

**York Road Partnership
General Meeting February 2, 2022
Via Zoom
Minutes**

President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 53 participants on Zoom.

1. Chris and several others paid tribute to Vidushani Jayalal, who is leaving her position with Councilman Conway's office. She has long been involved with helping the York Road Partnership and its communities in her job with Councilman Conway and in her prior position with Loyola's Center for Community Service and Justice.

2. **Public Safety Issues**
 - a. **Councilman Conway** reported that violent crime began an uptick in December. He has been working closely with the police department, MONSE (Mayors Office of Neighborhood Safety...). He meets monthly as the Chair of the Public Safety and Govt Operations Committee with the Commissioner. Committee has been focusing on the top 10 most dangerous posts in the city and applying a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) approach.
 - b. **Rashad Singletary** of MONSE, the Mayors Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement introduced himself. He is the Associate Director of Gun Violence Prevention. He oversees the Safe Streets program.
 - c. **Phyllis Gilmore** introduced herself as the vice chair of the City's Public Safety Advisory Commission and introduced Tyler Adamson, the chair of the Commission as well. Phyllis is part of the Community Committee and Tyler reported that he is part of the Legislative Committee which looks at policy. The way to reach the Commission by email: baltimorecitypsac@gmail.com
 - d. **Major Jeffrey Shorter** of the Police Northern District reported that York Road is a driver of crime. He is working on getting businesses to get signage requirement enforced on businesses (for safety, there needs to be less than 50% of windows covered in signs). He is encouraging the officers to continue to walk foot patrol. He asked that for safety, residents give space to officers who are resolving issues in the community.

Discussion and Questions:

Issues contributing to crime were cited as: lack of resources for young people, mental health issues for high risk individuals, lack of resources for returning citizens to prevent recidivism.

Promising approaches: Safe Streets and working to refine community interventions to violence, mentorship and life coaching, diversion programs like ROCA.

3. Business Facade Improvement: Mailk Jordan reported about the York Road business facade improvement program, which is funded by a state DHCD BRNI grant (Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative) and the Baltimore Development Corp. Up to \$15k is available for business facade improvements in 5400-5700 blocks. Cannot be used for churches or liquor stores. In the first stage are: Family Food Market, Stokes and Real Deal Jamaican and Flight. Neighborhood Design Center is helping with design and renderings and he hopes they can present at the next YRP meeting.

3. Karen DeCamp and Sandi McFadden reported on the Vaughn Greene crematorium. YRP is represented by Community Law Center Andrea LeWinter and is filing by tomorrow a Request for Judicial appeal of the BMZA approval of the crematorium. This is an “on the record” review, meaning the Circuit Court will not allow new testimony, but review the BMZA decision and whether it followed the law. It will be an uphill battle with the Court likely to give a lot of deference to the BMZA. Costs for the judicial review include a transcription of all hearings (approx \$1258 plus delivery), a court filing fee of \$185. Attorney Andrea LeWinter has fronted the funds for the filing fee and a deposit of half for the transcription.

YRP members were asked to vote to reimburse her for these costs with the understanding that we fundraise to cover the costs. 14/14 voting members present voted YES

4. Announcements:

- Rebuilding Together repaired 22 senior homes in the York Road corridor in 2021 and projects to do about the same number in 2022. Please contact them if you know seniors to refer for assistance.
- GEDCO closed on 401 E. Woodbourne Ave to relocate GEDCO’s office and the CARES Food Pantry
- Invest York Road financial classes are open for registration at investyorkroad.org

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR ALL:

Please make sure you are a member of our email listserv to get all the latest updates! Go to www.googlegroups.org and search for York Road Partnership. You may request to join the listserv

To see how to contact each committee and the meeting times, please visit the YRP Website: <https://yorkroadpartnership.org/committees>

Next Meeting Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 7:15 via Zoom. All are welcome.