



Neighborhood Town Hall Meeting - Notes January 30, 2023 - 6:00-8:00 PM

Morningside Elementary School

Virginia Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30306

VHCA Directors: Johnson Bazzel (not present), Melissa Clark, Kim Gnatt, Amy Harward, Lisl Kuegemam Huber, Jess Liddick, Jim Long, Leah Matthews, Alex Saucedo, Karen-Jane Wright, Mike Lewis

Local Officials & Neighbors In attendance: Mike with Portman team, 180+ Neighbors, Councilman Alex Wan, APS Principal Terry Harness, APD Commander Webster & APD Captain Graham, Kay Stephenson

Presentation shared - separate document on shared drive and on website

Notes from Presentation:

- Introduced new meeting format and focus with a presentation shared by Board members and local officials
- Commander Webster provided Zone 6 updates.
 - PAD - Police Alternatives Division. Division assists people with quality of life. Re: Homeless population in VAHI. Officer Staniel, Quality of Life Officer. Will assist getting homeless population to shelters. Many do accept services but others than refuse is typically because shelters have high barriers including curfew, sobriety
 - Focus is on recruiting & retaining supervisors. New academy class every 60 days. 5 new officers this month in Zone 6. Compensation up which is drawing in talent.
- VHSP: 350 members, 75% paying

Questions:

- Asked for Camera locations in the neighborhood. APD not able to share but did suggest neighbors join Connect Atlanta - register your cameras.
 - Registration - for residential homes
 - Integration - meant for businesses
- Recent burglary at dry cleaner on North Highland
- Existing precinct location on Hosea in Kirkwood. Neighbors shared desire for it to be closer
- Zone 6 - includes 25 neighborhoods
- Length of time to get 911 operator - dispatch is 10min, call taking times is 10 sec for emergency. Text to 911 will launch next month
- Recommendation to start Toy Drive earlier in the year. Big success last year. We were best neighborhood in donations
- Can we work with small businesses - who is point of contact - Katie Voelpel, VAHI District
- Recommendation for neighbors to KEEP THEIR LIGHTS ON
- Atlanta Botanical Gardens update
- Portman Ponce project update with questions re: traffic flows
- Idea for High School Seniors to volunteer to get their hours



VIRGINIA-HIGHLAND

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

- Monroe Diet - Alex provided quick update
- Greencove & Clemont - status of park - Principal Harness confirmed portables going away. Trying to determine what to do with green space
- Add Lanier Park to list of parks that VHCA oversees
- Is stop sign at Park Drive necessary? Alex W to investigate