POLICE ← RESIDENTS

The high-visibility events involving public safety officers in Prince George’s County have been of great concern to many residents, and at the October Action Langley Park meeting, some clarification was offered.

The Washington Post (9 October 2008) presented the list: “It seemed like a horrible, but at least isolated, incident: A 19-year-old suspected of killing a county police officer was found strangled in his jail cell in June, and corrections officers were under suspicion. A month later, however, more appalling news: Sheriff’s deputies and county narcotics officers raided the home of the mayor of Berwyn Heights and fatally shot his two dogs. The mayor and his family were innocent; a county drug investigation soon pointed elsewhere. Then, another questionable killing: An off-duty Prince George’s police officer shot a Langley Park man in August while attempting to arrest him for having an open container of alcohol. It was the year’s seventh fatal shooting by county police.”

At the ALP meeting, one of the participants was Acting Police Chief Roberto Hylton. As many readers know, Hylton has had a link to the Langley Park neighborhood for decades. Also, it is clear that he is committed to community policing with contacts between police officers and residents.

When asked at the ALP meeting about the three incidents and the impact on police-residents relationships, he said that he has been active addressing concerned residents, and he thinks that police-residents relationships have not deteriorated. He noted that the only incident involving in any direct way the police was the one in Langley Park, and that one is still under investigation – but that he will take strong action if the off-duty officer is found to be at fault. (Fair enough, although it will be surprising if the killing is found to be justified.) Furthermore, he is pushing that all officers receive training in bridging cultural divides and having more non-enforcement interaction with residents. That will be a great step forward.

A suggestion was made to organize a soccer (futbol) match between police officers and local residents. Chief Hylton was very supportive, and staff member Diana Rutstein was charged with moving the idea forward. The match might take place towards the end of Langley Park Day.

ALP meeting participants clearly indicated their strong support for the work of Chief Hylton, and participants expressed the hope that he will soon be made permanent Chief.

THE DOLLARS ARE FLYING (AWAY)

Gads, what an awful economic situation faced by the residents of Langley Park and elsewhere in the USA and the world! The Dow has plunged more than 30% from its high a few years ago, people are being fired or furloughed, and new employment opportunities are scarce. It appears that deregulation and the mission of having 2/3 of all US residents own a house has punished almost all of us. Hang on!

Once allies on immigration...

Obama, McCain Now Diverge

By Patricia Zapor, CNS, 3 October 2008

Not long ago, the two leading presidential candidates clearly supported the same approaches to fixing the dysfunctional U.S. immigration system. In 2006, Democratic nominee Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois was among those working to try to pass the ill-fated comprehensive immigration reform bill co-written by Republican nominee Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. Although they were on the same page two years ago, as the 2008 election approaches, distinctions between the two candidates on the issue have become more pronounced.

Both candidates’ policy statements on immigration contain many of the elements promoted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in its election guide, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” But the ways in which Obama and McCain say they would approach their policy goals diverge, with McCain now taking an enforcement-first approach, while Obama continues to support addressing a wide range of problems at the same time.

“Faithful Citizenship” calls for a reform plan that includes "a temporary work program with worker protections and a path to permanent residency; family reunification policies; a broad and fair legalization program; access to legal protections, including due process and essential public programs; refuge for those fleeing persecution and exploitation; and policies to address the root causes of migration."

The 2006 McCain-Kennedy bill would have provided a path to legalization for many of the estimated 12 million immigrants who are in the country without proper documents, reformed the family immigration system and created a new temporary-worker program. That bill and several subsequent versions crafted over the next year failed to get enough Republican support to come to a vote in the Senate. The House has held hearings on assorted immigration bills, but has not brought a wide-ranging bill to the floor. The few bills that have come through Congress and made it into law in the last several...
SHORT TAKES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
“Domestic violence between adult couples continues to be a major issue in Prince George’s County, across the nation and around the world, yet an alarming new trend among our youth is occurring in increasing numbers: the rise of domestic violence between teenagers who date.” (Office of State’s Attorney Glenn Ivey)

UNDEREMPLOYMENT
In Uneven Progress: The Employment Pathways of Skilled Immigrants in the United States, the Migration Policy Institute examines the hurdles that prevent many immigrants from fully utilizing their academic and professional credentials, depriving the US economy of the full value of their talent. The report also discusses a range of immigrant admission and immigrant integration policy changes to remedy this problem, which tend to be overlooked by policymakers.

PURPLE LINE
At the October ALP meeting, key Purple Line project director Mike Madden provided an update. In summary, the Purple Line (aka Bi-County Transitway) as well as the Transit Center are moving forward, although he admitted that the financial crises might slow the projects down.

