Tina Wong – Welcome and Introduction

Preview Mayor Tishaura Jones visit and her scheduled speaking time. She requested that people fill out question cards to allow streamlining of the Q/A period.

**Ann Rolf**: Ann Rolf will run meeting to review progress since last meeting in November:

-Next meeting flyer and on website

-Mission statement and Vision statement for NNN

-Emphasize importance of regular monthly meetings

-Offer resources for residents and businesses

-Beautification of neighborhood and Tilles Park

-Activities for neighborhood to fundraise for choses causes and to build cohesiveness of residents of community.

One area we will emphasize is to provide crime/safely updates and approaches to mitigate crime.

Council meeting in February at Buder for those who want to become more involved in leadership and committees.

Resident commented about upcoming municipal elections to elect alderperson for Ward 5. Helen Petty (present at meeting) and Joe Vollmer are candidates. One of those candidates will be elected to represent Northampton. Primary election will be held March 7th.

**Captain Mike Mueller:** (SLMPD District 2) took over District 2 in August, 2022 transferring from District 5 in North St. Louis.

-He has observed crime trends toward property crime in this area compared to District 5.

Invited questions from the residents:

Q: What data is collected to determine whether approaches are working?

A: They collect data continuously and in real time to allow deployment of officers at the time of crime

Q: Feels like a new strategy involving greater emphasis on social work to get at root of the crime. Is there data that informs how to deploy teams and whether that is changes outcomes?

A: Social workers are brand new so he had no data on this. Crisis intervention group is monitoring and collecting data on the activities of social workers in the field. Currently, he is not aware of the impact the purple shirts (uniforms worn by the patrol social workers) but he is optimistic.

Q: How many budgeted positions are there and how many do you have filled?

A: We have 85 now with some injured and a few planning to retire. The station is full strength at 115-120 officers.

Q: How do you manage the deficit? Do you pull patrols away from particular low rish areas or is it a reduction across the board?

A: The reductions are spread evenly across the board. We have 1 man/car versus the preferred 2 man/car. We offer a lot of overtime to plug any gaps. We are also actively recruiting new officers.

Q: How many officers are patrolling/shift?

A: 10-12 cars/shift. Some are 2 man/car but mostly 1 man/car, 3 sergeants and 1 lieutenant for District 2. District 2 is a large – boundaries are Hwy 40 on the North, the city limits on the west cuts around Willmore Park up to Eichelberger over to Chippewa up to Grand.

Q: This explains infrequency of patrol cars seen in the neighborhood.

A: True. The squeaky wheel gets the oil. If we have a violent crime 5-6 cars will respond and that will leave areas unattended at that time. What we try to do is ask patrls from other districts to drive through District 2 if possible.

Q: Are K-9 unites dwindling?

A: K-9 units ride citywide 24hr/day but was unsure of the per shift #’s.

Q: What is being done to help recruitment and to raise salaries of officers?

A: We are doing recruitment. We have a dedicated unit that goes out to colleges and job fairs to recruit.

Q: What incentives are being offered?

A: These days the #’s of interested recruits are much lower than 10-20 years ago. This generation has les interest in policing as a career. For instance, this year’s class graduated only 13 new officers.

Q: What is the candidate age range?

A: 21-65 if they qualify they can enter training.

Q: Can you please talk about trends in crime specific to our area?

A: Most of the crime in District 2 is property crime. A lot of it is car break-ins and stealing car contents. Another is catalytic converters. Hyundai/Kia owners should get a club to secure the steering wheels. Robbers have figured out how to get around electronic entries and ignitions. Some burglaries but not a lot of residential properties. A group targeting businesses were recently arrested and are in custody.

Recommendations: Leave nothing in sight in car and secure vehicles as best as possible, lock garages and don’t leave anything out that will attract someone to enter your yard and steal it.

Q: Reason for deficit in officers?

A: Turned off by bad press in recent years related to George Floyd case and cases of police use of force nationally. Biggest factor is salary. For instance, St. Charles pays 20-25K/year more than city pays SLMPD officers.

Q: Are there any programs or systems sanctioned by SLMPD to secure catalytic converters?

A: He knows of none. Anecdotally, there are private shops that build cages over the converters.

Q: Does SLMPD keep statistics on how much patrol shift is spent on calls versus patrolling?

A: Capt Mueller did not offer specific numbers but suggests that patrols spend most of their time going call-to-call. Not much time for community policing.

Q: Wait times are high even in non-emergency calls-what is being done to address this issue?

A: Recruiting new dispatchers as well as more officers.

Q: What can be done about morale in the SLMPD?

A: Money is a lot of it. Other departments recruit from SLMPD because already trained. Also the new chief is initiating some new approaches. He brings a data driven approach to policing and subscribed to COMSTAT which holds captains accountable at weekly meetings. We hope he will bring more stability and better outcomes.

Q: What do you think about monthly meetings between policing representative and residents?

A: He believes this is essential and encourages groups to continue their communication with SLMPD.

Q: Mention 10-12 cars on patrol/shift. Any plain-clothes officers?

A: We have 9-10 detectives on each watch am/pm. Also have a burglary squad.

Tina Wong suggested idea to support SLMPD. The first we will do is a cookie/treat event. Tina invited residents to sign-up and Tina and Shannon will connect with PO Gus Karagiannis DSN to deliver the treats.

