



BUSINESS
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DISTRICT

**Safety & Security Meeting #2
May 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM via WebEx
Meeting Minutes**

Kathy Guy, Safety & Security Committee Chair, Provides Updates:

- Named all 3 committees: Safety/Security, Marketing, Public Space. If interested in joining, reach out to info@dupontcirclebid.org.
- Coronavirus Page on website as a resource (www.dupontcirclebid.com/coronavirus)

Commander Duncan Bedlion 2nd District with Metropolitan Police Department (MPD):

- Daily health assessments of every officer
- The station is still open to public – but they're encouraging people to not come in and to call/use website (call 311 to get police report or file a report online)
 - Expanded type of reports their taking
- Conducting Zoom meetings ([Citizen Advisory Council \(CAC\)](#) Meetings – specifically for citizens of the second district. They launch community events, national night out, encourage people to sign up if they want to be involved.)
 - If they're looking to join, can reach out to Samantha Nolan (nolantutor@yahoo.com)
- MPD continues to promote what's going on:
 - Man arrested on Thursday (5/14/20) for burglaries, MPD posted on NextDoor, and put out a press release
 - Free-to-Move Rental Car Share Incident, suspect took this car from someone else and went on a crime spree, hit a biker with a baseball bat. Used the license plate reader to catch the suspect
 - Violent crime is down 40% year to date in PSA 208
- [Private Camera Rebate Program](#) – allows businesses/residents to purchase security cameras, DC government will mail a rebate check
 - It's a deterrent as well
- Encampments
 - He *believed* it *may* have been related to the NoMa encampment removal. Just a theory – not at all a confirmation. (Monica with DMHHS cleared this up below).
 - We have 2 homeless outreach officers (Officer Jasma Stoutamire and Officer Ali Zamani) who are monitoring the area and acting as a resource and liaison – building a relationship and offering resources. Important to keep in mind that not every homeless individual takes those resources.

- Dupont doesn't experience tons of violent crimes with homeless, but if so, Officer Stoutamire and Officer Ali are great officers and are very proactive.
- **Updates from Lieutenant Jonathon Pongratz:** He continues to maintain and builds relationships with officers in the community
 - Nicole Allen (on Segway in the area)

Monica Merk with Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS): Encampments

- DMHHS has been on the NoMa BID Public Safety calls that occur every month, offered to attend our quarterly meetings as well
- Been receiving more concerns about encampments in Dupont
- [Miriam's Kitchen](#) + DMHHS interact with those living in the encampments on a weekly basis
- DMHHS hasn't seen any aggressive behavior, haven't noticed any accumulation of trash
- Port-o-Potty and Handwashing Station in Dupont Circle Park
 - They haven't noticed any residents coming from K St (NoMa Encampments)
 - One resident came from NE (11 St and M St)
- Decrease in panhandling – they *may* have come to Dupont because they think they're going to make more money in a wealthier area. (Just a theory – not confirmed).
- If they notice the presence of rodents, needles, bio-waste, etc. – they'd be willing to conduct a clean-up. But during COVID-19 they can only do "trash only" pick-up under CDC guidelines.
- There isn't one clear action to take – permanent removal of encampments is a long and difficult process to coordinate and get into action.
- Main focus is public health of residents and surrounding and community.

Questions

Large tent on top of a fire exit/unstable structure (Dupont Underground). Anyone to facilitate the movement of that tent?

DMHHS – when there are situations like that (fire exit) they can conduct a removal for safety reasons.

Colleen Hawkinson Comment on Homeless Outreach Officers:

Colleen and Officer Jasma Stoutamire keep in touch regularly. Great relationship with both Officer Jasma Stoutamire and Officer Ali Zamani prior to, *and* during COVID-19.

Question directed towards Mayor's Office – As communities start looking at reopening, are there any safe distance standards related to the encampments?

They've had the question before – been encouraging 6ft social distancing. She'll flag that with supervisor and pass info along to Colleen. MPD does have a fine process in place.

Worried about the need for social distancing – if there are encampments that are blocking sidewalks. (Ex: The encampment is on sidewalk, blocking some of the sidewalk).

DMHHS – it's difficult to remove encampments without justification. Even if they are on narrow sidewalks. If an encampment is on sidewalk, at max a wheelchair should be able to pass safely past the encampment. As long as a wheelchair can pass, it's difficult to justify removal.

In terms of panhandling – is there a more socially distant way that panhandling will be recommended to occur?

MPD/Criminal Aspect: Illegal = on street, aggressive. But, if done legally, they don't provide any feedback or encourage homeless to panhandle. They only address the legal aspect of it.

DMHHS: They've received a lot of concerns about this. Though they express the legality of panhandling – it's a collaborative effort, they never recommend or encourage folks to panhandle. They encourage individuals explore benefits and resources. They do not communicate how or how they shouldn't panhandle (unless it's illegal, like in the street, or aggressive)

Comments on this topic: Some have seen a homeless individual set up a Venmo account – then include their Venmo name on a sign

Port-o-Potty/Handwashing Station, where is it?

They are both outside, one at Dupont Circle Park (Fountain) and the other at P St./Mass Ave. Monica can send reference pictures. Handwashing station is being serviced daily. Port-o-Potty's being serviced every Friday and every Monday (by DPW). Questions can be directed to Colleen at the BID/or Monica.

Colleen Hawkinson Comment: The BID and Main Street participate on a virtual call with DPW and the other BIDs every Friday to provide report outs of the condition of the port-o-potties and water stations, among other things. This group has been helpful in securing the needed cleaning for both the port-o-potty and water station.