



LSNA Board Meeting jointly with CCRA February 8, 2022

Present in person and via zoom: Dennis Boylan, Ed Dougherty, Colleen Walsh, Karen Belding, David Allon, Lynn and Bill Armstead ,Autumn Bayles, Susan Berrigan, Maria Bourassa, Mandi Bucceroni, David Cardy, Suzanne Dayanim, Sandie Farrell, Jovida Hill, Frank Janitor, Sean Kardon, Daniel McElhatton, Drew Murray, Fran Pollock, Louise Quattrone, David Searles, Joe Sirbak, Bob Sutton, Kylee Tedesco, Pat and Andy Toy, Michael Volpe, Alan and Tara Williams, Linda Wong.

Absent: Joan Decker, Jim Fennell, Eilene Frierson, Sheryl Johnson, Bijan Pashanamaei, Diane Sales, Sven Shroeter, Takedda Sia, Bob Strunk, Matthew Walker, Earl Wolf, Nancy and Don Weinberg.

Announcements:

The meeting was opened by the Presidents of CCRA, Richard Gross, and LSNA, Dennis Boylan. The meeting was held jointly to share concerns about safety. The meeting was broadcast via zoom and will also be available on each organization's website. President Gross and President Boylan expressed their desire to work together as close community organizations and to work with the Police Department to improve public safety and address neighborhood concerns.

In addition to the boards of CCRA and LSNA, we welcomed Jane Green, president of the Center city association, Elanor Ingersoll, president of the Queen Village Neighbors association, and Harriet Williams, president of the Philadelphian.

Presentations:

We have several honored guests, including Police Commissioner Outlaw and our new PPD 9th District Commander, Captain Colleen Billips. Additionally we welcomed Chief Inspector Kelly, Captain John Craig of 6th,

Captain Joseph Ruff of ccd (6th and 9th), captain Colleen Billips of the 9th, and the inspector of command central division, Officer Ray Kelly.

We submitted questions to Commissioner Outlaw in advance, focused on public safety not just in our neighborhood(s) but city wide.

Commissioner Outlaw presented a power point regarding deployment of police resources. Deployment is based on the existing resources, which are limited at present. PPD works with many community partners, including Septa, hospitals, port authority, universities, and large companies. The initial strategy is focused on the 6th, 9th, and center city districts, 8th street to 20th street, Locust to JFK. A main focus is increasing police visibility. They have seen some early success with decreasing robberies. Three new captains were appointed to reinvigorate center city. Commissioner Outlaw explained that they are working to bolster patrol with 4 new tactics: increasing visibility, increasing footbeat patrols, establishing microgrids, and sidewalk focus.

The following questions were posed to our honored guests:

Gun Violence - prevention, enforcement and security threats • Awful citywide problem, making city feel unsafe • Increasing problem in Center City • Initiatives to respond 2. Cleaning up the streets and how Police work intersects with CCD security and Council President Clarke's peacekeeping force • Aggressive panhandling by persons in need of mental health care or medical treatment professionals • Living in doorways, parks on grates, and in tents • Increased presence makes the neighborhoods feel unsafe as well as businesses, restaurants, hotels, visitors and residents, making post pandemic recovery harder • How best to get a handle on providing help and enforcement of the street laws? • What can the Police do? Can't do? Where to call for help, intervention? 3. Funding for the Police • What are the Police asked to do that others should handle? • Where are more resources needed? • Can there be more bicycle police with a clearly defined mission? • How can we help? 4. Police residency requirements pros and cons • How has this law hurt recruitment? • What has been the political reaction to potential repeal? • How can we help? 5. Noise and unsafe motor vehicles- motorcycles, dirt-bikes, ATVs & Cars • How to mobilized resources? • What's working in other cities and how can we learn from them? •

How best to prevent this particularly unhealthy and annoying behavior.

Commissioner Outlaw explained the complexity of “clearing a case”. The PPD is “all hands on deck” to address gun violence. They are 10% less staffed than 2015. They have formulated a “non fatal shooting working group”, similar to the Homicide unit. They are struggling with folks with severe mental health issues among the unhoused population. Microgrids and footbeats will be best to contact with this population along with the office of homeless services, especially with the most acutely ill. The police need more funding to change the culture, cover overtime, and provide sufficient staffing with excellent training. She addressed the “residency rule”; she would like to continue to recruit from within the city rather than from outside the city. She can request waivers to this rule as needed. The police are trying to run a car detail in center city to address the problems of ATVs, souped up cars, and motorcycles, but resources are limited.

Commissioner Outlaw answered a question regarding the number of officers out on disability who are working other jobs while collecting their salary. She has limited power in many of these situations when officers have a physician letter certifying an injury for which the officer’s job is protected. Captain Billips was asked about the bike patrol and whether we can help provide resources for more bikes etc. Officer O’Shea said that PDAC has raised excellent funds for this. It is more of a manpower issue at this point also. Commissioner Outlaw answered a question regarding providing better technology to officers to keep them connected and out on the street, which is a very high priority.

Presidents Boylan and Gross reiterated their availability and the offered the resources of each neighborhood association to assist in improving public safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. We had 30 board members in attendance face to face and via zoom.