**Gus Karagiannis:** Invited residents to sign up for weekly crime statistics email. He collects all the crime statistics from 5 neighborhoods and compiles weekly crime report to be sent out Monday mornings. It provides information on crimes, locations and date/times. Grant Codak indicated that these weekly crime reports are also linked through the website

Items he highlighted:

-Geolytica program uses continuously updated crime data to deploy patrols. Program uses crime incidence rates and produces quantitative predictor around 3 X 3 areas about the potential for crime to happen in that area. Officers are deployed based on these statistics.

-Gas stations thefts are up. When people go into station cars are left unlocked and it only takes a few minutes away from the vehicle to have valuables stolen. Lock car at station and at the pump.

-Facebook marketplace and other social media market places. Robberies have occurred at seller/buyer agreed upon exchange sites. If don’t know who you are buying from plan to meet in front of the South Patrol station on Sublette. Also if a deal sounds too good to be true it probably is so use caution.

-Reiterated shortage of dispatchers due to low pay and high stress. If at all possible and it’s not an emergency use the 231-1212 number.

-Car thefts are mostly juveniles using them to commit other crimes. They have videos online showing them how to do it. Mechanical tools like The Club are useful.

**Grant Codak:** Introduced the website for the NNN.

-Intended to consolidate information, send out updates and enable communication with members/residents

-At intro stage still in progress and invited people to check it out <https://northamptonneighbors.com/>

-Hope to do live streaming of the meetings

-Provide links to community resources (e.g. crimes reports, Brightside, upcoming elections, etc)

-Quick description on how to sign up for the website and create contact.

- Encouraged people to visit the site and drop a comment or suggest new content for site.

Q: Will we get meeting updates through website

A: In future new registered users will receive emails with updates.

Q: If registered and want NNN communication but does not want email shared. Will update from website share email?

A: You will get communications in 2 ways: admin@gmail will be BCC’d. Emails form the website will not contain email information.

**Jan Huss:** Updates on Tilles Park project which focuses on maintenance and beautification of our local park. Tilles Park is an important centerpiece of the neighborhood that provides quick access to greenspace and fitness amenities. Its appearance and the vibrancy of the park is a reflection of the neighborhood.

Ongoing projects and ideas for future projects:

-Friends of Tilles started Multi-year efforts --- Tree planting --- now in maintenance phase – planted 100+ trees (2-3 year saplings). Fall mulching done by a handful of volunteers. Need volunteers spring mulching and watering every 2 weeks throughout summer and some extra attention during hot streaks.

-Bed restoration and flower planting -- Worked on the raised bed along the hockey rink and pickleball to take out invasive honeysuckle and clear out matted roots to plant daffodils. Tina spearheaded that effort and we put it 120+ bulbs in Oct/Nov.

-Additional ideas (especially interested in ideas that involve families and kid-friendly activities:

Sponsor cleanup events

Planting new areas -- renew the flower beds closer to Hampton

local vegetable garden

volunteer with PopStl.org (to maintain and learn about natives)

Family movie and food truck nights

Sports/fitness workshops, chess workshop, outdoor art, music):

Local history lectures

**Teresa Heilich:** Updated on the NNN organization progress

about Block captains and SLACO

-Working with 6-8 core people to get things up and running. So key to this organization thriving is more participation

-Working on 5013C status which requires mission/vision statements and formalized by-laws

-SLACO has provided information to the group and has been serving St. Louis community organization for 45 years. Sundy Whiteside, president of SLACO, was introduced and reiterated SLACO has many projects ongoing and needs involvement of neighborhood associations.

-One way to get involved is to become block captain.

-Block captains generate a contact list (email/flyers), help neighbors get to know each other and disseminate information for the group to their blocks and may organize activities located in their area (e.g. National Night Out)

-A resident’s contact to the local government official/representative is through their block captain.

-Neighborhood ownership model (NOM) meeting to be held at St. Ambrose this Thursday at 7pm.

-Next prep meeting is Feb 13th conference room at Buder at 6-7:45.

-Next meeting is Feb 27th. Speakers will be St. Louis Hills Security specialist and Kathy Savage (NIS).

-We will be contacted businesses for ad space on website to generate revenue for more signage among other activities.

-SLACO is having a trivia night on April 15th. We are hoping to get a table together for it.

-Pickleball court resurfacing has been requested by Mike Chapin, president of MO pickleball league. Contacting Joe Vollmer to see about getting money for that park project.

-Outreach ideas in addition to the SLMPD cookies also trash clean up. Updates will be on website.

-Plug for more involvement overall and especially on recruiting young residents to get involved.

Q/A:

Greg Hayes funding for parks improvement

-Metro park fund

-Board of capital funds

SLACO activities discussed -- conference to be held in Sept, 2023 at Forest Park Community College.

Concert in June and anniversary event in November.

Location for next meeting St. Louis Police Association—parking discussed.

**Rob Meckfessel:** Joe Vollmer Ward 10 update

-Construction areas:

-Around Favazza’s working on bridges on Southwest. Businesses may be affected so encouraged residents to help out local businesses affected by the disruption.

-Arsenal at Kingshighway next to CPA (moving curbs closer to building)

-Heavy Rift Brewing is opening up brewing and bottling facility and entertainment space on Fyler near Kingshighway

-New pizza place opening up S. Kingshighway at Mardel (same owners as Golden Hoosier)