

Public Safety Committee  
Mount Vernon Council of Citizens'  
Associations

Work Plan  
November 2020 to June 2021

As of 29 December 2020

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	1
Purpose .....	2
Pedestrian Safety on Route One .....	3
Police Morale .....	4
Speeding on Neighborhood Streets .....	5
Police Reform .....	6
Police Staffing .....	7
Police Pay .....	8
Police Retention .....	9
Public Safety Lessons Learned from the Pandemic .....	10
Adequacy of Traffic Light System .....	11
Signage Lighting and Reflective Deficiencies .....	12
Emergency Communications .....	13
Lack of Police Presence/Law Enforcement on the GW Parkway .....	14
Establish Regular Briefings from Police, Fire and Rescue, Sheriff and Emergency Management .....	15

## 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 and, when appropriate, for the statutory, policy and resource needs of the Fairfax County Police Department, the Fire and Rescue Department, the Sheriff's Office, and the Emergency Management Office.

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 – scheduled for 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.

## Police Morale

Problem:

References:

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

## 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 Rusk 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.
- Need to ask FCDOT and VDOT at their March 2021 presentation to the PS committee about what they can do.
- Previous resolution (MVCCA 2018-03) on speeding on route 235 was addressed by VDOT Commissioner letter of 27 August 2018.

## Police 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.

### 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

Lead: Sherri Berthrong

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

### 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.
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## 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?

## 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

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

## Police Retention

Problem:

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

Lead: Watson Pryor

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

## 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:** TBD

**What Needs to be Done and When:**

- Date for First responder vaccination?

**Target Date for Draft Resolution:**

**Status:**

- This issue was addressed somewhat by Captain Rusk 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.

## 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:

Lead: TBD

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

## Signage Lighting and Reflective Deficiencies

Problem:

References:

Lead: TBD

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status:

## 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.
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### References:

Lead: TBD

What Needs to be Done and When:

Target Date for Draft Resolution:

Status: Met with OEM on 12/1/20 for introductions. Plan to invite OEM to brief PS Committee on an overview of OEM in March 2021

## 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:

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.

## 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:

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: Working.

- Mount Vernon District Police (Capt Ruck) scheduled to brief at 3 Dec 20 meeting. Completed.
- Fire and Rescue (BC Dave Barlow) to brief at 7 Jan 21 meeting.
- FCDOT (Tom Burke) and VDOT (Claudia Llana) to brief at 4 Feb 21 meeting.
- OEM Overview Briefing at 4 Mar 21 meeting.
- Invited FC PS Cmte for 1 Apr 21?
- Invited ??? for 6 May 21
- Invited ??? 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

