**We had ~38 attendees at the November NHNA General meeting. Mayor Tishaura Jones highlighted the achievements of her first administration and outlined plans if elected to a 2nd term. Alderman Joe Vollmer (Ward 5) announced his retirement from the board of alderman when the current term ends in April. We heard reports from SLMPD officials and updates from our neighborhood improvement specialist. Residents filled the church’s food pantry basket with donations for the Gethsemane Little Free Food Pantry. The next NHNA General meeting will be held on January 27th at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.**

**Please email the NHNA admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with any questions.**

**11/25/24 North Hampton Neighbors Association meeting:**

* Jane Rain opens the meeting at 6:00 pm and introduces Mayor Tishaura Jones
* Tishaura Jones, 47th mayor of St. Louis

- The overall theme of her administration’s goals is to make St. Louis city safer, stronger, and healthier.

- Areas of progress highlighted during Mayor Jones’s speech:

1. New 911 Dispatch Center Investment- the $45M dollar facility will consolidate police, fire and EMS dispatchers and emergency management personnel. Construction began in October, 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

2. Crime Reduction Strategy-- A collaborative strategy involving police, violence prevention offices, community partners, and the circuit attorney has been implemented and resulted in >40% reduction in homicides and >20% reduction in other violent crimes since 2021. Reductions in gun violence, particularly youth fatalities, and a ban on celebratory gunfire have also been achieved.

3. Integrated Community Safety Initiatives - This program pairs law enforcement with social workers to address mental health crises and assigns behavioral health professionals to the 911 dispatch center for real-time assessment.
 4. City Service Improvements - included pay increases for service providers over the past two years and implementation of updated software to streamline the hiring process.

5. Property Stabilization Program - To address derelict property owners are notified to repair issues; if not, repairs are made and billed.

6. Property Redevelopment and Housing Initiatives - Demolition of city-owned properties and streamlining land acquisition processes are underway. A goal of constructing 10,000 new housing units (5,000 designated as affordable) has been set.

7. Urban Renewal Projects Downtown - The old railway exchange, Macy's building and the Millennium Hotel downtown properties are part of redevelopment plans involving various private investors or non-profit organizations.

8. Support System for New Residents - this new office will assist families relocating to the city and connect them with resources for jobs and housing.

9. Senior Support – These initiatives focus on enabling older adults to continue living in their homes and include a property tax freeze and expansion of the healthy home repair program.
 10. Digital Transformation of City Services - payroll, contracting, and procurement are being computerized in order to reduce the need for in-person visits to city offices.

11. Business Outreach and Facility Development - collaborative effort with regional partners is underway to conduct outreach to businesses and to ensure alignment of goals between City Hall, SLDC and partner organizations. A new warehousing facility may benefit smaller businesses, allowing them to remain or establish in the St. Louis City.

A lengthy Q/A followed, touching on topics of business retention, affordable housing (mortgage and property taxes), city personnel recruitment and retention, multiple issues at the jail, community violence prevention initiatives, derelict property solutions, concerns about migrants and crime (as both perpetrators and victims) as well as the administrations commitment to protecting the community.

**Information packets detailing city improvements were provided by the Mayor’s office. A recording of the full speech is available upon request.**

* SLMPD Update

Major Kristy Marks gave brief remarks commending the efforts of SLMPD officers and new leadership citing a 30% reduction in violent crime in our area. Within the North Hampton neighborhood property crime predominates, so the impact of recent violence prevention efforts may be underappreciated. However, reducing the city’s violent crime rates has an outsized impact on the city’s reputation. A safe city will be more attractive to new businesses and residents.

Captain Tom Zipf emphasized the expected increase in package thefts during the holiday season and urged residents to plan for alternate delivery options and to help neighbors during this time.

Gus Karagiannis gave the crime report for the past 28 days. Details will be provided upon request and can be found online at slmpd.org. To receive the weekly crime report from Gus submit request (Contact: 314-444-0161, gkaragiannis@slmpd.org)

* Tina Wong announces the North Hampton Neighbors Cookie Project

Handouts were provided with details about the project. Baked goods will be collected on 12/8/24 and delivered on 12/9/24. Volunteers to bake and deliver gifts to SLMPD and SLFD are needed. Contact Tina 916-627-5541.

* Joe Vollmer, Alderman for Ward 5 (Contact: vollmerj@stlouis-mo.gov, (314) 622-3287)

-Alderman Vollmer announced that he will not run for re-election but will serve until April 2025.

