

# MNA Town Hall Meeting

March 6, 2019

Notetaker: Amie Alscheff

Wayne Williams, MNA President, started the meeting at 7:15 pm.

## Report from the Rochester Police Department, Lake Section

Crime report:

- RPD was called to the corner of Desmond and Palm Streets on February 7 at 11 pm for a report of shots fired. A car was struck by the gunfire while parked in driveway. They met with the owner, but were not able to find any camera evidence of the shooting.
- Burglaries: 3 (down from 24 last month)
- Car break-ins: 3
- Motor vehicle thefts: 0

There will be an outreach event at Sacred Heart in June. The next PCIC meeting is March 19 at Aquinas.

Q&A

Q: Any information on selecting a new RPD chief?

A: Nothing official. They are looking at about 20 applicants right now.

Q: Any update on the new Lake Section RPD office facility?

A: No. Communication hasn't been great about the timeline. Captain Dearcop spoke to the architect last year and at that point money hadn't been approved and the building hadn't been designed. Based on that conversation, he expects it will be 4-5 years before the building is completed. There's also remediation needed at the site, which hasn't been started yet. The good news is that Lake Section is ahead of the Goodman Section and Genesee Section in this process.

Q: Do the Lake Section officers get to talk to the architect about the plans?

A: They put together a wish list, but don't know what items from that list they will get. Will probably come down to dollars and cents.

Q: At the meeting earlier this week about the planned Raines/Magee sewer and reconstruction project, residents brought up the issue of drivers speeding down Magee and Clay. Is there anything RPD can do to slow traffic?

A: During the winter there is not much they can do. The speed trailers operate on solar power so they don't put them out during the winter. The traffic control board has a member who is a former Lake Section RPD officer, so Capt. Dearcop can speak to him about it.

Q: Follow-up question to the above: Is it legal for tractor trailers to take the side streets? Many seem to be doing that in order to reach businesses on Dewey Avenue.

A: Not sure, but they will keep an eye on it.

Q: Follow up on the question raised here last month about repeated shooting incidents around the corner of Raines Park/Magee Avenue/Seneca Parkway. Any update?

A: He hasn't seen any recent activity recorded. He believes the federal search warrants that were executed at a house on Albemarle back in the fall may have taken care of that issue.

The resident responded here that there were shots fired near her house in December, after the search warrant.

Captain Dearcop reiterated that they aren't aware of any current problems in that area. He says if she sees something new happen, or have further questions about it, she should call the Lake Section office.

Q: Were there any nuisance points assessed against that property on Albemarle in regards to that search warrant (the news reported drugs and weapons were seized)?

A: He wasn't aware.

Kim Hare added here that it shows up on the City's online [map of nuisance points](#). She says it originally got 16 points, but that was later reduced to 10.

### Report from Lydia Rivera Warr (legislative aide for Molly Clifford, NW City Council Representative)

Lydia passed out handouts of information on the City's acceptance of state funding for Roc the Riverway projects, and also on building improvement grants in the Dewey/Driving Park Avenue area through the Urban Renewal Project. Jim White will be distributing copies of this information via his email list tomorrow.

Q&A

Q: Did City Council vote on the legislation to establish a Police Accountability Board?

A: Not yet, they are still weighing feedback.

Q: In regards to the grants, what are the boundaries for the Dewey/Driving Park area?

A: Not sure, she can look into it.

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

Regarding the speeding problems on Magee and Clay, he tried to petition for speed bumps in that area in 2015, following the City's process for installing them. He was not able to get enough residents to sign the petition.

The International Joint Commission that [controls Lake Ontario water levels](#) is releasing water from the Massena Dam to try to control flooding. The lake is currently 16 inches above average.

The Concerts by the Shore series of events will run from June 12-August 28 (the [concert schedule](#) hasn't been posted yet).

2019 [Agricultural Literacy Week](#) is an event sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension. Volunteers will read books to second graders. If interested in volunteering, call Susan Coyle at 753-2567.

Sad news: Cindy Kaleh was not able to be here tonight due to a death in the family. Her brother passed away unexpectedly.

If anyone needs to contact him, Tony's number is 753-1940.

