

# MNA Town Hall Meeting

January 2, 2019

Attendance: 21 people, not counting the RPD speakers

Notetaker: Amie Alscheff

Barb Ann Kupiec (MNA Secretary) started the meeting at 7 pm.

## City of Rochester (Northwest Neighborhood Service Center)

Tammi Herron, the NWNSC administrator, announced the publication of "Highlights 2018," a brochure that highlights accomplishments at all the City's Neighborhood Service Centers from the past year. She brought copies to distribute, and says it's also available online on the City's website (Note: I looked online with the intention to provide a link, but I couldn't find it.—Amie).

Contact Tammi with suggestions for 2019:

[Tammi.Herron@CityofRochester.Gov](mailto:Tammi.Herron@CityofRochester.Gov)

(585) 428-7620

## Report from the Rochester Police Department, Lake Section

Lt. Waldo read the crime report for December:

- Gun arrest on 12/23: a 9mm handgun was used in a robbery at 1364 Dewey Avenue, the Rawa Deli. A man threatened to shoot store employees. RPD officers later apprehended a suspect.
- CVS robbed on 12/10: man didn't show a weapon, but threatened to use one
- There was a shooting on Christmas Day near the intersection of Dewey and Knickerbocker. Five shots were fired, and an injured man was found lying in the road.
- Statistics:
  - Burglaries: 6
  - Car break-ins: 15. People are still leaving their vehicles unlocked, despite multiple warnings.
  - Stolen vehicles: 3
- Next PCIC meeting is January 15, at Aquinas at 7 pm. They are trying to get Daisy Rivera Algarin, NSC Director, to speak about the new Nuisance Points system.
- Lt. Waldo handed out a phone number log from the NW NSC. It gives names and phone numbers of specific contacts at the NSC to call for various problems. (Note: A scan of the document is attached here. See last page.—Amie)

Q&A

### **What's the status of the shooting that took place on Seneca Parkway?**

Investigation is still open, they can't say much about it at this time.

### **Was there a carjacking on Dewey Avenue recently?**

Yes, but it wasn't in Maplewood. (Note: I looked online and found no news stories to provide further information about this incident.—Amie)

### **Do we have year-end stats for the Lake Section?**

They will be compiled soon, likely in time for the PCIC meeting.

**Why do we need to have a Police Accountability Board when there is already a process in place to handle complaints or accusations of wrongdoing about the police? The commenter expressed her opinion that Mayor Warren is supposed to be responsible for RPD and is trying to pass off her responsibilities by creating a civilian review board. She also described the proposal as “a damn witch hunt.”**

Captain Dearcop responded that there are many parts to this issue. When a police officer is accused of criminal activity, there's a process that involves the Mayor, the District Attorney, and others. On a day-to-day basis, RPD receives numerous complaints that are investigated internally and either handled or dismissed if its determined that there's nothing to them. In any case, the new Police Accountability Board would only make a recommendation, and still leave the final decision up to the Chief of Police.

### **Would the new Police Accountability Board replace the civilian review system currently in place?**

Unsure

(Note: For background on what was being discussed here, the full text of the proposed legislation submitted by Mayor Warren to City Council can be found on the City's website, here: <http://cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=21474839865>)

For a quick summary, a news story published by WROC News 8 on 12/27 stated:

*Mayor Lovely Warren has submitted legislation to City Council that would create a new police accountability board to review complaints involving Rochester police officers.*

*According to Mayor Warren, the new board would have "unprecedented powers to investigate complaints as well as work toward better policies related to the use of force." The new board would have the power to subpoena and compel testimony.*

*The mayor adds, "This will improve public safety by improving the public's trust, creating a fully transparent investigative process that's fair to both the community and our officers."*

*The mayor says three of the nine-member panel would be chosen directly by the mayor's office, three would be recommended to the mayor by a community organization (the Police Accountability Board Alliance) and the remaining three members would be recommended by City Council. Board members will in turn launch a search for an executive director. Board members would also serve three-year terms, staggered after the initial appointees.*

*While the board would have the power to recommend charges and discipline, the police chief would have final say on how to deal with accused officers -- a point of criticism by activists of the current system. If the chief disagrees with the board's recommendation, he would be required to explain his reasoning in a message to the board.*

Source: <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/new-legislation-would-create-new-police-accountability-board-in-rochester-with-increased-powers/1676633718>

--Amie)

**Devon Reynolds, owner of Brothers & Sisters Unisex Salon, reminded everyone that he holds a monthly community forum at his business. He asked the Lake Section officers whether it would be possible to have officers who represent the demographics of his community attend the forum.**

They will follow up with him.

### **Report from Molly Clifford, NW City Council Representative**

Molly was out of town, but was represented by her new legislative assistant, Lydia Rivera-Warr.

Lydia brought two handouts for distribution: One that gives the full text of the legislation proposed by Mayor Warren to create a Police Accountability Board, and one that describes Parks and Public Works projects that will impact Maplewood in 2019. (Note: this second document appears to be the same large pdf document that was emailed earlier today by Jim White and Barb Ann Kupiec to their email distribution lists).

Q&A

#### **Is City Council voting on anything this month?**

Lydia doesn't know, this is literally her first day on the job.

