**We had a well-attended (~41 residents) North Hampton Neighbors Network (NNN) meeting on 4/24 at the Police Officers Association Hall. We hosted Matthew Brummond, Commissioner of the Civilian Oversight Board (COB), who discussed the organization’s goals of promoting police-community trust and provided details about the operation of the new organization (see summary below). Our next meeting is 5/22 at 6 pm at Police Officers Association Hall. If you have any questions, please email the NNN admin at** [**admin@northamptonneighbors.com**](mailto:admin@northamptonneighbors.com)**.**

**4/24 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Ann Rolf opened meeting and reviewed agenda
* Joe Vollmer (contact [vollmerj@att.net](mailto:vollmerj@att.net); 314-609-5924) – alderman report:

-Tilles Park projects list discussed during park walk through with residents

-Neighborhood mailboxes – thieves have acquired passkeys and checks found in mail being used in check washing scheme (6 events reported by BMO). Please deposit mail on morning of pickup – avoid leaving mail overnight in boxes.

-Delays in tree trimming and brush clearing on streets are due to Forestry being understaffed. They are paying different 3rd party contractors to perform cutting and clearing.

-New leadership at the Board of Alderman – new process for choosing committee chairs.

Alderman must be nominated (can self-nominate) and Pres/VP choose chair. Vollmer has served as legislation cmte chair and wishes to continue in that position.

-Budget increased 12% over last year and priorities are being outlined. Also, capital funds unspent from the last fiscal year are being reallocated to remaining wards.

**Q/A:** Questions about road safety:

-Speed humps scheduled from last fiscal year in his ward are still scheduled (10 remaining). The new process of requesting speed humps will be based on results of traffic study to ID problem areas (flow and speed). It is no longer solely based on request to alderman. Road markings are scheduled for repainting with improved reflective paint. If you have identifies a specific problem area please contact Joe Vollmer.

-Result of public hearing on conditional use permit at 3Fifteen Primo Cannabis (Regal and Chippewa). Business operators were given a list of improvements, including expansion of parking lot and change in store management.

-Issues with utilities/operations are discussed at board of alderman meetings. Notify Joe Vollmer of specific issues you would like addressed so he can raised them with utility liaisons (AT&T, Spire, Ameren), who regularly attend board of alderman meetings.

-Instances of downed lines increase with spring storm season. If you have line down Ameren will come out and ID the line.

* Police Officer Nicola Walker gave crime report:

-She provided a handout with list of filed incident reports

-She provided a handout with contact information for 2nd District SLMPD and highlighted specifically that Captain Mike Mueller has been replaced by Captain Daniel Zarrick. The contact list will be uploaded and made available on the NNN website.

**Q/A:** Questions about specific crime issues:

-Theft of Hyundais and Kias is still a problems and officers have consistently recommended securing the vehicle with The Club.

-Catalytic converter theft incidents are still high and more likely with high profile vehicles.

-Theft of unsecured guns in your car is a citable offense. If you wish to store a firearm in your car, prevent have a secured gun case professionally installed in the car.

-Vehicle stops require 2 person patrols. Understaffing has limited the number of 2 person patrols, so stops for expired tags is a lower priority. Citing a vehicles with expired tags is not currently performed by traffic enforcement but this may change. Currently, if you see a violation submit the issue to the non-emergency number (314-231-1212) to have car tagged/ticketed.

* Nick Kimble from Donna Baringer’s office (State Rep. for 82nd District)

-Legislation she is working to defeat in the conservative run house: defunding public libraries, medicaid expansion prevention, “reforming” initiative petition, state control of police.

-Other priority area is passing spending bill (required by law) in the final 2 weeks of the session.

- Reminder to RSVP if wish to attend Mayor Tishaura Jones’s “State of the City” address at SLU Thurs, April 25th. The address will also be live streamed (Mayor’s office website: www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/mayor/index.cfm).

* Elizabeth Dasenbrock co-chair of Tilles Park Beautification and Improvement cmte.

-She announced next park clean up and planting event on May 13th 9-11am with event registered at Brightside StL, making it eligible for equipment loans and Blitz Blooms.

-She requested nature scaping ideas from attendees to be submitted at meeting or on website through chat box.

-Updates on Tilles Park improvements:

* Pop up prairie area has been reverted to Forestry for maintenance.
* Soliciting capital project ideas. Walk through with Joe Vollmer generated list:

Pickleball court resurfacing

Dog Park

Racquetball court renovation

Playground maintenance and improvements

Replace and increase # of garbage cans

Replace bulletin board

Update bathrooms

* Reni Gaska, co-chair of Sweets for Public Servants

-She thanked the volunteers who baked cookies for Firehouse 35 (Sublette and Arsenal providing 16 dozen cookies for the firefighters on duty.

-She and Pat Jordan made the cookie delivery. Pictures are posted on the website.

-More events will be announced at an upcoming meeting.

Guest speaker for the meeting introduced by Ann Rolf:

* Matthew Brummund, Commissioner of Civilian Oversight Board (COB). Commissioner Brummond talked about his background in the FBI working on civil rights cases where in most cases by the time his office was involved people had already been killed or injured. His desire to work on police-community relations to improve relations and approaches to prevent harm arose from this experience. His speech focused on the organization and goals of the COB:

-Establishment of a COB was approved and had its first members hired in 2015, but it has not been fully functional until now. The COB reports directly to Charles Coyle, Interim Director of Public Safety. The Civilian Oversight Board and the Detention Facilities Board set the goals for the Division and measure their progress through an annual report.

-Although the COB has yet to initiate any investigations, the goal of this independent agency is for civilians to lead impartial and transparent investigations on police misconduct incidents in St. Louis.

-COB leadership is now free to begin meeting with SLMPD (injunctions recently resolved) to discuss their goals for the organization and the current challenges of manpower shortages, wage inequity compared to county depts, and low morale within the SLMPD.

-A COB investigation will be initiated in response to public complaints of police professional misconduct. Complaints against police involving criminal activity or administrative issues will be handled by the circuit attorney and police officers’ union or internal affairs, respectively. The board has subpoena power to all legally permissible information and access to city jails (Detention Facilities oversight board) to investigate complaints.

-The COB will consist of 9 citizens representing each ward. Currently there are 6 in training and 3 more will be hired toward the goal of a July swearing in. If interested in applying there is a short application process on their website: www.stlouis-mo.gov/government

/departments/public-safety/civilian-oversight/index.cfm.

-Feedback from Mr. Brummund’s community outreach activities (law enforcement and teaching) has shown that citizens support the police and want protection but are concerned about harassment and consider gun violence a major priority for public safety.

-His hope for the COB is that their investigations and recommendations in the next few years will improve standards for police-community relations, resulting in mediation as the primary tool for resolving police misconduct complaints.

- The COB reviews complaints of police misconduct and force, which can be filed in-person (1520 Market Street Room 4029, Phone: 314-657-1600) or online ([www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/civilian-oversight/index.cfm](http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/civilian-oversight/index.cfm)).

* Ann Rolf announced next planning meeting May 8th and general meeting on May 22nd.
* June meeting will be a social at the Golden Hoosier patio on June 26th starting at 6pm. Attendees will buy their own food and drinks.

**To be added to the general meeting agenda, please contact Tina Wong** [**tinaawong@gmail.com**](mailto:tinaawong@gmail.com)