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The VHCA Board has been actively engaged in conversations with City leadership following the April 4 “404 Festival” at Piedmont Park. These discussions have included representatives from the Mayor’s Office, Atlanta Police Department, the City Parks Department, and City Council.

Over the past three years, the City has promoted “404 Day” as a celebration of Atlanta. This year, approximately 40 permitted events took place across the city during that weekend. (Events with more than 75 attendees, alcohol service, or amplified sound require permits.) The Piedmont Park festival was one such permitted event.

The event received a Class E permit, allowing for up to 1,999 attendees. Attendance projections determine requirements such as security and restroom facilities. While **permits for Piedmont Park events are not required to come before VHCA**, they must be reviewed by the applicable NPU.

The event was not required to be ticketed nor fenced, and was advertised as running from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM with approximately 20 musical acts. Due to significant promotion—both by the City overall (“404 Day” across the City) and by the Piedmont Park event organizers—attendance far exceeded projections. This resulted in severe congestion on major and residential streets (complicated by Midtown road construction)

During the event, a disturbance involving a fight and mistaken reports of gunfire (large bang during the fight) caused APD to shut down music and vendors at approximately 7:45 PM. As a public park, attendees were not required to immediately exit the park, and many remained, while others continued arriving.

At approximately 9:03 PM, near the park’s lake area (not significantly far from the 404 Fest vendors), multiple gunshots were fired. Tragically, 16-year-old Tianah Robinson was killed, and 15-year-old Italia Wilson was injured.

On April 8, VHCA representatives met with APD leadership, the Mayor’s Office, Parks Department officials, Councilman Alex Wan and community stakeholders including Midtown Alliance, Midtown Neighbors Association, Ansley Park, Piedmont Heights, and Morningside-Lenox Park. Two Virginia-Highland residents also attended on behalf of NPU-F.

During this meeting, VHCA:

- Challenged initial City messaging that significantly underestimated attendance
- Raised concerns about the City's assertion that the murder and shooting were entirely unrelated to 404 Fest promotion
- Shared firsthand observations of traffic congestion and safety issues

APD reported that 11 officers were assigned to the Park for 404 Fest. VHCA commends their rapid response to the shooting and ongoing investigative efforts. The park's camera system has provided useful images of suspects, which are included in the official reward notice.

In our meeting, the City committed to increased public safety measures for upcoming events, as we saw at Atlanta Dogwood Festival this weekend. The City indicated they intend to continue promoting "404 Day," but it is clear that meaningful changes are necessary and we will be pushing the City for those security measures and details.

VHCA also discussed planning considerations with APD for upcoming neighborhood events. For example, Virginia-Highland Summerfest (June 6–7) is being reviewed with safety in mind. Additionally, Virginia-Highland Porchfest (May 16), organized by the Virginia-Highland District business association, will include enhanced safety measures such as improved layout, increased security, and ticketing.

APD also shared that security will be significantly expanded during the upcoming FIFA World Cup period, with support from state-level resources.

We encourage residents to stay engaged and share feedback. You can contact City officials directly or report concerns during events using Atlanta's non-emergency systems.

**Ways to stay involved and take action:**

- Attend the VHCA Monthly Board Meeting on April 13 (7:00 PM at Grace Lutheran Church)
- Share feedback with City leadership via official communication channels, including [adickens@atlantaga.gov](mailto:adickens@atlantaga.gov); [atlantacouncil@atlantaga.gov](mailto:atlantacouncil@atlantaga.gov); [parkscustomerservice@atlantaga.gov](mailto:parkscustomerservice@atlantaga.gov)
- Use the Atlanta 911 non-emergency online portal for issues such as noise or parking during events: [Atlanta 911 Request for Dispatch Portal](#)
- Volunteer with VHCA to support community planning and safety efforts

We welcome all neighbors to attend meetings, share input, and get involved as we work with the City to improve safety and coordination for future Piedmont Park events.