Q&A

Q: Have there been any improvements in Monroe County's Child Protective Services staffing levels?

A: Not really. Last year, he and Justin Wilcox made efforts to get more funding to hire and retain workers, but it has not been enough to make a difference.

Enrica Fleming added here that she works at CPS and she can confirm that they are still understaffed.

### City of Rochester Mayor's Office (Andy Raus)

Clean Sweep is the second weekend of May. Now is the time to put projects together. Get your project information to Tammi Herron and Bruce Wilder at the Northwest Service Center.

Thanks to Jim White for disseminating all this information to the neighborhood through his email list.

Q&A

Q: Wayne Williams asked if there has been any further information on doing a cleanup at the intersection of 104 and Lake Avenue, around the red sculpture.

A: That can't actually be done as a Clean Sweep project because it requires closing a lane of traffic. Talk to Tammi and Bruce to learn more.

### Announcements and discussion

1. Darlene Kelly announced the results of the MNA Elections: we elected two new board members, Jahmar Elliot (he actually started a few months ago, but the election confirmed his appointment) and R. Scott Oliver. Both of them are appointed for a two-year term.

2. Bob Stevenson sent an email to the MNA today tendering his resignation from the Board. He has not been able to participate due to health issues. This means there will be another opening to appoint a replacement for the remainder of his term.

Q: How is Bob doing?

A: Barb Ann Kupiec says she has not seen him exercising at the YMCA lately. Jim White says he saw him yesterday at the Lily Café and he looked good.

3. Devon Reynolds asked for donations to the food pantry at Brothers and Sisters Unisex Salon. Non-perishable foods and bottled water are big needs, but they will also accept new winter coats, hats, and gloves. Bring donations to the Salon at 1274 Dewey Avenue, or you can also bring them to the next MNA meeting and Devon will collect them here.

4. At this point, Bruce Wilder came in following another meeting. Someone asked Bruce: is there still a complaint form available on the City website that goes to the NEC?

A: Yes, it's still there. Look on the website under Mayor's Office. (Note: this is the website for the [Mayor's Office](#), but nothing there appears to match this description.)

5. The New Americans Librarian from the Maplewood Community Library says that they are looking for outreach efforts that will get them out of the library and into the community. If you have suggestions, please contact the [library](#) at 428-8220.

6. Devon Reynolds pointed out that there's a new convenience store opening at the corner of Dewey and Magee. Are there any zoning restrictions on how many of these stores can be operating in the same area? His concern is crime and people loitering, he doesn't want that happening around his business.

Discussion followed:

Barb Ann: Another big concern is parking.

Kim Hare: We've been raising these same issues with the police for the past five years.

Devon asks whether he would actually have to get pictures of drug sales happening in order to get a response from the police.

Bruce Wilder: This is part of the reason why they've been trying to revive the Dewey Avenue Business Association. They hold meetings and nobody shows up. If the business owners along Dewey Avenue want results, they would show up. His suggestion is that they get together as businesses and hire a security guard to move people along from in front of their shops. Keep calling the police if they see things happening, but the businesses need to work together.

Also, re: the glut of convenience stores, a few years ago the City created an ordinance to limit "High Impact" businesses, but the state shut it down as unconstitutional. Bruce sympathizes with the problem, both the City can't dictate what people sell. NYS permits are required for selling things like alcohol and cigarettes, but that's all. There's no special permit needed from the City to open a corner store. If you see stores selling loose cigarettes or selling alcohol/tobacco to minors, call the state to report that.

Technically, there isn't enough parking for any of the businesses along Dewey because the buildings were built during an era when people walked to the store. Bruce says he gets emails almost every day from a person who lives near Phat Boys complaining that people are parking in his driveway to go to the store.

Kim Hare: It's not just the business owners' responsibility, it's the neighborhood and the City too. We need to stop what's going on in the 1300 block of Dewey. She suggests we devote next month's MNA meeting to sitting down and talking about strategies.

Bill Collins mentioned several specific City officials who should be invited to this meeting (sorry, notetaker was not able to catch their names).

Meeting was adjourned by Wayne Williams at 8:30 pm.