A post-ALP meeting report on the impact of the line on neighborhoods, just released by the state, raises additional hurdles—and increases pessimism. Surely, the Not-in-My-Backyard opposition will increase thanks to the report. See www.purplelinemd.com.

Madden provided a useful background. For instance, the Purple Line became an option when widening the Beltway was deemed impossible because of the many adjoining properties that would have to be confiscated. Asked about the impact on traffic crossing to and from Virginia, he indicated that congestion might not be reduced. He was hopeful that the opposition by the country club in Chevy Chase could overcome.

Hearings on the Purple Line are scheduled for November. Check out the Purple Line website is http://www.bi-countytransitway.com; advocacy sites are http://www.innerpurpleline.org and www.purplelinenow.com.

DEASY’S DEPARTURE: WHAT IMPACT?
Heather Iliff, our area’s Board of Education member, comments: “Of course, we are all very disappointed to see Deasy go. I think the important message to share (and sorry I won’t be able to attend - I am in Baltimore this week) is that the Board is united in our vision and strategy for the future of the district. We will not be looking for someone to come in and make changes or start a new vision. We will be asking our new superintendent to stay the course and implement that vision, not start something new. I think we all recognize the major accomplishments under Deasy and also that we still have a long way to go. One major strength of Dr. Deasy was that he built a very strong team and institutionalized changes throughout the system. Whereas previous gains may have been based on “crash diets” of change, the gains we are making now are deep rooted throughout the system from teachers, to principals, to human resources, to the superintendent’s cabinet. Our aim will be to maintain these strengths and continue on our course of reform - ensuring that all children graduate college-ready and work-ready, which are really one and the same.”

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL
How will the move to the White Oak area, scheduled to take place in a few years, impact area health care? Here’s the encouraging plan for the current Takoma Park site once the hospital has moved:

‘Dubbed the ‘Village of Health and Well-being,’ the vacated campus could include emergency and urgent care services as well as clinic and primary care. Primary care services will include a primary care center and physician offices. Emergency and urgent medical care could take several forms, depending on state and federal regulatory guidelines. Dialysis, outpatient imaging and other diagnostic services will be available. The proposed fitness center, which will be a partnership between Washington Adventist Hospital and Columbia Union College, could house a new gym, pool, primary care and outpatient rehabilitation services, as well as the hospital’s health and wellness classes.”

Note: ALP has lobby to have a frequent shuttle running between the new and old campuses.

MD COALITION—MARYLAND’S IMMIGRANTS
The next meeting of the Maryland Coalition for Refugees and Immigrants will be held on Thursday morning, October 23rd from 10AM to 12noon at the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, located at the southeast intersection of Routes 29 and 108 in Columbia. The special guest speaker will be Karina Fortuny of the Urban Institute, co-author of the recently-released study Integration of Immigrants in Maryland, which was done for Maryland government, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The report, The Integration of Immigrants in Maryland’s Growing Economy, comes to these conclusions: (1) Maryland’s immigrants come from around the world—almost equal shares arrived from Latin American countries as from Asia, and many are from African, Caribbean and European countries; (2) Maryland’s immigrants have higher levels of education than the national average for immigrants, and fill many vital jobs in the scientific, high-tech, and health sectors; (3) Maryland’s immigrants who lack high levels of education fill many important service-sector and blue-collar jobs; (4) Maryland’s labor market is growing for foreign and native-born workers, and across racial groups; (5) Providing educational and training opportunities for immigrant as well as native-born workers, particularly those with limited formal education and English proficiency, is likely to reap benefits not only for these workers but also for the state’s economy and tax base.

LECTURE
The University of Maryland’s Urban Studies & Planning Program presents the 2008 Samuel J. LeFrak Lecture featuring Professor John a. powell [the lower case is his preference], who will talk about “Planning for Opportunity, Equity and Change.” Powell heads an institute for the study of race and ethnicity at Ohio State U. Among his books is In Pursuit of a Dream Deferred: Linking Housing and Education Policies. The event is on Tuesday, October 27th at 8 p.m. in the lecture hall of the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Everyone is welcome. A light buffet will follow the lecture and discussion. For further information, call 301 405-8000.
years have all been focused on a border fence and enforcement measures.

As the presidential campaign progressed over the last year, McCain said he no longer would support his own bill because he has come to believe the U.S.-Mexican border must be secured against illegal entry before changes are made in law or policy. The immigration plan on his campaign Web site says that only after border-state governors certify that "the borders are secure" would he work on other immigration issues. Those later steps would include prosecuting "employers that continue to hire illegal immigrants," addressing labor demands for immigrant workers, and dealing with the backlogs in family immigration and the millions of undocumented immigrants already here.

