



MONTHLY REPORT – MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023
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Monthly Meetings & Activities

(May 2023)

May 1: Fireworks Event Kickoff Planning | The core team met to begin mapping out the plan for this year's Independence Day Celebration. The confirmed date for the event is Monday, July 3 and the location will be the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. This year's theme will focus on America's Advancements in Space & Technology so the activities and amusements will tie into that theme.

We're pleased to have DJ Flava as the host for this year's event, given his ability to connect with the audience and help create a family-friendly atmosphere. There will be activities for the children, a special viewing area for senior residents and those with mobility challenges. The event will also include a variety of food trucks. Please arrive early to ensure you secure a good viewing area!

Budget Work Session | The Town Council and department heads met to continue our FY 2024 budget planning efforts. The focus of the meeting was primarily on walking through each line item for the public safety, public works departments as well as the ARPA budget. As part of the conversation, we discussed the additional funds generated by the speed cameras and leveraging the revenue to help offset costs that would normally be taken from the operating budget.

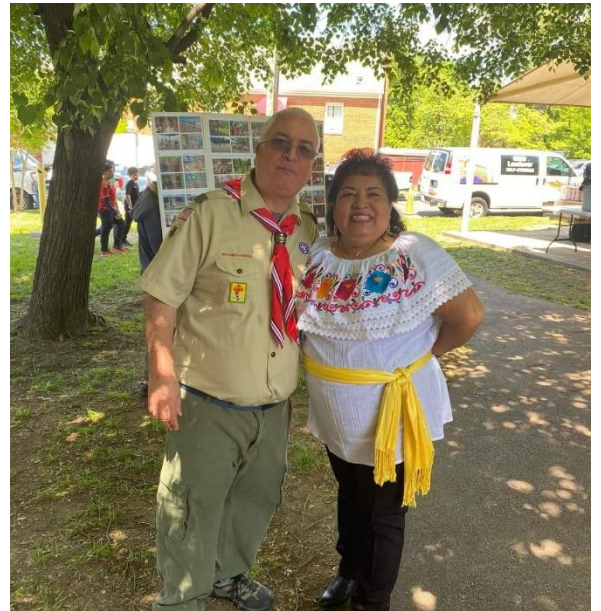
May 1: Public Safety Check at Newton Green Senior Apartments | Council Member Brown, Chief Collington and I met with the Tenant Council President Ms. Phyliss Ramsey to walk the grounds of the property and Newton Street to observe the needs for increased lighting in an effort to improve public safety. We noted Pepco pole lights that needed to be replaced as well as identified dark spaces requiring additional lighting for safety purposes. There has been an uptick in auto break-ins in this area so we determined increased lighting in the immediate area could help deter this type of activity. We agreed to bring this information back to the Council and department heads as we discuss the budget and assess public safety improvements in that area.

May 2: Redevelopment Meeting | I joined with members of the team to have an information gathering meeting to get consultation on specific sites for redevelopment efforts as part of the Town's Master Plan. As the Council considers, we shared the overall goals for redevelopment and the desired retail and housing needs we are aiming to address.

Parkview Tenant Council Meeting | Chief Collington, Council Member McBryde and I attended the monthly meeting to hear resident concerns and share information regarding the work of the Town Council as well as upcoming programs and events.

May 3: MMA Monthly Meeting | During the meeting we reviewed our by-laws regarding vacancies due to one of the Executive Committee losing their reelection recently. This situation created in a vacancy in the role of Secretary so we must put the information out to the members to make it known and call for nominations to serve the balance of this term. We also began planning for the upcoming MMA Business Meeting that will take place during the MML Summer Conference.

May 6: Cinco de Mayo | I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Ms. Eloisa Guzman and Former Council Member Cris Mendoza for organizing this annual celebration. The festivities began with a beautiful parade down Edmonston Road to the David C. Harrington Community Park where they began the program celebrating Mexican cultural through dance, songs and remarks. This annual celebration is also referred to as the Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla. This holiday is held to commemorate the military victory in 1862 over the French forces of Napoleon III.



