

Downtown Norfolk Civic League

May 17, 2010

Mission Statement:

To be a collective voice of the residents, dedicated to the quality of life issues unique to Downtown Norfolk.

I. Welcome

II. Introductions

III. Financial Report

- Membership is growing.

IV. P.A.C.E. Report – Officer Richard James

- Statistics are trending down.
- Two rapes were reported. One was in the 400 block of Freemason St. and was a date rape. The other was in the 300 block of Granby St ... the victim couldn't remember details after a drink at Jillian's.
- The Police Department's Sexual Assault Unit is looking to hold a public awareness program as well as one at the TCC campus.
- Individual robberies – call at 12:45am at the 700 block of St. Paul's Blvd. Money and a cell phone were taken.
- Another incident on Granby St. produced desultory results ... the person making the complaint was uncooperative with detectives.
- No incidents were reported during the Virginia Tatoo.
- Velvet Lounge – complaint of assault at lounge produced no evidence ... complainant walked to his mother's house. Mother stated that he was lying. He also reported that he was stabbed at the 300 block of Cumberland St. while on his way to court ... unable to make appearance.
- One residence burglary with no signs of forced entry at 117 City Hall Ave.
- Larceny from autos is trending down. Three incidents were theft of license plates. There were three accounts of breaking into autos ... cameras in public garages plus increased police effort has resulted in a significant decrease.
- In the MacArthur garage, two auto break-ins were due to packages left in plain sight and one license theft.
- Thieves work in pairs with one lookout surveying from a stairwell and using a cell phone to keep in touch with accomplice.
- Will the budget crunch have an effect on the police effort and will there be manpower cuts?
- The Police Department is preparing for the worst.
- Officers will see their schedules juggled into a platoon approach, with shifts reconfigured.
- Currently, there will be no cut in overtime ... on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, 22 officers are assigned to the Green Sector.
- The Green Sector will be expanded to include Harbor Park.
- This will create a two car district for downtown.
- Responsible hospitality training from the Bar Task Force is scheduled and will have assistance from the DNC.

V. Downtown Development/Construction Report

- All major street construction associated with the Tide will be done by the end of May.
- A link to the punch list for light rail will be distributed by email.
- Things are ahead of schedule at the St. Paul's and City Hall Ave. intersection.

VI. Guest Speaker – Jeff Prioreschi

- Jeff was introduced by Cathy Coleman with the DNC.
- Jeff's business is located in Columbia, SC and had been building condominiums, until the recent downturn in the economy.
- A separate company, US Development, was created to focus on apartment buildings.
- Jeff has ties to the area, since he is an ODU graduate.
- HUD financing and tax credits were used to secure the deal for the renovation of the Union Mission building.
- US Development pared potential cities down to Winston/Salem and Norfolk.
- Norfolk had a favorable profile with items like the BID, good transportation, a steady job market and a population with annual income >100K
- Low end units will have 600 square feet and will be in the \$900/month range.
- The largest units will have 1500 square feet and will be in the \$1800/month range.
- Via Design is the architectural firm for the project.
- Jeff expects to close the financial deal in August or September ... construction will begin immediately.
- There is a pool in the basement that will be re-opened.
- There will be some new construction in the parking lot behind the building.
- The trellises and rooftop deck will be restored.
- The 'leaning' building at Granby and City Hall will also be converted to apartments and have 35-40 units.
- There will be retail in the new addition on the back of the building.
- This addition will be five stories tall.
- Public parking will be used.
- Completion is expected within 12 months.

Guest Speaker – Mr. Calabrese with the Food Bank

- Kids Café program provides after school and summer tutoring. This program distributes to sites that have USDA qualified needs.
- Back Pack program has developed relationships with the area's elementary school staffs. On Fridays, a food bag is placed in the backpack of participants.
- Donations are down this time of year.
- Volunteering of time is solicited as well.

VII. Old Business

- None

VIII. New Business

- One nomination for Treasurer was made, Peter Forte.

IX. Upcoming Speakers

- None mentioned at this time.

X. Open Discussion

- None

XI. Adjourn

Please join us for the next DNCL meeting on Monday, June 21, 2010.

NAME

KEVIN R. MURPHY
 Rob Hughes
 Ron Dukes
 BRYAN PENNINGTON
 BEN WHEELER
 JOE BARO
 RICK JAMES
 AUBREY FARLEY
 Pamela Morrow
 Bill Conway
 Will Christopher
 Marc West
 Julie JACKSON
 Baxter Simmons
 E.R. GEORGE
 JAMES WISZNA
 Len Wright
 Tina Wright
 PETER JOHNSTON
 Shepard Ballard
 GREG RECK
 Eileen de Leon
 JANE BENNETT
 PAUL A. Sharp
 Roz Hughes
 Jeff Pioreschi
 Cathy Coleman

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