**We had >50 attendees at the 8/28 North Hampton Neighbors Network (NNN) meeting. Alderman Joe Vollmer gave a brief update on ward projects. A request for residents to support a non-conforming use model in a building located at 3720 Hampton Ave. in an area zoned F was presented by the business owners. We had a panel of distinguished police officers from the 2nd District and SLMPD leadership, including Major Shawn Dayce and Lt. Dan Zarrick. The next general meeting will be held on September 25th at Police Officers Association Hall. Please email the NNN admin at** **admin@northamptonneighbors.com** **with any questions.**

**8/28 Northampton Neighbors Network meeting:**

* Adam Jung opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.
* Tina Wong introduced non-agenda item to start meeting. Introduced Moazam Shahial and Shehryar Zafar
* Moazam Shahial and Shehryar Zafar are business partners wish to run an online used car dealership our of the office location at 3720 Hampton Ave. Model proposed:

-Sell auction acquired luxury cars to individual buyers who have been contacted and vetted through their website.

-Few cars would be brought to the site – only at the time of test drive and car delivery to buyer. Four parking sites in the rear are intended for this use.

-Businesses licensed as “used car” dealerships are restricted to operate at sites zones J (industrial district) and K (unrestricted district). They live in Southampton neighborhood and wish to operate their “online” used car business out of the office building at 3720 Hampton Ave which is zoned F.

-They request a letter of support from NNN detailing conditions that would allow for their business to operate in a district zoned F where it is currently not allowed by right. They seek to come to an agreement with the neighborhood to attach conditions of operation/development that may make the business compatible with Zone F site.

-Zoning change is not appropriate and is not being requested.

-Issued raised include # of cars at site kept at site, customer volume, signage, how will they operate business at this site, why this business and not some other commodity, test drives through the neighborhoods, nearby school zones, safety

-Date for conditional use hearing is Sept 13th, may be rescheduled for October.

* Joe Vollmer, Ward 5 alderman and Chair of Legislation and Rules Cmte (contact vollmerj@att.net; 314-609-5924):

-Major announcement was the signing of the municipal ordinance BB 29, requiring persons openly displaying firearm to present a valid permit upon request. Violations are punishable by up to a $500 fine and 30 days in jail. Mayor Tishaura Jones signed the bill August 28th, 2023.

- He introduced his new legislative assistant

- Announced the new residency requirement for eligibility for city employment. Persons must reside within 1 hour drive time of the city. This is anticipated to help alleviate worker shortages in sanitation (drivers and mechanics) and forestry.

-Using a handheld cell phone while operating a moving vehicle is a driving offense. Active enforcement will start in January 2025 at which time drivers can be pulled over for the violation.

- Announced the final decision on the proposed operation of Diave Daye Childcare Center proposed at 5540 Fyler was to decline support.

-Tilles projects/capital purchases: Vollmer will be meeting with Hagely on Tues Aug, 29th, 2023 to discuss the prioritization and funding split (parks and alderman). Priorities voted for by residents are pickle ball court resurfacing and playground equipment replacement.

 -Next Board of Alderman meeting is 9/14/23.

-Q/A (see video recording for details)

Hosted speakers introduced by Tina Wong

* Major Darryl “Shawn” Dayce, Commander of South Patrol for SLMPD (District 1 and 2)

-He started with SLMPD in 1990 and has had many positions and received multiple awards

-He runs security detail at the New Busch Stadium

-Combination of new and old approaches being implemented under the new chief (Tracy).

Traffic sweeps – events along designated roads have resulted in 200-300 ticket/day.

 Mobile cops – placements are based on statistics on activity in nearby neighborhoods.

 Placement of a mobile cop can be requested through officer liaison or Lt. Dan Zarrick.

 Automated ticketing at stop lights being considered (issue of legality being studied)

 Decommissioned police vehicles (old Impalas) are set up in neighborhoods with cameras.

 Weekly police report sent out by officer liaison Gus Karagiannis.

