

Public Safety Committee  
Mount Vernon Council of Citizens'  
Associations

Work Plan  
November 2020 to June 2021

As of 1 May 2021

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## Purpose

The Public Safety Committee is a standing committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA). The Public Safety Committee is an interface for information flow between the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations and the Fairfax County public safety organizations. The Public Safety Committee also advocates for the security and safety needs of the residents of the Mount Vernon District.

When appropriate, the Committee drafts positions and resolutions which, if adopted, become the position of the MVCCA, and publishes meeting reports and pertinent information in each issue of the MVCCA RECORD. Adopted resolutions related to Public Safety can be found in the MVCCA Resolution Tracker.

The MVCCA Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) states “The July meeting of each Standing committee should be an organizational meeting. The Committee’s goals and objectives for the year ahead should be developed and recorded for publication in the next (September) RECORD.”

This document is what the committee uses to communicate our annual work plan with committee objectives, responsibilities, and actions.

## Pedestrian Safety on Route One

### Problem:

- Dangerous Intersection at Route One and Ft Hunt Rd because of barely visible islands; confusing markings on turn lanes; poorly marked pedestrian crossings; islands too small to serve as safe standing places for pedestrians/bikers.
- There are few measures to protect those trying to make east-west crossing on Route one.
- Sidewalks too narrow and too close to the highway.

### References:

Lead: Haroldo Suarez

### What Needs to be Done and When:

- Need a VDOT and FCDOT Briefing – [Completed 4 Feb 2021](#)
- Need more crosswalk zones with lights.
- Traffic Calming?? Lane width reduction?
- Over/Under passes?

### Target Date for Draft Resolution:

### Status:

- Ms Claudia Llana from VDOT briefed the intersection at Ft Hunt and Route one at the 11/9 Transportation committee meeting. Her brief was in response to a MVCCA resolution in May of 2019 about the intersection. Meeting attendees urged Claudia to continue assessment of the intersection for safety improvements.
- Resolution adopted to reduce the speed limit to 35mph.
- VDOT and FCDOT invited/scheduled to brief on 4 Feb 21.
- Briefing completed and copy posted on the MVCCA PS webpage.
- Considering follow-on action for Ft Hunt/Route 1 intersection. When going from Ft Hunt Rd across Route 1 to get to Old Richmond Highway it is hard to see the island that has to be passed.

## Police Morale

Problem: Is it declining in the wake of calls for police reform?

References:

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When: Put some definition to the problem

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

- Have been reviewing reports/references that address pay, retention etc and includes FC and other regional PDs in the data.
- Plan to consult a colleague who is a senior official in the Fairfax County Police Department.

## Speeding on Neighborhood Streets

### Problem:

- Excess speed on side streets. Particularly Route 235, Waynewood and Stratford Landing.
- What is impact of hodge-podge set of speed limits
- Do we need more speed bumps

### References:

Lead: TBD

### What Needs to be Done and When:

- Can FCPD Motorcycle squad deployment make any improvements?
- Speed bumps?
- Better signage and/or crosswalk markings?
- Traffic Calming?

### Target Date for Draft Resolution:

### Status:

- Discussed during the December 2020 PS Committee meeting with Captain Ruck from MV Police station. He suggested speeding incidents be reported as often as they occur. Police may be able to send a car to observe and look for problem drivers.
- Previous resolution (MVCCA 2018-03) on speeding on route 235 was addressed by VDOT Commissioner letter of 27 August 2018.

## Police Reform or Law Enforcement Reform

### Problem:

- Address any training issues that may be needed on de-escalation techniques and dealing with people with mental health issues.
- Response to mental health issues.
- Use of force changes? Civilian Oversight?

### References:

- Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report of October 8, 2018
- Final Report on Fairfax County Police Reform Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Implementation Group, October 10, 2018
- See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/police-updates> for BoS Public Safety update
- FC Police Civilian Review Panel Annual Report for 2020 dated 26 Feb 21
- FC Police Civilian Review Panel Four-Year Review dated 26 Feb 21
- FC PS Committee meeting agendas and briefings.

Lead: Bill Kane

What Needs to be Done and When: Stay involved with the Fairfax County PC Committee activity.

Target Date for Draft Resolution: TBD

### Status:

- See Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report of October 8, 2015 for the 202 recommended actions that addressed five categories – Communications; Recruitment Diversity Vetting; Mental Health and Crisis Intervention; Use of Force; and Independent Oversight and Investigation.
- See Final Report on Fairfax County Police Reform Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Implementation Group, October 10, 2018 that showed 179 recommendation implemented or being implemented, 5 actions still under review, and 18 actions not to be implemented.
- On 17 Dec 20, Bill Kane met with Supervisor Lusk and two of his staffers for introductions and to get his view of public safety issues since he is the Chairman of the

BoS Public Safety committee. He has done a lot of work in the area of law enforcement reform.

- At 6 Apr 21 FC PS Committee meeting, Supervisor Lusk began review of Near-term items from his Public Safety Community Input Matrix. It appears this will be the forum for reviewing and deciding on actions to be instituted for police reform in the County.
- The University of Texas at Austin study on Use of Force in Fairfax County is expected in May 2021.

## Police Staffing

Problem: There are not enough officers available to adequately cover all the assignments that are routinely encountered. There is alleged to be no growth in recent years while mission creep has continued.

