

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: John L. Fitzwater
Acting City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: December 8, 2016

1. Huntington Update

The attached memorandum provides an update on the City's efforts in Huntington since the summer of 2015 provided by the Grants Office, the Code Compliance office, the Youth and Family Services office, and the Police Department.

2. Prince George's County House Delegation Hearing

On Monday evening, staff attended public hearings held by the Prince George's County House Delegation on proposed legislation for the 2017 General Assembly session. Two bills of interest to Council, both sponsored by Delegates Valentino-Smith and Holmes, were on the agenda. Three speakers addressed the Delegation on PG/MC 107-17 regarding the rezoning of the Jesuit Property, including two former City Councilmembers (Dufour Woolfley and Jack Jenkins) as well as City resident Fiona Moodie. All three spoke in favor of the bill. The City's Planning Director and lobbyist spoke in favor of PG 418-17 regarding municipal authority to regulate fences. This was the first opportunity for the public to review proposed legislation. The rezoning bill was assigned to the Delegation's Bi-County Committee and the fence bill was assigned to the County Affairs Committee.

3. Water Purification System

At the City Council Meeting on December 5th, Mayor Pro Tem Gardner requested that staff provide information on the cost to provide a whole house water filtration system. There are many different brands and types of whole house water filtration systems. They are most commonly used to address homes with well water. Costs vary from \$500 to as much as \$10,000. Installation should be professionally done which is likely to add another \$500 or more to the cost. In most Levitt homes, installation would likely cost far more due to space constraints. A challenge for many of the Levitt houses is that the water typically comes into the house under the kitchen sink and is then distributed, often under the floor slab. A whole house filter will probably not fit under the sink of a Levitt house. If that is the case, a great deal of work would be necessary to re-route the water service line into the house. That sort of work is thousands of dollars. As stated at the meeting on December 5th, staff does not recommend that the City subsidize the cost of water purification systems for individual residents. We feel

that the better use of City Water and Sewer moneys would be to invest in the distribution system to fix the problems outlined in the report prepared by the Public Works Director and discussed at this meeting.

4. Northridge Street Repair, Paved Intersection at Quill Point and Quarterhorse Drives
The City has advertised for bids to reconstruct the paver block intersection at Quill Point Drive and Quarterhorse Drive. During a pre-bid conference, several prospective contractors requested that the City authorize a complete closure of the intersection during construction. Staff agrees that a complete closure will simplify the construction process and significantly reduce the overall time that the neighborhood is impacted. While the intersection closure does inconvenience the Northridge community, a public street route remains available to all properties. To minimize the overall time of impact this project will have on the community, staff intends to allow a full closure in the contract with the following requirements: (1) the contractor's closure schedule receive City approval to ensure the closure schedule is reasonable; (2) the contractor make notification by mail to all impacted residents two weeks prior to the closure. The written notification will be required to receive City's approval. An addendum to the bid proposal will be issued on Wednesday, December 14th to this effect. We anticipate the duration of a full intersection closure will be three weeks or less. This work is planned for April of 2017.

In addition to the contractor's written notifications, City staff **will** make advance notification to affected service entities (fire/emergency, police, schools, post office) and to the HOA. The City staff will also ensure appropriate public announcement is made through City services, including the City's web page and Bowie e-News/Bowie News Flash. The City will also do a robo call to the Northridge community with the specifics of this closure in advance. Please let us know if you have any concerns about this closure.

Attachment



City of Bowie

15901 Excalibur Road
Bowie, Maryland 20716

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: *JLF* John L. Fitzwater
Acting City Manager

Subject: Huntington Update

Date: December 5, 2016

One of the objectives of the City Manager's Office in the FY 2017 budget was to, "Continue to work with the Huntington Community to provide job training and placement, enhanced activities for youth, continued focus on Police and Code Enforcement, and provide information to the community about the availability of social services provided by other governmental entities. Provide a status update to City Council by September 30, 2016".

