



222 Main Street • Suite 335 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Annapolis Business Association
General Membership Meeting
April 17, 2007
Harry Browne's**

Minutes

Ann Widener called meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

Introductions.

March meeting minutes reviewed.

Ann announced the hiring of an Executive Director for the ABA. Clare Vanderbeek accepted the position today. Her immediate focus will be on fundraising for the beautification program and being the face of the ABA at City Council meeting. Her role will also include local marketing and membership. She will connect with Mike Miron to capitalize on opportunities the city can offer. You'll all meet her at the May meetings.

We are awaiting price quotes from Jason Simko on the production of the new brochures. We'll get the final proof from Jason so the Board can review at the meeting next week.

Ann expressed concern regarding the volume of spaces that remain off limits after the legislative session is closed.

Lt. Brian Della addressed the recent wave of vandalism on Maryland Avenue. He suggests the possibility of a camera on site... even a simple surveillance of placing a video camera on a shelf. A sign in windows or on doors suggesting video surveillance is also a deterrent. He asks you to notify police whenever something seems suspicious to you.

Question raised regarding how many officers are on duty at night... Evening shift and overnight shift overlap between 10 p.m. – 2 a.m.... There is a minimum of 14 and as many as 22 officers on duty. There are also 1-3 foot officers patrolling downtown. APD is very aware of the incidents that occur when the bars are closing.

Report in *Baltimore Sun* states in Maryland the ratio is 2.5 officers per 1000 residents... APD is budgeted for 131, currently has 110 officers. Annapolis has 2.9/3.5 officers per



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1000 residents. AA County is 1.3 per 1000, PG is 2.2, Howard County is 2.4 and Baltimore is 1.3.

Part 1 Offenses (the big ones) overall down 13.7% since January. Burglaries down significantly year to year.

There was a spike in street level crime against Hispanics. The Department now employs two Hispanic liaisons to help educate the immigrant community.

If you see someone suspicious in your store (or anywhere) call the police immediately. Let the police approach them and question them. DO NOT hesitate to call. If they appear suspicious call APD: 410-268-4141. This is a non emergency number that goes right to the dispatcher and they will send someone out. Make the call, please. This is the only way we can assist the police in preventing or solving future crimes.

Lt. Della is running the Special Olympics torch from Sandy Point to the State House. They are selling shirts and hats (\$10 each) to raise monies for Maryland Special Olympics. The run is June 6th. Please call Brian to purchase. He can be reached at 410 268-9000 x7250 or via email at bdella@annapolis.gov. (I bought a cap... they're really nice, black baseball caps and they are only \$10.)

Julie Stankivic updated us on the upcoming City Council meeting on Monday evening. The \$30K we requested for the 2007-2008 budget was not included in the plan being reviewed on Monday. Fire legislation will be addressed by the City Council on Monday. She is pushing to include a salary for another Fire Inspector. We understand they have approved a salary for a horticulturalist (that is in addition to the arborist already on staff.). Please let us know if you can attend Monday night's session to speak on behalf of the Association, we need as many volunteers as possible. Infrastructure improvements are in the budget for the downtown area.

Ciao...see ya next month.

--*Judy Buddensick*