patashnick – State's Attorney, Juvenile Justice Division

Juvenile justice is a much more confidential process to protect the juveniles.

Diversion (to social service activities) is attempted in many cases.

Most crimes of violence will have juveniles being tried as adults.

Kevin Jones – Police Major, Central District When giving descriptions, pay attention to shoes. Criminals often throw away jackets, sweaters etc. but not their shoes!

Eric Costello – City Council

Well lit areas are important to safety. If you see street lights out or trees blocking lights, call 311 or go on line to report. Provide them with the serial number on the light pole and the exact location. Upload a picture if you have one (showing street signs/intersection).

There is a one-year backlog on tree trimming. Arborist at Park and Recreation are limited. Their budget has been cut by 65%.

If you don't get a response in 2-3 months, email Eric Costello's office and he will apply pressure.

Samuel Hood III – Police Lieutenant

Refer videos to me and I will make sure they are directed to the right officers.

Hood is in charge of CitiWatch and all private cameras can register. Public CitiWatch cameras not yet in Bolton Hill.

Send crime video via email to Samuel.hood@baltimorepolice.org. List: date and location of incident, your name, address, email, phone number, description of perpetrator (type and color of shoes are important as are the clothes under the jacket).

Michelle Wirzberger – Midtown Benefits District Executive Director

Four neighborhoods covered by Mid-Town.

\$1.2M annual budget; \$250M (21%) spent on safety. Office has 17 off-duty BPD police officers patrolling the MBD area.

Marlon Byrd - MICA Safety Director

In 2016, number of officers increase from 6 to 12.

All MICA officers have full arrest powers on MICA property, owned or leased. Officers can also affect an arrest off campus if the suspect flees from MICA property and officers are in immediate pursuit.

But, residents should feel free to flag down officers if an incident occurs in Bolton Hill and officers will assist.

All of the MICA patrol officers are full-time and BPD Officers working for MICA are part-time. Some MICA officers are armed (Sergeants, Director, Assist. Director). When BPD officers work for MICA, they wear their city uniforms, but drive our cars.

Lauren Abramson - Community Conferencing

Discussed several programs of Community Conferencing but focused on a volunteer program for restorative Justice bringing together families, perpetrators and victims. Many success stories to help reduce recidivism and, more importantly, help the victim of a crime get closure

Recommended Self Defense/Action Items (from MICA security, Police, and MRIA):

Keep porch lights on at night.

Install lights near garages, back fences, parking areas, dark spaces.

Trim trees/shrubs that can be used to hide criminal activity.

Install Private cameras.

After you report a crime, also send the information to BHEN (linda.rittelmann@gmail.com) to ensure that the neighborhood is on alert.

Walk with a dog or another person or use the Companion App

Carry whistle and/or boat air horn

If you are inside your house and hear a whistle, look outside to determine if someone needs help.

Call 911 immediately. Help person if it is safe to do so.

Don't talk on cell phone or use ear plugs while walking during the day or night

Be aware of your surroundings. Engage with people on the street. Look at them and say hello.

Report suspicious behavior to police using 911 (not 311)

Always lock your car doors and remove any and ALL items from the car - even an empty fast food bag or a trash bag. Any items left in the car, tempt criminals.

Join COP (Citizens on Patrol)

Follow court cases; go to court during trial; file an Impact Statement with the Court

Get to know your neighbors – Block Parties.

Get involved – 25% of city residents are living in poverty. Take social action. Join Big Brothers or the MRIA Social Action Task Force.