

NORTHEAST CITIZENS PATROL

Meeting Notes

COORDINATORS MEETING

September 20, 2011

- **Introductions**
 - Introductions were accomplished
- **Review of Proposed Agenda**
 - The Agenda as proposed was approved without amendment
- **Review, amendment, and approval of meeting notes from the last Coordinators Meeting on July 19, 2011**
 - The notes from the Coordinators meeting on July 19, 2011 were approved without amendment
- **Review of Recruiting Events**
 - **Hamilton Street Festival, Saturday, July 30, 2011, 11AM – 7 PM**
 - It was the consensus of the Coordinators that this recruiting event was well attended and worthwhile
- **Review of NECOP Ride Around , Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 6:30 PM @ Stadium Place, 1030 E. 33rd St.**
 - It was the consensus of the Coordinators that the Ride Around went well and was a worthwhile event
- **Decision on Block Party that was to be held on Saturday, August 27, 2011 at HARBEL from 12 PM until 4 PM and was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Irene**
 - There were only 5 Coordinators present at the meeting. It was the consensus of the attendees that if a Block Party were to be held it would have to be scheduled by the end of October, and they did not feel there was a critical mass attending the meeting to accomplish such a task.
- **Upcoming Recruiting Events**
 - Glenham-Belhar Flea Market, Sat., 9/24/11, 8 AM- 2 PM, Bel Garden Bi-Rite supermarket lot
 - Mike has committed to staff an HARBEL/NECOP table at this event
 - Greater Lauraville Fair, Sat., 9/24/11, 12 noon – 6 PM, Heinz Park, Parkside Drive and Harford Road
 - There were only 5 Coordinators present at the meeting. It was the consensus of the attendees they did not feel there was a critical mass attending the meeting to accomplish such a task, and most of the attendees had commitments on the date in question.
- **Issues from Coordinators from July 19, 2011 meeting with the coordinators**
 - At the July 19th meeting the coordinators indicated they had issues with intermittent transmission and reception issues with the current radios
 - Mike evaluated the problem. The radios in current use were purchased 3 years ago. The life expectancy of the nickel cadmium batteries utilized by these radios is three years. The problem was described as intermittent transmission and reception issues, which may well be due to a loss of battery strength

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- New batteries have been purchased. They will be picked up Friday, 9/23/11 @ 11 AM. Once fully charged they should be ready for use on Thursday, September 29th.
- **New Issues from Coordinators**
 - Several coordinators indicated they had personally responded to the NED to participate in the Patrol on the following dates and there was no officer available to brief them or monitor the Patrol:
 - Friday, 8/19/11
 - Friday, 8/26/11
 - Friday, 9/9/11
 - Thursday, 9/26/11
 - Further they also indicated that they have been advised by other people participating in the NECOP that they too have responded to the NED to go out on patrol and there was no officer to brief them or monitor them while they patrolled. They indicated either there was no officer at the front desk to advise them as to what to do, or the desk officer instructed them to patrol their areas with their cell phones and call 911 if they observed anything suspicious.
 - In an attempt to address this issue the following Email was sent to Sgt. Chris Tserkis of the NED Community Relations Unit with copies to Major DeSousa, Deputy Major Rutherford, Officer Banks, and Officer Blumberg:

Sergeant,

Last night, Tue., Sep 22nd the NorthEast Citizens Patrol (NECOP) Coordinators met. They indicated on the following dates at 7:30 PM they personally responded to the NED to patrol their communities, and there was no officer to brief them or monitor them while they patrolled:

- Friday, 8/19/11
- Friday, 8/26/11
- Friday, 9/9/11
- Thursday, 9/26/11

They also indicated that they have been advised by other people participating in the NECOP that they too have responded to the NED to go out on patrol and there was no officer to brief them or monitor them while they patrolled. They indicated either there was no officer at the front desk to advise them as to what to do, or the desk officer instructed them to patrol their areas with their cell phones and call 911 if they observed anything suspicious.

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Part of the marketing of the NECOP is that that if people participate they can communicate their issues directly to a police officer, who can then either respond to address the problem or the officer acting as the Patrol's liaison to the police department can radio to an on duty Baltimore police officer, who can respond and address the problem. This accomplishes two purposes: one, it provides patrollers with a sense of security, and two, it assures persons who participate in the Patrol they will receive an immediate response to their issues. If an officer is not available to fulfill this mission, participation will wane, and it conveys the impression to those involved in the Patrol and their communities that the police are not committed to the Patrol.

Finally, they indicated patrollers who would like to utilize available signage and yellow revolving beacons are not being offered them for their use.

I sincerely hope these issues can be addressed, and I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter, and I am confident this was merely a staffing oversight due to the increased demands on the District and the Community Relations Unit.

Please know HARBEL and its members appreciate the efforts of the members of the Northeast District in making Northeast Baltimore a better place to live, earn, learn, and play.

Again thank you.

Please Note My Email Address is: mikehilliard@harbel.org

Mike Hilliard

Community Services Director

HARBEL Community Organization

5807 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214

Web Site: www.harbel.org

Phone: 410-444-2100, Ext. 1013, FAX: 410-426-1140

- **Next Meeting Date**
 - The Coordinators next meeting will be on Tue., 11/15/11 @ 7:30 PM @ HARBEL
- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

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