

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 4, 2012

Meeting came to order at 7 p.m. In attendance were many of the 32 Town block captains, Town Mayor David Lublin, Town Council Member and Council Liaison Kathy Strom, Town Manager and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Todd Hoffman, Montgomery County Police Department 2nd District Captain David Falcinelli, and Neighborhood Watch Resident Coordinator Scott Egloff.

The meeting began with Mayor Lublin thanking the Neighborhood Watch volunteers for their efforts and introducing Captain Falcinelli.

Captain Falcinelli then presented data on recent crime activity, showing the geographic areas in which various types of crimes have occurred. This information, in part, comes from the crime reports submitted by individuals reporting suspicious activities or crimes. He then provided an update on recent arrests, stating that one individual from the District of Columbia was a key suspect in many of the crimes that occurred in the Town. Also, since several arrests have been made in the past 30 days or so, the crimes in the Town have decreased significantly. Unfortunately, the neighborhoods behind B-CC High School and along Western Avenue south of Friendship Heights have seen an increase in similar crimes. According to Captain Falcinelli, this is not the time to let our guard down, but to keep vigilant.

Captain Falcinelli also noted that an overwhelming number of the thefts from autos (in one neighborhood 38 out of 40) were the result of unlocked vehicles, and that the residents of the Town should follow the safety and crime prevention tips listed in the Neighborhood Watch handout posted on the Town's web site.

Many questions were asked of the Captain. Captain Falcinelli indicated that The Examiner newspaper published a picture of one of the apprehended suspects. Several block captains thought that it would be helpful to disseminate pictures of suspects to Town residents. Councilmember Strom indicated that the Town typically did not receive photos from the police department of suspects due to privacy concerns. Another question regarded the installation of security cameras around the Town. Captain Falcinelli indicated that he was aware of homeowners placing cameras on their private property. In the case of the Town, however, which has so many entrances and exits, the Captain did not think cameras would be effective. Several residents cited personal experiences with suspicious activity in the Town recently and asked for guidance from the Captain on what to do. Captain Falcinelli encouraged residents to focus on the *activity* of an individual, and, if the activity of an individual looks suspicious, he encouraged residents to call the police at either 911 or the non-emergency line.

In terms of the administration of the Neighborhood Watch Program, several residents spoke to the importance of identifying additional block captains so that more of the community would be included in the program. It was suggested that current block captains review the streets that are not covered and ask neighbors on those blocks if they would be interested in serving as block

captains. It also was suggested that block captains should encourage residents to sign up for the Town Crier, the Town's electronic bulletin board. Town Manager Todd Hoffman indicated that crime alerts are posted on the Town Crier as soon as they are received from MCPD. Although residents could receive duplicate messages (from Town Crier and later from the block captain), it was felt that most residents wanted to receive an email from his/her block captain.

In all, the meeting was very positive and informative. Mayor Lublin thanked Captain Falcinelli, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting should take place within the next several months.

Respectively submitted by

Scott Egloff  
Resident Coordinator, Neighborhood Watch