Obama's immigration plan backs the multipronged approach referred to as comprehensive reform. While he also talks about better equipping border agents, he would at the same time seek a legalization program and make family immigration easier, according to his Web site. Obama has said he would push for a comprehensive immigration reform bill in his first year in office.

Like Obama's plan, McCain's plan would require undocumented individuals to register, pay fines and back taxes, undergo background checks and wait for permanent legal status behind applicants who are applying for residency through the normal process. McCain's proposal adds, "The program will also ensure that all undocumented aliens either leave or follow the path to legal residence." It does not elaborate on how that would work. A key to McCain's shift in stated priorities on immigration lies in the "enforcement-first" emphasis of the GOP's base.

The Republican Party's platform takes a more stern approach to immigration than McCain has. It devotes lengthy sections to "the rule of law" as the overriding principle for immigration policy, and says "we oppose amnesty." It also says "the American people" have rejected the idea of mass legaliza-

FOOD VENDORS ARE NEEDED!

The economic times are getting more and more difficult, especially for those who are economically marginal. An important contribution to the marginal residents of Langley Park and elsewhere is made by food vendors. Vending provides scores of people with an income, and it provides hundreds or perhaps thousands of people with inexpensive food as well as focal points for socializing. But Prince George's County officials continue to block the return of food vendors to the streets of Langley Park and many other places. Note that most of the vendors have passed Department of Health inspection. The food is tasty, healthy, and affordable. When will county officials recognize the need and the justice? When will area representatives advocate for these residents? Or are they so in love with gentrification and displacement that they will continue to be passive? [Note: The hat was produced by vendors in Los Angeles who overcame similar officials' gentrification hunger.]
HEALTH CHECK

2008

Sunday, November 9, Noon - 3:30 p.m.
Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park, Maryland
Information: Call 301 445-4508 or 301 405-4005

THIRD ANNUAL!
The year 2008 marks the fourth annual “Health Check” organized by Action Langley Park, hosted by the Langley Park Community Center, and drawing upon the rich professional health resources of the Maryland-DC-Virginia area.

HEALTH SCREENINGS!
CONSULTATIONS!
INFORMATION!

These services cover a wide range of health conditions, for instance, eyesight, high blood pressure, diabetes, pregnancy, skin diseases, HIV/AIDS, and overweight. They are offered by doctors, dentists, nurses, counselors, and other health specialists who volunteer their time to improve the health of residents of Langley Park and its larger region.

Contributing health organizations include (this is only a sample of the expected organizations)
Prince George’s County’s Department of Health, the University of Maryland’s Schools of Dentistry, Nursing, and Medicine, the Kidney Fund, Hispanic Institute for Blindness Prevention, Adventist Health, Holy Cross Hospital, and many more!

IT’S ALL FREE!
All screenings, consultations, and information are provided without charge, and whenever possible, follow-ups are arranged.

Of course, everyone is welcome: oldtimer, newcomer; English, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, or other language speaker; senior or baby. We’re ready!

CHEQUEO DE SALUD

2008

Domingo 9 de noviembre, 12 - 3:30 p.m.
El Centro Comunitario de Langley Park
1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park, Maryland
Para informacion: Llame al 301 445-4508 o 301 405-4005

¡CUARTO CHEQUEO ANUAL!
En este año 2008 tendrá lugar nuestro cuarto “Chequeo de Salud” anual organizado por Acción Langley Park en el Centro Comunitario de Langley Park, y estarán a su disposición los numerosos profesionales de la salud del área de Maryland-DC-Virginia.

¡EVALUACIONES MÉDICAS!
¡CONSULTAS!
¡INFORMACIÓN!

Se atenderán muchas condiciones médicas, por ejemplo problemas de visión, presión alta, diabetes, embarazo, enfermedades de la piel y sobrepeso. Habrá doctores, dentistas, enfermeras y otros especialistas del área de salud que se ofrecen voluntariamente para mejorar la salud de los residentes de Langley Park y alrededores.

Tendremos varias organizaciones, como el Departamento de Salud del Condado de Prince George, la Escuela de Odontología de la Universidad de Maryland, la Escuela de Enfermería y Medicina, la Fundación Renal y la Clínica Comunitaria, entre otras.

¡TODO ES GRATUITO!
Los exámenes, consultas e información son gratis! No debe pagar nada.

Por supuesto que todos son muy bienvenidos, los ya conocidos, los nuevos; los hablantes de inglés, de español, vietnamita o cualquier otro idioma; ya sean adultos o niños. ¡Estamos listos!