

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797

Fax: 301-907-3922

Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov

Website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*

ROBERT PESTRONK, *Chairman*

MARTHA SOLT, *Secretary*

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PAULA DURBIN, *Parliamentarian*

CHERYL TYLER

MICHAEL MEZEY

JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

Approved Minutes Friendship Heights Village Council Public Safety Committee Thursday, November 2, 2023

Council Public Safety Committee members present: Cheryl Tyler;
Bobby Pestronk; Melanie White.

Others present: Julian Mansfield, Jason Goldstein; three Village residents.

At 6:15 p.m., Ms. Tyler called the meeting of the Friendship Heights Village Council Public Safety Committee to order.

Ms. Tyler presented the following items for discussion:

Police Patrol in FHV/Cameras

Ms. Tyler discussed the opportunity for the Village to partner with the Montgomery County Police Department on a safety initiative regarding exterior security cameras based on conversations she has had with Jason Cokinos, who manages the Village's off-duty police program. Ms. Tyler indicated the Village's business section on Wisconsin Avenue meets the criteria for the program under which the County would provide free cameras for this area. For the residential section of the community, the Village can purchase cameras and the County would install, monitor and maintain the cameras.

Ms. Tyler referenced the Town Hall on public safety hosted by the Village on October 19 and discussed the input received from residents regarding safety concerns.

The committee discussed possible public safety improvements to consider implementing, including adding reflective paint in crosswalks, installing additional speed humps and considering other safety signs.

Mr. Pestronk inquired how the committee can make decisions and set attainable goals to complete before the end of the Council's first year. He distributed a draft set of goals, objectives and activities to consider to increase pedestrian and traffic safety, personal safety, property security and to reduce property theft.

Ms. Tyler emphasized that security cameras don't necessarily prevent crime, but they can be a useful tool to help solve crimes. She requested support for the Village to purchase up to 5 additional security cameras with a possible price range of \$3,000-\$5,000, and said she will follow up with Jason Cokinos to do a walkthrough to determine exact locations for the cameras in the Village. After discussion, Mr. Pestronk moved, Ms. White seconded, to recommend to the full Council that the Village purchase up to 5 security cameras contingent upon the ability for the Village to enter into a partnership with the Montgomery County Police Department to provide installation, monitoring and ongoing maintenance of the cameras. The motion was approved unanimously (3-0).

Village staff will follow up on the cost to apply reflective paint to the existing crosswalks throughout the Village and to consider other signs as well as locations for additional speed humps to be installed. Staff will explore and gather this information by December 12. Ms. Tyler will follow up with Jason Cokinos on the placement of cameras and to confirm the eligibility of the Village to participate in the County Police's partnership agreement.

No other action was taken by the Public Safety Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

 11/21/2024

Martha Solt, Council Secretary