

MNA Town Hall Meeting

April 3, 2019

Notetaker: Amie Alscheff

Bill Collins, MNA Vice President, started the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Following up on the discussion from the March meeting re: efforts to curb loitering and drug sales around Dewey/Magee Avenues, the MNA is working to arrange scheduling with City representatives to attend. We're hoping to devote all of May's Town Hall Meeting to this topic.

Report from the Rochester Police Department, Lake Section

RPD located two young men with an illegal weapon at 318 Pullman Avenue. It was a 9mm containing 9 rounds.

Big news this month is two incidents of gunfire on Maplewood Avenue earlier this week. One incident happened April 1 around 11 pm, the other took place the next day around 11:30 am. No person was injured in either incident, and no property (ie, houses, cars, etc.) appear to be damaged.

RPD doesn't think the incidents are associated with anyone living on Maplewood Avenue. They have some description of vehicles involved, and they don't have ties to any ongoing activity they are aware of. They have an investigator assigned to the case. Any suspicions or rumors heard should be reported to Lake Section police. Lt. Waldo warned against getting involved in speculation on social media.

Q&A

Q: Were the two shootings in the same area?

A: Not exactly, but close to each other.

Q: Is there any way to tell forensically whether the shots were fired in the air vs. down the street, or at a house?

A: They would need either a witness, or some damage resulting from a shot to tell. For example, a broken window or a bullet hole in the wall inside a residence. If anyone notices anything like that, call them.

Q: What should a person do if you are outdoors and hear shots being fired?

A: Try to get behind something solid, like a tree or a vehicle.

Q: Who should neighbors call for information when something like this happens?

A: Call or email Lt. Waldo during his work hours, which are Monday through Friday daytime hours. Or call 911 and tell the operator that it's not an emergency, but you would like to speak to a Lake Section RPD supervisor.

Q: On Saturday, on Maplewood Avenue, someone was seen trying to break into an empty house. After neighbors called 911, it took 20 minutes for RPD to arrive (by which time, the person had left).

A: On Saturday, RPD was tied up with the big fight at the Recreation Center on West Avenue. That probably caused the delay.

Q: Motorcycles and ATVs driving on the park trails are going to get someone killed if they aren't stopped.

A: RPD has limited ability to stop this because of the "no pursuit" policy. They can try long-term solutions, possibly a surveillance camera. Report any dangerous drivers you see on a regular basis, giving a description of the vehicle and where they are coming and going from. If you can't get license information, maybe just the home address where the vehicle stays.

Q: The new convenience store has opened at the corner of Magee, and trouble from Dewey Avenue is spreading. Can we get a camera quickly to help prevent trouble and eliminate the open-air drug market? Business owners are intimidated. We need some response, either a camera or more regular foot patrols.

*Another commenter added that right now you can't even get through the entrance of that new corner store if you want to, because there are so many people just hanging out in front of the building.

A: (from Molly Clifford) One thing they've been doing on Lyell Avenue is spending a couple of hours each day just hanging around outdoors., sitting in lawn chairs. It sends the message that people are watching what happens on the street. She's willing to do that this summer here on Dewey. Anyone interested in joining her would be welcome. Another tactic is to boycott the stores. The Charlotte Community Association is doing that right now with a convenience store on Denise Road.

Q: What about having cops patrolling on foot who actually come inside the stores?

A: They haven't been doing foot patrols much recently because of the winter weather. Also, RPD is too short-staffed. However, Officer Maldonado works after hours, visiting bars and clubs. Realistically, RPD can't have someone patrolling 24/7, either on foot or in a car. They need calls to let them know specific times and places when something is happening. They hear at all the neighborhood association meetings that people say they are calling constantly. But when he looks through the service calls, he never sees anything to respond to.

In May, all cameras RPD has will be needed at the Lilac Festival. And then during the summer, they will all be needed at Charlotte Beach.

PAC TAC is something RPD strongly encourages. They will offer training if they get enough volunteers expressing interest. It's effective, but there haven't been enough volunteers recently to offer the program in Maplewood. PAC TAC would mean volunteers walking the neighborhood together with an officer, carrying police radios.

Q: Wait, there aren't enough officers to do regular patrols. But there are officers available to do PAC TAC?

A: Yes, because it's not the same type of officer. The outreach officers who work with the community on PAC TAC aren't the same ones assigned to responding to calls for crimes in progress.