Four areas of City government are working on the issues raised above, the Grants Office, the Code Compliance Office, the Youth Service Bureau and the Police. Below is an update provided by each of these areas of City operations since the summer of 2015:

Grants Office

The Grants Office receives a number of calls from residents and other entities in OTB about a wide range of issues. On an on-going basis, we are engaged in the following in OTB:

Grant Requests

Providing information to nonprofits and business owners based on requests for assistance.

Job Placement Assistance

Assisting individuals with employment availability based upon requests.

Homeless Services

Providing assistance, food, and clothing where needed to homeless persons. Also, providing access to services through county and regional sources. Assisting homeless to obtain insurance cards, birth certificates, and other forms of ID.

Social Services

Providing contact information regarding county, state, and regional sources for various services based upon requests.

Community Outreach and Information Dissemination

Working with local churches and community groups to spread the word about beneficial program offerings. Also, as part of the CDBG program, providing information about housing, fair housing, and non-housing community development opportunities and resources.

Code Compliance

The City continues to provide consistent code enforcement activities in Huntington when compared to other areas of the City. There have been 113 issues recorded since July 1, 2016, focusing on items like tall grass, inoperative vehicles, dead or overgrown trees, open storage, and other miscellaneous concerns. There are 28 rental properties within Huntington that have or will be inspected in the current fiscal year.

Youth Service Bureau

A meeting about exploring possible programming in Historic Bowie took place between the City Manager, the Bowie Youth and Family Services (BYFS) Director and the Director of the Huntington Community Center on June 18, 2015.

BYFS Director and staff members attended a Community Meeting on July 7, 2015 at Huntington Community Center.

BYFS participated in Community Night ("Come Out & Play") at Huntington Community Center on July 23, 2015.

BYFS advertised various programs based on survey done at the July 7, 2015 community meeting. We advertised via:

1. Postcards mailed to every household in the community
2. Message board at Huntington Community Center
3. Facebook
4. E-mailed news flashes
5. The City web page
6. Word-of-mouth from Huntington Community Center and BYFS staff to community members
7. Community outreach via back-to school nights.

A Transitioning to Middle School Program was offered in September 2015 at the Huntington Community Center.

An informational session about Parenting Kids with Anxiety and ADHD, took place on September 28, 2015 at the Huntington Community Center. There was one person registered from the Huntington community and six other participants from other areas of Bowie.

A four-session Active Parenting Group was held in October 2015 at the Huntington Community Center. Four people attended, none from the Huntington community.

Future psychoeducational groups at Huntington Community Center were tabled because of: 1) low turnout for fall 2015 offerings, despite heavy advertising; and 2) the fact that, of the few

participants for the programs offered at Huntington Community Center, one was from the Historic Huntington area.

Huntington students are currently being served through: The Dispute Resolution and Managing Anger (DRAMA) Programs at Rockledge Elementary School, Ogle Middle School, and Bowie High School. All are delivered by BYFS. Addresses of DRAMA kids are not kept. Through self-report, we learned that several lived in the Huntington Community and were dealing with various experiences connected to the shootings there. We served 60 students in FY16 through this program.

Huntington students are also currently being served through our Teen Mentoring Programs at Ogle Middle School and Bowie High School. Of the forty-one students enrolled, six were Huntington residents.

Police

In May of 2015, a significant spike occurred in overall crime, to include traffic complaints and general nuisance calls for service effected the Huntington Community in the "Old Bowie" section of the City. In response to the increase in total complaints, the Bowie Police Department conducted several town-hall style meetings with the residents of the Huntington Community to directly address specific concerns and to collaborate with community stakeholders to develop strategic solutions beyond traditional enforcement. The following strategies have been implemented to address ongoing community concerns:

- Collaboration with the City Manager's Office (Grants) on Job Training and Outreach Program(s)
- Targeted foot patrol assignments throughout 6th, 9th Streets and Maple Avenue
- Ongoing Traffic Enforcement (Speed, Parking etc.)
- Saturation Patrols during reported peak crime activity hours
- Targeted neighborhood surveillance

JLF/adf