-The new director of Personnel, Professor Gray, has been hired and is working to update and improve the hiring process.

-Highlights from Q/A with Major Dayce:

-Auto theft task force to collect and analyze data on locations, types of vehicles, peak times for vehicle thefts: Tower Grove South, Shaw and Northampton still have high rates (unchanged from last year). St. Louis Hills, Lindenwood and The Hill neighborhoods rates are near zero. Type of vehicles are Kias and Hyundais. Targets must be hardened by securing vehicles and using The Club (available at Five Star Adult Center on Arsenal)

-Enforcement of hand-gun laws. They are encouraged to investigate and enforce (as in the past) but these are elevated risk enforcement activities and if an event goes wrong, they need the support of residents and leadership. Permit violations result in seizure of the weapon.

-Leadership in districts: Captains run the individual districts (under Commander, Major and up). Lt. Zarrick is acting captain and runs the South Patrol District 2 station. He is taking the promotion exam in Nov. and is expected to be promoted to Captain after successfully completing the exam.

* Lt. Dan Zarrick, Acting Captain of South Patrol District 1 of the SLMPD (<https://www.slmpd.org/SouthPatrol.shtml>)

-Lt. Zarrick was on night watch before becoming head of District 1 which is when most vehicle thefts occur (2-4 am)

-His advice for the neighborhood to improve theft rates is to harden targets. The criminals go down a chosen street and check vehicle handles and look into vehicles to see if they contain items. They will also hit gas stations along the same corridor. Leave nothing valuable in your car when refueling even if you are standing next to car, they can quickly get into unlocked driver side.

-Need to send the message that the neighborhood is not an easy target.

-Report illegal activity with details. If you are awake look outside and turn lights on/off. Night watch officers will respond in a timely fashion.

-Cameras work – cited recent St. Louis Hills offender arrest.

-He says it’s vital for leadership to create supportive and positive environment for staff and officers who must be in the right frame of mind to serve people who may be experiencing the worst event of their lives for which they often have no experience or coping skills.

- Officers Tim Simms (burglary expert) and Gus Karagiannis discussed their backgrounds and their motivations for joining the SLMPD.

-Q/A (see video recording for more details).

* Samuel Kippen, new Neighborhood Improvement Specialist (NIS) for The Hill, Southwest Garden, North Hampton, and Hamilton Heights. Contact: (314) 657-1377, email: KippenS@stlouis-mo.gov

-He replaces Kathy Savage

-The NIS serves as liaison for the city for quality-of-life issues of the residents.

-Non-emergency issues such as trees, potholes, garbage, city service issues, derelict vehicles, code violations.

-He will be at every general meeting and invites people with issues to reach out to him.

* Jane Rain, September Park Event

- Flyers on table with details about September Family Picnic to be held on Sept. 23rd, 2023 (11am – 3pm).

- Tilles Park pavilion.

-11-1 Bottom Shelf will play, and 1-3 DJ Rick will play music.

-Bring your own food and drink.

-We will have games.

-Send questions to Jane or enter them on the website.

* Tina Wong, Naturescaping grant

-Elizabeth Dasenbrock applied for Neighbors Naturescaping 2023 grant through Brightside St. Louis. Plants purchased with the award money will be planted at an upcoming Tille Park cleanup event planned for October 7 and 8th.

* Adam reviewed our activities from the past year and informed attendees that residents who wish to become NNN members will need to pay dues in January (fiscal year Jan-Dec).
* Teresa Heilich announced elections are coming up in October, so nominations are being accepted.

-Dues payments are being waived for the 1st election only – following year only dues paying members will be allowed to vote.

-All offices are open for nominations: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary. Residency in the NNN represented neighborhoods is required to serve. The office duties are described in the organization by-laws (Section 6), which can be found on the website.

-Election Cmte is Justin Thurman, Tina Wong, Jake Heilich

-Nominations will be accepted until the Sept 25th General meeting via the election cmte or via online submission through the website: https://Northamptonneighbors.com

* Adam - adjourned meeting at 7:40 pm.

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