

RNA 4/26/21

Board: John, Rachel, Jeff Dewberry, Jackson, Jennifer, and Rebecca Sam Cogen, President of SBNA also present

Special Announcement: there will be pop up jazz music on Tuesday at the gazebo around late afternoon, early evening.

Safety Report- Office Wilson, mark.wilson@baltimorepolice.org

- two main concerns are homicides and non fatal shootings have increased. Foot patrols have been increased. This is in the district and throughout the city.
- other crime areas have seen a significant decrease.
- continue to not leave items in the car, continue to lock your car and house doors
- package thieves continue
- dirt bikes are always a spring/summer concern. BCPD can respond to calls (like in federal hill park), but cannot pursue bikes or bikers. Foxtrot is utilized to find where bikes are stored.

Bill Ferguson, District 46 senator, and MD Senate President- bill.ferguson@senate.state.md.us, 410-841-3600

- First session following the covid shortened session and following 20 vetos by Gov Hogan
- Priorities:
 - get resources to those who needed them, like city businesses
 - passed 1.5billion stimulus package, sales tax reduction, sent stimulus checks to businesses, emergency housing, rental relief, waived utility bills
 - passed a budget that erased the deficit and included a significant increased in education funding
 - police reform to restore trust and accountability
- Question: any safety bills passed? Created a state wide crime plan called Protect Act which mandates the state to lead a crime plan to address state wide crime that is linked to mental health issues, rise in violent crime across the state. Invest in long term strategies.
- Question: blueprint status? Overrode Hogan veto. Passed ten year plan on how to rethink and invest in public education. This is one of the biggest reform efforts in the country. We are now on the journey. Significant funding starts this summer to address covid learning losses.
- Question: fire at Domino sugar? News that tide point UA headquarters is being sold? What is happening with local jobs? Domino- devastating property loss, but jobs remain. UA consolidation is due to the worldwide trend that companies are rethinking office space and needs. Tide Point looks like it will happen 3-5 years and it will be for sale.

Luke Clippinger, District 46 rep, Chair of House Judiciary Committee, luke.clippinger@house.state.md.us

- Passed Traffic control on JFX and speed cameras on JFX
- Increased funding in Safe Streets and similar programs that use tools to help people get tools they need to build a better life
- Require body cameras by 2025 across the State
- created an independent agency that will investigate police involved homicide of citizens
- 1800 block of Webster st and rail work being done b7 MTA- there is significant work being done and a MTA rep will be speaking at the May meeting (5/24/21)
- AVAM Kinetic Sculpture Race will be virtual this year on 5/1 at 11am online
- Question? Saw on the news that some areas are dropping in population, are any numbers concerning, and will this change senate seats? Census released its count recently and MD will not lose a congressional seat. We will deal with restricting in 1/2022, as well as legislative redistricting
- Question: the cannabis bill didn't make it out of the judiciary committee, what is the future of legalization of marijuana? Did not have time to get to this bill. This is an issue that a lot of people care about. There is interest in putting it on the ballot.

Kevin Hayes and Isabella Bennett from Councilman Costello's office

Questions: none

Steve Cole, Sobo Peninsula Post,

- 2nd annual Chalk about Sobo has been ended this weekend. Please be creative- we love to see it.

Jackson, Parks

- Working hard on park and garden areas- weeding, pruning, and mulching
- Rec and Parks have issued athletic permits
- Pool will open May 29, 2021
- looking into upgrading garden fencing, getting cost estimates
- Mowers have started and will be cutting the park until 5/12

Jeff Brown, Parking

- Blocks cannot be added until July