

Western District View

Western District Police-Community Relations Council
8273 Telegraph Road, Odenton 21113

2 March 2020

Our March Meeting – will take place on Wednesday, 11 March 2020, at 7 PM, in the meeting room at WD HQS in Odenton. At this meeting WD PCRC will present its Officer of Merit Awards to 9 WD officers who distinguished themselves in 2019. Following those ceremonies we will have a guest speaker – Hon. Pamela K. Alban, Associate Judge of the 5th Judicial Circuit. WD Commander Capt. Daniel Rodriguez will then present his Captain’s Report and entertain questions from the audience. The public is cordially invited.

Our April Meeting – is scheduled for Wednesday, 8 April at 7 PM, in the meeting room at WD HQS in Odenton. Our guest speaker will be Evette Matthews, Forensic Nurse Examiner at the Baltimore-Washington Medical Center.

Meeting Minutes for February 2020 –

1. At approximately 7:30 PM - before the regular meeting - WD PCRC members and guests were given a tour of the Millersville 911 Call Center facility (8495 Veterans Highway) by PCO Leo Coleman, the Shift Supervisor. Following his description of the working area and activities taking place there, he graciously answered many questions from the group.
2. Following the tour, at approximately 7:45 PM, WD PCRC President Rusty Bristow then called the regular meeting to order. He first invited members and guests to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and then he requested a moment of silence for the 2 AACO police officers who were shot and for the tragic events earlier that day in Baltimore that had left 2 Baltimore police detectives wounded and hospitalized – one seriously.
2. Rusty then introduced County Councilwoman Allison Pickard from District 2 (Glen Burnie, Millersville and Severn), who spoke briefly about a proposed law to equip school buses with cameras, that will make it possible to identify vehicles that fail to stop when a bus is loading or discharging children.
3. A brief business meeting then took place: Treasurer Cathy Fleshman reported our current balance as \$7,191.70. VP Cindy Williams reminded members that annual dues (\$10) are now being accepted. Some discussion then followed about the small shed that PCRC is going to purchase, that will be used primarily for the storage of bicycles that WD officers use for patrolling.
4. WD Commander Capt. Daniel Rodriguez then delivered his Captain’s Report. He began by praising community law enforcement personnel, businesses and citizens, who all participated and cooperated in the intense search action that finally resulted in the apprehension of the

suspect who was responsible for the initial murder and subsequent shooting of the two AACO police officers. He then reported that crime statistics for the past month have continued to trend downward – that included violent crimes, murders (none), burglaries – commercial and private property - heroin cases (11 cases, 3 fatal) and Safe-Station use. Thefts from autos (TFAs), however, were up significantly (some 200%) and he discussed that subject at length. TFAs are now fashionable with gangs from adjacent urban areas, because they can be performed quickly and relatively safely – primarily because car owners do not lock their cars, or they leave inviting property in view inside their cars that thieves will go after, when so tempted. Last word: help yourself and the police by protecting your property, by locking your vehicles. Capt. Rodriguez also noted that tires and rims are another popular target of gangs, because they can steal them fast and they are worth some money – up to several thousand dollars. Surveillance cameras have provided useful information about how these gangs operate and in some cases have even led to arrests. Studies have been conducted and the most accident-prone locations in the county have been identified: Rt. 32 at Rt. 170, Crain Hwy at Annapolis Rd., Crain Hwy at Conway Rd., Rt. 170 at Donaldson Rd. and Rockenbach Rd. at Rt. 175 – so, be particularly cautious when negotiating these particular areas. WD will be receiving 11 new officers from the next graduating class. The new Pittman administration sees merit in speed cameras and is expected to deploy cameras as soon as the law is changed and desired locations have been determined. Capt. Rodriguez then conducted a Q&A session.

5. Rusty adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 PM.

FYI: Shred-A-Rama 14 will take place in WD on Saturday, 11 May (0900-1200 – or, until the truck is filled) at the Odenton Shopping Center in Odenton. Volunteers please make note!

FYI: Capt. Daniel Rodriguez, AACO WD Commander, 410-222-6150, p02817@aacounty.org

FYI: Recipients of this message are invited and encouraged to share it with others.

Rolland “Moose” Amos
Secretary, WD PCRC