

## **March 26, 2024 TGHNA monthly meeting: at CDL**

7:16 Welcome: Greeting and intro from Joyce Reese, TGHNA Board President. Introduction and welcome to first time attendees.

**SLMPD Neighborhood Liaison's report : Officer Nicola Walker:** She deferred to guest speaker Chief Tracy.

**Neighborhood Improvement Specialist: Christian Saller:** Had a meeting with Sean Spencer from the CDC, Alder DV and Legal Services of Eastern Mo about problem properties. A lawsuit has been filed on the Moon property on Humphrey to force a sale. There are now structural concerns. No lawsuit yet on the property at Wyoming and Spring but everything else is being done. They have non-profit status which makes things harder. Legal Services will decide if they can pursue it.

Question: Do you know why there is a fence around Fanning?

Answer: No. (have been told it is for lead abatement).

**6<sup>th</sup> Ward Alder: Daniela Velazquez:** Not present so her assistant reported for her. She discussed several Board Bills that are currently under review at the BoA. There will be a Town Hall on April 30. There will be two murals in our Ward with ARPA funds. The senior tax freeze is open for applications. The deadline is June 30.

Question: Is the Fanning project dead?

Answer: No. But there is no current action on it.

Question: Won't setting aside spots for minority applicants for construction apprenticeships make it harder to find applicants?

Answer: No.

**Guest Speaker: SLMPD Chief Robert Tracy:** He said meeting in person helps to build trust. SLMPD website is currently being revamped. Crime mapping will be done. We are looking at patterns and trends and want to get to know where problems are before they happen. He introduced our 2nd District leaders who were present.

Crime stats: In 2023 we had the lowest homicide rate in 10 years. In 2023 there was a 22% overall reduction in crime. Year to date crime is down 50% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District and 40% in Tower Grove South.

Things are better with the new contract but we need to be competitive with the County in pay. New CA Gabe Gore is cooperative. Kim Gardner was not. Gore is building that office back up. Under Gardner they were down 75% in PAs. Tracy favors local control over the police; not state control.

Question: Traffic safety: it is like the Wild West out there. What is your take?

Answer: It's a result of the pandemic, civil unrest, and not enforcing traffic laws and giving citations during the pandemic. There is blatant red light running in STL. We must change behaviors. We need traffic missions in each part of the City. The red light camera bill has passed. We did some calming things downtown. Chases can backfire on police. We will chase carjackers but not traffic violators. But people do have to know there are consequences for their actions.

Question: Info on the carjacking at Gustine and Wyoming?

Answer: Details about the found car were given. Year to date the City is down 50% in carjacking.

Question: Are foot patrols and even 24 hour foot patrols part of your policing plan?

Answer: I would like to do this but we don't have the manpower. Officers are just going from call to call right now. This doesn't really allow time for community policing.

Question: We don't see officers making stops very often. When others see these stops it does have a ripple effect. It is a deterrent. Can more stops be made?

Answer: Yes, but some stops are still happening. They are up from a few years ago.

Question: Our state has a divide between rural and urban on gun control. Do you ever talk to rural politicians about gun control? They don't understand our situation.

Answer: Some laws in this state are insane. We need reasonable gun laws. We can't have juveniles carrying guns. These laws put police at a disadvantage.

**President's Report: Joyce Reese:** We still need a President Elect for 2025. We also need a Social Chair. The first Heights Night this year will be in April. Stay tuned.

**Treasurer Report: Rick Stein:** Now reporting quarterly.

**Membership report: Ann Stanley:** There are 415 members. That number is up and there are new members this month!

**Social Committee:** Open position: NA

**Block Captain report: Jennifer Florida:** Block Captains meet the second Monday of every month. They are working on a new Mission Statement, they are doing BC training, and are having conversations about Ward Capital. Many streets have not yet been paved. They are having a yard sale on May 4.

**Communication Committee: Shannon Heffernan:** We have 878 on MC emails. We have a 50% open rate. We made updates to the website. Shannon has been posting on Instagram: "Hi from Tower Grove Heights".

**Safety Committee Report: Adam Murray and Frank Hatstat:** They are currently meeting bi-monthly on Zoom. The next meeting is in May. In March we discussed the Moon property, the need to place

cameras we still have, the Bohannon trial (starting April 15), tree limbs, worn stop signs and convex mirrors for alleys.

**Old Business:** We are still looking for a President Elect. It can be a fun and rewarding experience together with other committed Board members. You can make a real positive difference in our community!

We still have our camera registration program and if you have cameras they can be registered. Also we still have neighborhood owned cameras which you can have quickly installed externally on your alley. Adam Murray will install. We also have more money in the camera fund. See Erica Westbrooks for more information.

**New Business:** Vote on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Upcoming dates:** next Safety Committee meeting is Monday May 20 at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Next TGHNA Monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 23th at 7:15 PM at CDL. The guest speaker will be the Executive Director of TG Park.

**Adjourn:** 8:55 PM

Submitted by Sharon Angle