-He endorsed Matt Devoti for Ward 5 alderman. Matt is a trial lawyer focused on personal injury law and a partner at the Casey, Devoti & Brockland firm.

- A proposal to use Rams money or federal funds to refurbish the old Cleveland High School was discussed. The city plans to use $1M to repair parts of the vacant building to make it an attractive investment for developers.

- City ID Card “Gateway Card” Initiative (BB137) aims to provide a valid form of identification for those who lack a driver's license or state ID. Proof of citizenship is required to obtain the ID. (**Added correction note (see below)**: statement regarding citizenship is not correct. Proof of city residency for 15 days is the requirement written in the 11/22/24 draft of BB137.
- Enhancing traffic safety - hearings on police surveillance technology are scheduled for December 11th and 12th. The lack of sufficient law enforcement personnel necessitates technological solutions to traffic safety issues. The red-light camera technology, which will include facial recognition and speed monitoring, will improve enforcement of traffic laws.

Q/A followed – details provided upon request.

**Item of correction added to minutes**:

Resident question regarding BB137 (Gateway ID) “Might it be used for illegal immigrants?” Response from Joe Vollmer “Well, to get that, you would have to prove citizenship. (*sic*) It's not something that's given to anyone. There are the requirements I haven't read through the bill completely.”

* Shanieka Jackson, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for Northampton, Southampton, Old North St. Louis, Hyde Park. Contact: (314) 901-3065, jacksonshan@stlouis-mo.gov

- The CSB service report for the 10/1/24 - present included 136 service requests closed, scheduled or pending and 137 new requests submitted, most falling under forestry and refuse pickup/container issues.

-- Holiday waste collection schedule: Monday collection moved to November 25th, Thursday recycling to November 27th.
- To boost staffing a hiring fair is being held on 12/6/24 at 1520 Market St.

- The city is in the process of hiring a new forestry contractor, so service requests are severely behind schedule. For tree trimming around power lines residents are instructed to call Ameren.

-Specific issues can be submitted to CSB using the online portal **(https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/neighborhood-stabilization-office/citizens-service-bureau/)** or communicated directly to your NIS.

* Jane Rain gave the SLPL community activities update.

- Holiday Countdown family event featuring different varieties of cocoa and teas and featured holiday books will be held 12/14/24, 10 am to 12 pm.

- A countdown to noon celebration with music, dancing, food, and crafts will take place at the Buder Library on 12/28/24 from 11 am to 1 pm.
- Visit <https://www.slpl.org/> for details and a complete calendar of upcoming events.

* Jane Rain – formalization of NHNA meeting format starting at January’s General Meeting monthly minutes and treasurer's reports will require approval as part of organizational compliance.

 - Approval of minutes will begin January general meeting.

 - Reports from committees:

 **Treasurer** (Teresa Heilich)– dues collected now will cover 2025 with current balance $205

 **Social** – holiday social will be held on 12/9/24 at Bud’s Pizza

 **Beautification** (Tina Wong) – holiday cookie project was mentioned, and Tilles park playground equipment delivered but no progress on installation.

 **Development** (Linda Nolan)– nothing to report.

 **Resident Policy** (Annette Nowakowski) will track legislation at the local, state, and federal levels that may impact the community. Volunteers are needed to help monitor legislation and identify relevant programs or events.
 **Public Safety committee** (Rob Meckfessel) – Cmte emphasis resulted from networking with the St. Louis Neighborhood Alliance Collaboration, which connects at least 30 neighborhood organizations via email. Volunteers are needed for the public safety committee. A study on homelessness in St. Louis, conducted by the alliance and three downtown organizations, was highlighted for its potential use. Tom Scheifler, who spearheaded and managed the community camera network in St. Louis Hills has moved out of the area necessitating a search for alternative support. Future plans for the Public Safety committee include exploring new camera initiatives and seeking volunteers
 - Old business - None

 - New business - None

 - Items of interest: Metro Green Line design workshops are being held to solicit resident input. Check the website for details (<https://www.metrostlouis.org/nextstop/neighborhood-station-> design-workshops-scheduled-for-st-louis-metrolink-green-line/). The next NHNA general meeting will be held on the fourth Monday of January 1/27/25.

* Jane Rain – adjourned meeting

**To be added to the general meeting agenda, please submit a request though the NHNA website: https://northamptonneighbors.com/**