Newton Green Women's Tea | The Newton Green Tenant Council hosted a women's tea to honor the ladies of Newton Green. A particular highlight of the event was the crowning of the Queen of the Tea in Ms. Rosa Lee Jones who had recently celebrated her 101st birthday. Council Member Brown and I presented her with a special certificate of recognition as well as a few gifts to celebrate her beautiful life. The residents also surprised her with gifts and showered her with love.

Ms. Jones was especially thankful for the handmade birthday cards created by students at Elizabeth Seton High School.



Celebrating Ms. Margaret Bussey's 103rd Birthday | The First Gentleman and I were honored to attend the birthday celebration for Ms. Bussey. She has lived a long and beautiful life, so we were pleased to present her with gifts to show our love and appreciation for her. Given Ms. Bussey used to perform comedy for churches in the DC metropolitan area, it was so fitting that her celebration featured a local comedian performing standup.

In presenting a certificate of special recognition to Ms. Bussey, I was so pleased to also present her with handmade cards from students of Elizabeth Seton High School.



May 9: If I Were Mayor Contest Award Presentations | It was an honor to attend the award presentation for the 2023 contest winners. Governor Wes Moore hosted the ceremony in the Governor's Signing Room located in the state capitol building in Annapolis. He took the time to speak to the winners and explain the significance of their participation in this contest. He let them know they are already community leaders, as they have given time to thinking about how to improve their communities at a young age. He encouraged them to continue sharing their ideas and working to improve their communities rather than thinking they can't make a difference until they are adults. MML President, Denise Mitchell and MMA President Zack Tyndall handed out the certificates to each winner.

As the Immediate Past President for Maryland Mayors Association, it was an honor to attend as one of



the major sponsors of this state wide initiative. Each year, the MMA sponsors this event, to educate students about the role of their local government and to encourage them to begin thinking about how they can impact their communities with their creative and unique ideas.

May 15: Walk with the Chief | Members of the Neighborhood Watch and I joined Chief Collington and members of the Bladensburg Police Department for a community walk in Hillcrest Village Apartments due to a shooting that took place in the area. The Walk provided opportunities for the Bladensburg Team to engage with residents and understand their concerns and how we can better serve them. The Bladensburg Police Explorers also did an excellent job joining in the walk as well as staffing the information table and distributing information to residents.



May 16: Closed Session | The Town Council called an Emergency Closed Session pursuant to State of Maryland General Provisions Article 3-305 to discuss the following topics:

- i. Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice
- ii. To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the state
- iii. To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto
- iv. To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees,

employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

May 16: Neighborhood Watch Meeting | During this meeting we reviewed the last two community walks and also planned walks for the balance of the month of May. Members of the group offered to lead the walks given I was traveling for my full-time job from May 18 through May 26. I'm so grateful to everyone who participated in the walks while I was traveling. I want to send a big thank you to Ms. Clarkson, Mr. Fortune, and Mr. Clarke for leading the walks.

Below is a brief summary for each walk:

Ward II Walk on May 21: Team members met at the Quick Stop Food Mart located at 5700 Emerson Street, Bladensburg. The team started at 5700 Emerson Street and walked down 57th Avenue to 58th Avenue. They continued down 58th Avenue back to 5700 Emerson Street. No major concerns were noticed in the community.

Ward I on May 26: Team members met at 54th and Taussig Streets and walked through Hillcrest Village Apartments near 53rd Avenue and over to the Port of Bladensburg Shopping Center. They proceeded over to Tilden Road passing the Fire Department and Police station and then concluding at Tilden and 54th. During the walk the team engaged with residents to understand concerns in the community. The team also encouraged residents to join the neighborhood watch and asked that we create a neighborhood watch flyer to share with the community to help them learn more about our efforts. I'll follow up with staff about this recommendation. The full report will be shared with Chief Collington for follow-up. We're finalizing our dates for the June schedule.