References:

- Fairfax County Police Department 5-Year Strategic Staffing Plan FY 2019 - FY 2023

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

- Is the 5-year strategic Staffing plan adequate?
- Have been reviewing reports/references that address pay, retention etc and includes FC and other regional PDs in the data.
- Plan to consult a colleague who is a senior official in the Fairfax County Police Department.

## Police Pay

Problem: Is compensation adequate and competitive?

References:

- Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report of October 8, 2018
- Final Report on Fairfax County Police Reform Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Implementation Group, October 10, 2018
- Prince William County Public Safety Retention Study 2018

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

- Have been reviewing reports/references that address pay, retention etc and includes FC and other regional PDs in the data.
- Plan to consult a colleague who is a senior official in the Fairfax County Police Department.

## Police Retention

Problem: Do we have a problem with retention?

References:

- Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report of October 8, 2018
- Final Report on Fairfax County Police Reform Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Implementation Group, October 10, 2018
- Prince William County Public Safety Retention Study 2018

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution: TBD

Status:

- Have been reviewing reports/references that address pay, retention etc and includes FC and other regional PDs in the data.
- Plan to consult a colleague who is a senior official in the Fairfax County Police Department.

## Public Safety Lessons Learned from the Pandemic

Problem: How have the FCPD changed policing in response to the need to function in the face of the Corona virus pandemic.

References: None

Lead: N/A

What Needs to be Done and When: Nothing identified

Target Date for Draft Resolution: None identified

Status:

- This issue was addressed somewhat by Captain Ruck of the MV police station when he briefed the PS Committee in early December 2020. FCPD has a new Infectious Disease Response Team. Tactics have changed to redeploy officers from potential contact/contamination encounters to responsive but more remote positions.
- Close this out with no further action required.

## Adequacy of Traffic Light System

### Problem:

- DOMINION has a contractor now installing new LED overhead street lights-much better coverage, no glare, less cost for electricity, probably much longer service life, better for crime prevention, traffic safety, etc. I believe this is a County-funded project and should be commended.

References: None identified.

Lead: No one stepped up.

What Needs to be Done and When: None identified.

Target Date for Draft Resolution: None identified.

Status: Close this out with no further action required.

## Signage Lighting and Reflective Deficiencies

Problem: None identified.

References: None identified.

Lead: None identified.

What Needs to be Done and When: None identified.

Target Date for Draft Resolution: None identified.

Status: Close this out with no further action required.

## Emergency Communications

### Problem:

- Should the County also publicize a 311 line for non-Emergency calls?
- In event of disasters such as tornados, etc does the County need to reconstitute the former Civil Defense SIREN system or a GIANT VOICE type system or "reverse 911" or what?
- Perhaps the FC Community Cable TV Channel could be used for more training/orienting of the public to PS topics such as CERT training, opportunities to volunteer, etc particularly because of COVOID-19 needs and in-person meeting/class restrictions.

References: None identified.

Lead: None identified.

What Needs to be Done and When: None identified.

Target Date for Draft Resolution: None identified.

Status: Met with OEM on 12/1/20 for introductions. OEM Assistant Coordinator briefed the PS Committee on OEM organization and operations on 4 March 2021. This issue was briefly discussed.

Close this out with no further action required.

## Lack of Police Presence/Law Enforcement on the GW Parkway

### Problem:

- There is no/little police presence on the GW Parkway
- No enforcement

### References:

Lead: TBD

### What Needs to be Done and When:

- The staffing issue has been addressed by local officials but to no avail.
- We need to see the final report of the NPS study on GW Parkway safety.
- What is status of MOU between the Park Police and Fairfax County to allow FCPD to help policing the GW Parkway?

Target Date for Draft Resolution: 1 June 2021.

### Status:

- Per Captain Ruck at the December 2020 PS committee meeting, FCPD does not have the staffing to permit assistance to the NPS which retains responsibility for policing the GW Parkway. We need to see the NPS report of their study on GW Parkway safety.
- The NPS Safety Study for the Southern GW Parkway will be presented at the 5 April 21 joint meeting of Transportation and Public Safety.
- The study provided little on enforcement. Follow up questions being collected by Transportation committee. Resolution on enforcement being generated by PS committee.

## Establish Regular Briefings from Police, Fire and Rescue, Sheriff and Emergency Management

### Problem:

- The committee needs to keep current on the state of public safety in the District

References: None

Lead: Bill Kane

### What Needs to be Done and When:

- Schedule briefs from all public safety departments at committee meetings.
- Establish recurring briefings for the committee

Target Date for Draft Resolution: None anticipated

### Status:

- Mount Vernon District Police (Capt Ruck) scheduled to brief at 3 Dec 20 meeting. **Completed.**
- Fire and Rescue (BC Dave Barlow and Chief Knerr) to brief at 7 Jan 21 meeting. **Completed**
- FCDOT (Tom Burke) and VDOT (Claudia Llana) to brief at 4 Feb 21 meeting (jointly with Transportation). **Completed**
- OEM (Suleyman Brown) Overview Briefing at 4 Mar 21 meeting. **Completed**
- Joining Transportation for NPS brief on the GW Pkwy safety study on 5 Apr 21.
- Police Auditor and or Police Civilian Review Panel for 6 May. We will attend a monthly meeting of the CRP and IPA on 6 May
- Crime Prevention Officer and Community Liaison Officer from Mount Vernon Station for 3 Jun 21???
- Invited ??? for 1 Jul 21
- Invited ??? for 5 Aug 21
- Invited ??? for 2 Sep 21
- Invited ??? for 7 Oct 21
- Invited ??? for 4 Nov 21
- Invited ??? for 2 Dec 21