*A resident commented here describing her experience doing PAC TAC a few years ago: People notice them and it really makes a difference. They just need to get more people willing to do it. Most of the time, she was walking with another volunteer and they kept in contact with RPD through the radio.

*Lt. Waldo pointed out that the police don't have good relations with the community and could use the support of volunteers. If anyone is interested in PAC TAC, please contact him. His email is rw1340@cityofrochester.gov.

*Cindy Kaleh: A few years ago, people were interested in restarting PAC TAC but nothing got started. She suggests that we could build interest and awareness to show that PAC TAC exists by getting a group together and then inviting a reporter to walk along and write about it.

Announcements

Celebrate City Living is holding their [annual housing expo](#) on Saturday April 13 at the Sibley Building. MNA will have a table there to promote Maplewood. If you know anyone looking to buy or rent a new place in the city, tell them about this event.

Clean Sweep is taking place May 11. Bill Collins and Enrica Fleming are leading a team to pick up trash along Dewey Avenue, and in public garden areas. You can sign up in advance to volunteer through the City of Rochester website: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/cleansweep/>

Lake Avenue repaving project: NYS DOT will be resurfacing the asphalt on Lake Avenue this summer, between Lyell Avenue and Flower City Park. There will be a public informational meeting at the Edgerton Ballroom on April 23 from 4-7. A couple of things that may affect your commute: they are planning to limit left turns off Lake Avenue at Glendale Avenue and at Selye Terrace. (Jim White distributed a project information sheet to his email list from NYS DOT with more details.)

Report from Molly Clifford, NW City Council Representative

City Council agenda this month will include possible new playground equipment at the Tacoma Playground.

Habitat for Humanity is going to build single family homes in the JOSANA neighborhood.

City of Rochester is planning trail enhancements along the river as part of the Roc the Riverway project. One upcoming project is a Brewery Trail, connecting the Genesee Brewery with the Inner Loop. They are slowly connecting trails along the river to the lake. Funding is impending for this project, but work won't start for a while.

Replacement for Adam McFadden on City Council will be appointed in the next month by the Democratic Committee.

Q&A

Q: Speaking of trails, is there any news on the trail closure policy at the RGE dam?

A: No word yet.

Q: When will the City budget be released?

A: The mayor usually releases it in late May. Molly is going to try to offer informational sessions in late May/early June.

Q: [Question was inaudible]

A: Yes, City Council did vote in favor of additional spending on parking meters.

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

In case you haven't heard, this is her last full year in the county legislature. Smoking/vaping and issues of secondhand smoke are something she wants to focus on during her remaining months. County legislation has been introduced to raise the tobacco purchase age to 21 (which will require follow-up at local convenience stores) and also to ban smoking in a car with any occupant under 18. If you want to discuss any of these policies with her, see her contact information on the County Legislature webpage: <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/legislature-legislators.php#28>

The county budget approved more money to cover rate increases for providers of early intervention services for children at the pre-K level. This includes services like physical therapy, speech therapy, etc. In Cindy's opinion, the county finally approved a 15% rate increase that they've had the money to do for a long time. It required pressure from multiple speakers in order to get them to act.

The NY state budget includes a "Covered Lives" refund. This would refund money to families who had to pay out of pocket for services that their insurance providers didn't cover.

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

Re: the rate increase to providers of childhood early intervention services, these are the first raises they've gotten in 20 years. The wait list for services has grown tremendously because the providers weren't able to afford to stay in business or offer the services.

Re: crimes discussed earlier, this is why neighborhood precincts would be better.

Events and projects he's been involved with over the past 30 days:

- [Agricultural Literacy Week](#), through the Cornell Cooperative Extension. He read to 2nd graders at School #42, and they participated in an exercise that acted out shopping at a farm market.
- A program with the Cincinnati Zoo to study breeding programs for polar bears.
- Vietnam Veterans event with speaker Gary Beikirk, a Medal of Honor recipient.

Upcoming:

- Project to expand radio system coverage for first responders.
- Monroe County Youth Awards. If you want to nominate a young person helping the community, call him at 753-1940.

City of Rochester Mayor's Office (Andy Raus)

Upcoming City events:

- Saturday, April 6. Rochester City School District job recruitment event at Rochester International Academy, 9-11 am.
- Wednesday, April 10. Career Fair at REOC, 161 Chestnut Street, 10 am-1 pm.