### **Report from Monroe County Legislator Cindy Kaleh (28th District)**

Cindy was absent tonight.

### **Report from Monroe County Legislator Tony Micciche (26th District)**

Tony discussed some issues regarding the 2019 Monroe County budget. He says the idea that the County has passed a tax cut is "misleading and disingenuous." The \$.10 cut in the tax rate was mandated by the tax cap, but the county will actually be taking in \$11.5 million more than last year. His personal county tax bill has gone up by \$19 from last year. Despite taking in more money, the County has cut healthcare for retired sheriff's deputies, cut early intervention services for disabled students, and Child Protective Services is still not fully staffed.

Q&A

**Has the DA's office been given extra money to follow cases that go through Diversion Courts? According to the commenter, these cases are diverted from prosecution for a year so that the defendants can get**

**drug counseling. She wants to know whether the DA has been allotted extra funds to track them as they go through this process.**

Tony doesn't have the answer, but offered to research an answer.

**Is the county budget online?**

Yes

(Note: the full 2019 Monroe County budget can be accessed here: <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/files/finance/2019%20Adopted%20Budget.pdf>. Past year's budgets and other budget information are also available at the following link: <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/budget>.--Amie)

**Andy Raus, Executive Staff Assistant to Mayor Warren**

Regarding the Police Accountability Board, there are two different proposals currently for creating a Review Board. They will have to be looked at by the City's legal department and the police union before any new process is adopted.

Affordable Care Act is still in effect. See him for information on how to enroll.

Thanks to all who contributed to the City's holiday coat drive. They received many brand-new coats, especially for children's sizes.

## **Announcements and discussion**

Barb Ann reminded everyone that you can contact the MNA with any questions or concerns in between the monthly Town Hall meetings.

Email: [info@maplewood.org](mailto:info@maplewood.org) (this goes to Barb Ann)

Facebook: We have two pages, and you can message us through the pages. Amie Alscheff updates the main Maplewood Neighborhood page. Jahmar Elliott updates the Maplewood Public Safety page.

For basic information about the MNA (including these monthly Town Hall Meeting notes) see: [www.maplewood.org](http://www.maplewood.org).

Devon Reynolds reminded everyone that he maintains a food pantry at Brothers & Sisters Unisex Salon, and he asked for help replenishing the pantry after the holiday season. You can drop off non-perishable food items any time the salon is open (1278 Dewey Avenue, near the corner of Seneca Parkway).

*Phone Number Log - Northwest NSC*

- **Broken Street Light** – Ned Kelly #428-1297 #820-8184 ©
  - **Street Lighting (anything street lighting)** – Ned Kelly #428-1297 #820-8184 ©
  - **Damaged Banners (On Light Poles)** - Ned Kelly #428-1297 #820-8184 ©
  - **Graffiti on Buildings** – DES (goes through 311 first, city owned graffiti buildings)
  - **Overflowing Dumpsters** – Inspection & Compliance #428-6520 (area inspector then goes to Carlos Torres)
  - **Litter on Sidewalks** – Inspection & Compliance #428-6520
  - **Street and Sidewalk Repair**- Engineering Jim Macintosh #428-6828 John Knapp #370-1794
  - **Broken Street Light Base** - Ned Kelly #428-1297 #820-8184 ©
  - **High grass and weeds** Private Owned – Inspection & Compliance #428-6520 (Carlos Torres # 428-6620) City Owned - #428-5990 / Karen St Aubin #370-3564
  - **Pothole Repair** – DES (goes through 311 first)
  - **Overflowing Trash Can / Totter/ Trash in street** – Inspection & Compliance (Private Property) #428-6520 / On ROW – 311 #428-5990
  - **Leaking Fire Hydrant** - #428-7500
  - **Trash in the Street** – Tom Belknap #428-8681 #370-0465 ©
  - **Damaged Bus Shelter** – Cheryl Nieskes #654-0290 / #288-1700
  - **Dead Animal Removal** - Dispatch #428-7256
  - **Missing Trees or Broken Tree Limbs** – Brian Liberti #428-6971 #370-3248 ©
  - **Hazardous Signs on Building** – DES (goes through 311) City property – Tom Graves #428-6793 Private Property – Area Inspector
  - **Non- Operating Parking Meter Municipal Parking** – 311
  - **Broken Meter Municipal Code** - #428-7024
  - **Traffic Control Lights** – Stop Signs, Street Signs, 4 Way Stop Eric Frich # 428-6709
  - **Homeless** – Nick Couture # 738-7452
  - **New Americans Support** – Mary's Place Mike Coniff #319-3134
  - **Daycare (Monroe County)** – #1-800-732-5207
  - **Rat Problem** – Eric Emmaer #753-5058
  - **Pot Holes** – Jason #428-8858
  - **Zoning Board of Appeals** – Jill Simmons #428-1364
  - **City Planning Commission** – Jill Weedrick #428-6914
  - **Preservation board** – Peter Siegrist # 428-7238
  - **City Historian (library)** – Christine Ridarsky # 428-8895
  - **Child Protective (Mandated Reporter)** #1-800-635-1522
  - **DRYS (Permits Office)** – Daneria # 428-6794
  - **Parking Monitors** – Rob Neri #428-9705
  - **Animal Control** – Amy Bianchi #428-6738
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