

**Kaisertown Coalition Inc.**

Community Meeting at Houghton Academy

May 5, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Executive Board Members: Kevin Mason – President, Cindy Lawson – VicePresident, Gerry Kissane – Treasurer, Susan Bradbury – Secretary, John Poniewierski – Community Liaison

The Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence

**Officer Lindsey Zagoda** had no new issues to update the community about. The monthly meeting with the police chief is cancelled for May. People can text, phone, or email Chief Paul K. Mullen through the website: <https://www.bpdny.org/150/A-District>

**A-District Community Day will be on June 6th** from noon-4:00 p.m. at the Arlene Mychajliw Community Center 82 Harrison Street, Buffalo 14210.

There has been an increase of car break-ins and cameras catching people trying car doors. Officer Zagoda encouraged people to keep their car doors locked at all times and don't leave anything in view. They'll break in to steal a pair of sunglasses.

Calls made to 311 need to include a clearly given phone number. You don't have to leave your name, but if there are questions for follow up, the call will be closed out if there isn't enough information to investigate. They will do a call back to let you know what they found when investigating. Call the nonemergency # 716-853-2222 to report something, this gets more police assigned to the area when calls increase.

The upcoming police training for new recruits will require people to live in the city of Buffalo.

A question was asked about the boundaries of A-District, which are: Lackawana border, Dorrance/Abbott/South Park Ave to Michigan to Ellicott to Filmore and Clinton. It includes the Kaisertown, South Buffalo, Valley Ward, Perry Projects, Tifft areas. Typical shift is 7 officers during the day, 8 at night, 7-10 during the weekend.

**Councilmember Bryan Bollman:** Much of the discussion was around the upcoming tax increase proposed by Mayor Ryan. The 25% property tax increase and the user fee increase of \$17.50 per quarter is getting serious pushback. Council met with people from each department to discuss their budgets, and he feels there are definitely areas that can be trimmed. Some of the necessary increase could be put through a capital budget, so that the funding needed can be paid back over time.

CM Bollman sees an increase coming but he won't support a 25% increase. The council needs to negotiate with the Mayor.

Examples of excessive expenditures: there are 5 deputy mayors, with their staff; the new police commissioner was brought in from out of town with a \$250K salary. CM Bollman said that salary should be \$174K. He felt that when some expenditure is needed to generate revenue, that is justified. But excessive salaries is not generating revenue.

Mentioned the problem with sanitation workers leaving trash behind that doesn't make it into the truck – they should be required to pick that up. The Supervisor was cut a month ago and they are waiting for a new person to fill that position.

CM Bollman mentioned that there has been a huge shift in personnel in the city administration, with some seats still vacant.

Housing Court has had success in prosecuting code violations.

Department of Public Works, which is responsible for streets has increasingly contracted with private contractors for snow removal. Those contracts are paid out even when there isn't a lot of snow to remove (such as this year). A question was raised about using Erie County's equipment when they aren't using it.

**The City Building Inspector, Jake Schlossin**, reminded the community that a third floor occupancy (any living space with a bed) is illegal without a fire escape or fire suppression system. A house on Holly was recently cited.

There are a few hoarders in the area. Complaint was made about a trailer in the yard on Kopernik Street. Trailers can be in the driveway for 3 days.

Big Trash Day Pickup started today.

**Treasurer's Report** : was approved with no changes.

**Secretary Report:** the Bylaws have been approved by Buffalo and Erie County Board of Block Clubs and adhere to NYS laws. Anyone who would like a copy can request one from Sue. Sue also talked about the Buffalo Street Trees program which is open now for anyone in Kaisertown who is eligible to have a free tree planted in front of their house. Request a tree or more information by contacting her at: [christmasinkaisertown@gmail.com](mailto:christmasinkaisertown@gmail.com).

**Community Liaison:** John said he had applications for handicap parking permits if anyone wanted one.

**Kevin Garcia** – Principal of Houghton Academy welcomed everyone. He talked about incorporating a cutting-edge educational program next year to increase student success. And he spoke about his belief that community is strengthened through participation. He

said he wanted to see the auditorium filled, and would do everything he could to support the work of the Kaisertown Coalition.

### **Upcoming Events:**

1. Join us for **Nature Inspiration Day** on Saturday, June 6 from 10 AM – 2 PM at Houghton Park! Free food, activities, tours. Buffalo Street Tree program giveaways and information.
2. **Annual Night at the Ballpark** on July 7! The evening kicks off with a tailgate party starting at 5:00 PM, featuring free food, prizes, and fun with neighbors and friends before the game. This is \$2 hot dog and kid's report card free-ticket night!
3. If you love garden walks, **the East Side Garden Walk is July 18-19** th with gardens being featured in the nearby Lovejoy/Iron Island and Larkinsville areas.
4. **Kaisertown Community Garage Sale** on July 18 & 19 Sell items from your home, keep 100% of your profits, and let us help promote the event to bring in shoppers. The more neighbors who participate, the bigger the turnout will be! Signs and maps may be provided. To register, call (716) 408-0495 and leave your name, address, and phone number by May 20, 2026.
5. **National Night Out** on August 4! Enjoy a fun evening with hot dogs and hamburgers, a live band, a basket raffle, and games for the kids.
6. The EVENT OF THE YEAR: "**Christmas in Kaisertown**" will be on December 4 th. Copies of the meeting minutes can be found at: <https://kaisertowncoalition.com> under meeting minutes

The next community meeting of Kaisertown Coalition, Inc. will be **June 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** at Houghton Academy in the auditorium.

The meeting was adjourned.