



## Council Member Jocelyn Route

Town of Bladensburg

Ward 1



**To:** Town of Bladensburg Residents, Staff, and Town Council  
**From:** Council Member Jocelyn Route, MSW  
**cc:** Acting Town Administrator Rich Charnovich  
**Date:** June 12, 2023  
**Re:** May Council Report – Ward 1

I have participated in the following activities throughout the month of May-Present:

- ❖ Attended Council on Foreign Relations Meeting 5/1/2023
- ❖ Enrolled in My Bladensburg and Surveyed Ward 1 reporting Code Issues using the My Bladensburg App
  - The My Bladensburg App can be downloaded from the GooglePlay Store or Apple Store. This system will accept a photo of the complaint and you have the opportunity to assign the complaint to the department you feel should take care of the complaint. The staff will receive the complaint and if the issue is not applicable to their department, they will ensure there is a handoff and assignment to the correct department. There may be situations where our staff will have to collaborate with another entity such as the County's Code Enforcement, PEPCO, or the State Highway Administration. Overall, I am very pleased with the app and its capabilities. I want to thank Officer Reinhart and Chief Collington for getting this app up and running.
- ❖ Responded to Resident's concerns regarding increased crime in Ward 1
  - Informed residents about the Security Camera Reimbursement Program
    - Unfortunately, the program has not launched, despite the Police Department willingly able to manage the administrative burden.
- ❖ Hosted 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Town of Bladensburg Mental Health Awareness Day at the Bladensburg Community Center
  - This event was well attended.
  - There was one person, to my knowledge, that was encouraged to seek professional crisis support because of the negative mental health symptoms they were experiencing. As a result of information shared at the Mental Health Awareness Event, the individual enrolled in emergency treatment services on the day of the Mental Health Awareness Day.
  - **If anyone who is experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, contemplating suicide, or worried about someone who may need crisis support they should call or text 988.**
  - **When someone calls or texts 988, the call will be routed to one of the State's eight call centers. The trained crisis manager will listen to the caller, understand how their problem is affecting them, and provide support. The call center can provide local resources for mental health and substance abuse. Anyone can call the 988 number 24/7/365 and be referred to mental health services.**



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- Featured in the following news articles:
  - <https://www.dcnnewsnow.com/news/local-news/maryland/prince-georges-county/town-of-bladensburg-celebrates-mental-health-awareness-on-saturday/#:~:text=The%20Bladensburg%20Mental%20Health%20Awareness%20Day%20is%20from,25%20people%20will%20receive%20a%20free%20yoga%20mat.>
  - [Bladensburg Mental Health Awareness Day | Herald Sun](#)
  - [Bladensburg Mental Health Awareness Day \(fox5dc.com\)](#)
- ❖ Reviewed and commented on General Order for Town of Bladensburg Cadet Program
- ❖ Attended Overview of PEPCO's Streetlight Tariff Filing Game Plan
- ❖ Corresponded with Hillcrest Living/Quincy Ave (Schweb Management) regarding various Resident concerns.
  - Non-renewal notices have been submitted to residents that have received Financial Assistance from the Town of Bladensburg ARPA funds and the County's Rental Assistance programs. There was no particular reason given of the non-renewal notice
  - There are a host of outstanding concerns at the property that appear to be County Code Enforcement violations. The concerns are regarding rodents/bugs, appliance issues, health and safety apartment concerns, and rental assistance checks that have been not accepted by the property and returned to the Town of Bladensburg. I have advocated on behalf of the residents who have been impacted by the unresponsive landlord and attempted to assist mitigate discord between property landlord and resident.
- ❖ Reviewed Town of Bladensburg Town Administrator Resumes and responded to consultant and Mayor James about selections made.
- ❖ Responded to Town of Bladensburg Mayor and Acting Town Administrator regarding opening up Work Sessions and Council meetings to Public and a virtual option to promote engagement, transparency, and inclusiveness
- ❖ Attended County Council Member Jolene Ivey -District Five Public Safety and Mental Health Awareness Event
  - Recommended to Prince George's County Chief of Police that a regional summit should be convened for all government entities that are human services involved to sit and attempt to collectively solve the increase crime issue that involves youth in the region. Invited department/entities/department should be the municipalities, state legislators, police departments, human/social services, school board, school leadership, Parks and Recreation, outreach department, State's Attorney and County Council.



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- ❖ Attended the Town of Bladensburg Ward1 Community Neighborhood Walk in response to Ward 1 shooting and car theft
- ❖ Attended and participated in FY24 Budget Meetings
- ❖ Attended Listening Session for Prince George’s County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program 5/18/23
- ❖ Attended the Town of Bladensburg Closed Special Meeting where I participated in consultation with counsel to obtain legal advice, consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the state, consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose
- ❖ Attended PGCMA Meeting
- ❖ Elected to serve as Prince George’s County Municipal Association (PGCMA) At-Large Member on the PGCMA board
- ❖ Met with consultant of High Street Strategies to discuss redevelopment goals on Annapolis Rd over the next quarter:
  - Establishment of the Economic Development Committee (Residents & Businesses, Town Council Representatives)
  - Identifying land, the town owns
  - Outreach to Landowners
  - Locate Architectural Engineers to make presentations
- Long range objective:
  - Locate financing and partners to assist the Town with redevelopment goals
- ❖ Hosted Experience Prince Gorge’s – Micheline Bowman who wanted to learn more about the Town of Bladensburg and Waterfront Park
- ❖ Attended Town of Bladensburg Police Department Award Ceremony
- ❖ Attended Town of Bladensburg Surprise Picnic for Chief Collington and Emotional Support dog Rocky in David Harrington Park
- ❖ Attended Memorial Day Ceremony at Peace Cross and Luncheon at the American Legion Post 131
- ❖ Surveyed Ward 1 Pepco Lights that were out or areas that are not well lit and submitted the information to Pepco.



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- There are a host of areas within Ward 1 where there are street lights that are only on one side of the street or the trees are taller than the street light and cause reduced lighting. Dimly lit areas within Bladensburg can create an environment that is conducive to criminal activity. Poor lighting can make it easier for criminals to hide and can make it more difficult for law enforcement officials to see and respond to incidents. Dimly lit areas can reduce visibility, making it more difficult for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to see potential hazards such as potholes, debris, or other obstructions on the road. This can increase the risk of accidents and injuries.
- ❖ The Town Council should consider taking the Ward 1 lighting up as a Bladensburg Initiative to improve the safety and security of all residents and visitors. LED lighting should be explored to reduce cost to the Town of Bladensburg's PEPCO lighting bill in addition to increased brightness( Kelvin temperature) of the lights.

I continue to serve by doing my absolute best on behalf of Bladensburg, Residents, Businesses and Staff.

All My Best,

Jocelyn Route, Council Member  
"The People's Council Woman"