

CSTNA Meeting, October 10, 2017

Welcome/Announcements by CSTNA President Nathan Durant

- Packed agenda tonight so let's get down to business.

7th Annual Fall Festival, Margie and Barb

Partnership with City Church

- October 21, 2017 in Tilton Park (rain date 10/28)
- Volunteers needed

Margie is excited about building this partnership for future festivals. For this festival, they are really in need of volunteers. Go to the City Church website and click on the banner to volunteer for a one-hour timeslot.

Questions about expanding CSTNA involvement in Fall Festival. Margie suggested that it is too late to organize too much, but we can certainly make a larger contribution next year.

Motion to provide funds to support Fall Festival. Motion is seconded. Voted in favor.

Captain Matthew Kertin, Wilmington Police Department

Policing Update/Report

WPD is confident that their new strategy is beginning to bear fruit: WPD is using crime statistics (COMPSTAT) from past month/year to prevent crime during comparable periods in the future. WPD looking for individuals who are bringing crime across neighborhood lines. Captain Kertin is responsible for Sector 3 (the west side), which includes CSTNA (18th district).

Crime Statistics for Sector 3

- In the seven-day period, all crimes are down 56% compared to the same period last year
- For the past month, crime is down 28%

Crime Statistics for the 18th District

- In the seven-day period, all crimes are down 71% compared to the same period last year.
- For the past month, crime is down 5%
- Breakeven for the year

Question about community policing. New chief has the philosophy that everyone is a community police officer, which means the same cops working the same neighborhoods, all year long. Officers will interact with residents more often, which in turn will make it more likely for residents to share information. If you want to reach out to Capt. Kertin directly, please email: Matthew.Kertin@wilmingtonde.gov

Question about drifter population under I-95 in Brandywine Park. Capt. Kertin has been out with Councilman Bud Freel. This is ongoing throughout the state.

Question from Councilman Turner about calling the non-emergency number: should we contact you if the police don't show up? If there is a chronic, ongoing problem, then please contact him; however, if something is a once-off, then please wait for police. What about patrols during certain hours when kids are pulling on door handles? Capt. Kertin provides officers with data on vehicular thefts, and he has mandated that his officers patrol hotspots during those times.

Capt. Kertin introduced Lt. Campos, who is happy to meet residents through neighborhood association meetings. Communication is key to solving crimes (recently caught a bike thief in The Triangle). He can get officers involved, but we need to communicate. If you have an issue, please call: (302) 932-0680

Dr. Lauren Bailes, University of Delaware

Parent Survey

Partnering with the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC) and the Parent Advocacy Council for Education (PACE) for this parent survey. She is surveying parents of K-12 students from all over Wilmington. She is trying to understand how parents feel schools include them in programs and other decision making, but specifically they do not just want a relatively small group of parents who are always involved. She needs our help: with a couple of hundred responses, it would be an unprecedented for Wilmington. Data collection will continue through the end of the year. To take the survey, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/wilmschoolsurvey>

Commissioner Jeff Starkey, Office of License and Inspection

Vacant/Abandoned Properties

Mayor has an initiative in West Center City, which if successful they hope to duplicate throughout the city. Right now, they are analyzing data and intend to flood hotspot with inspectors. Old vacant property registration system is not working, so they are looking into ways to improve or change. Also looking at new legislation (in the next month or so) increasing fines for vacant and nuisance properties. The plan for now is for L&I to confiscate derelict properties and then transfer them to the Wilmington Land Bank to sell to developers (have already transferred 38 to the Land Bank). Have an issue? Call the office at (302) 576-3030. Or call the vacant number directly at (302) 576-3096. Or email: jstarkey@wilmingtonde.gov

Question about the 4 vacant properties on Park Place: they used to be prime properties, and we don't want them to fall down due to neglect. Someone has approached the mayor about buying those properties for development. What is the timeline for seizing property? Once it has been vacant for a year, fees begin to be assessed. The city can only seize a property if they call behind on property or paying their fees. How are vacant properties identified? What is the process? They have two inspectors that specialize on identifying vacant properties, one working west of 95 and one working east of 95. Then they have to issue a citation, and if the owner does not respond then L&I will issue a criminal summons for court. There is talk about moving from a criminal penalty to a civil

penalty, so rather than issuing a penalty to one person there will be a penalty for each individual property.

Question about multi-unit buildings reverting to single-family, and then landlords illegally reverting them back into multi-unit buildings.

Vash Turner, Wilmington City Council

Councilman Bob Williams is putting in the gun offender registry, and Vash would like to hear your thoughts. Councilman Turner was not supportive of a similar measure when it was initially proposed, but now he thinks something needs to be done, especially for straw purchasers. Delaware has no limit to how many times a person can report a gun stolen, which people do and then sell the gun to someone on the street. And then Wilmington doesn't know it until the crime happens. We need to hold people responsible.

Brief overview of the gun registry legislation: similar to sex offender list but not public; however, they will have to report to WPD within 5 days of release. Failure to comply will result in an initial fine of \$250, and then doubles to \$500, and it goes up to \$5,000. The law is not retroactive, so it will only apply to criminals from this point forward.

Other Business

- Chief Tracy will come to a future meeting.