



Ward One Residents Association

November 2021

In This Issue

**November
WORA Membership
Meeting**

Thursday, November 18

6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 Meeting
Metropolitan, 175 West St.

**Alderswoman's
Corner**

Legislative Update

**Hillman Garage
Update**



Membership

Dues can be paid online at wora.org/join-renew or by mail to the address below.

Ward One Residents Association
worapresident@wardone.org
P.O. Box 175
Annapolis, MD 21404
wardone.org

President's Message

Let me start by welcoming all of our new members and thanking those who have renewed their membership – there is strength in numbers and we have seen a significant rise in membership this past Fall.

With the elections behind us (and little change in the resulting City Council), we continue to focus on basic quality of life measures and the construction of the new Hillman Garage that will begin in January. Along those lines, we are pleased to welcome Annapolis Police Chief Edward Jackson and his staff to our next monthly general meeting on November 18th. The Chief will address crime and other concerns in our area. We hope to have the City Manager speak to us on plans for the garage during our December meeting and Holiday party – date to be announced.

We continue to push our WORA members to be vocal about what they experience – it's addressing the small things that lead to more significant positive change in a community. Along those lines, we were happy to see BGE/Verizon/Comcast finish up the pole replacement project on many of our streets and also clean up excess wiring on the lower half of the poles. My thanks to Alderswoman Elly Tierney and City Manager David Jarrell for pushing the responsible parties to finish what they started. I am also happy to report that the offensive graffiti in Tate Alley (off Main Street near Mason's) has also been removed by the owners of 188 Main Street – pass on a thank you anytime you visit one of their shops. Finally, the house in severe disrepair on the corner of Cathedral and South Street is now undergoing renovation.

There has also been focus on stopping the sale of open alcoholic beverages by downtown merchants and monitoring noise downtown – this is still a work in progress and unfortunately, there have been a few concerning incidents when the bars let out late in the evening (2 AM!). As the saying goes, "if you see something, say something". I keep the Annapolis non-emergency police line in my phone (**410-268-4141**) – they patrol based on calls received. As I am sure the Chief will tell us, please do not engage in any issue or incident downtown – call the police or walk over to one of the parked cruisers. More to follow at our November 18 meeting.

(Continued on next page)

President's Message cont'd

Of much greater concern are the three recent shootings that occurred within days of each other this past week in our local Annapolis neighborhoods. Personally, I hope this is an eye opener for the Mayor and City Council who urgently need to address our understaffed police department along with programs that help control the growing illegal drug and gang problems in our Annapolis communities. The Board will be interested to hear all of your thoughts and comments on these serious issues at our next general meeting.

You've probably noticed, the city has been busy with visitors since early this year, and as we move into the offseason it's a great time for all of our residents to enjoy the shops and dining in town before the holiday rush. There are several new shops on Main Street and Church Circle, and Maryland Avenue is seeing a revival with several new businesses opening recently. Speaking of the holidays, Midnight Madness is on for the first three Thursdays in December.

Finally, we have continued to collect food for the food bank on the first Sunday of each month. My thanks to JD Derderian who has taken on the task these past two months. We will also be hosting a holiday party and a few other social activities this spring and I hope you will all join us.

I wish you and yours the best during the holidays and hope to see you all at our next meeting on Thursday, November 18 at 6 PM (Social) and 7 PM (Meeting) at Metropolitan on West Street.

Rick Lober
WORA President
President@wardone.org

Announcements

WORA General Meeting

Thursday, Nov 18 – 6 PM Social, 7 PM Meeting
Second Floor, Metropolitan Kitchen & Lounge
Guest: **Chief Jackson** of the Annapolis Police Department

Note that we will be hosting the City Manager and Garage Committee to specifically address residential concerns at a future WORA general meeting.

WORA Holiday Party

Look for the time and place in upcoming announcements.

City Meeting on Garage

Wednesday, November 17 at 5:30 PM at Maryland Hall.

Community Corner

We continue to meet monthly with Alderwoman Tierney and City Manager Jarrell and appreciate their support in dealing with various issues in Ward One. As outlined in the Presidents Message, we are making progress on a variety of issues that impact our neighborhoods.

Please remember to submit all requests for service using the Annapolis City website. Visit www.annapolis.gov/101/Services and select "Report a Problem":



Alderwoman's Corner



Dear WORA Members,

Let me start by saying it is a privilege to represent you for the next four years and to continue our shared mission for stronger community and to support long-

term residency. I know you are on a quest to expand your membership as it is more important, now more than ever, to have that engagement by the public. The next four years we will be replacing the obsolete Hillman garage, protecting our resources from sea level rise and re-creating a new public space for all at city dock. It will be a trying time as it is the biggest construction endeavor the city has undertaken. It's also important to remember that it was our joint effort and partnership with Historic Annapolis that has got us to this point.

In the process I have one ask of you to trust the process and to trust the experts. To assist in that effort I will use every ounce of my commercial construction background to ensure your concerns are heard through the predevelopment and construction phase of these projects. Remember – the inconveniences are temporary. The improvements are permanent.

We have other challenges to address as well. Regardless of statistics otherwise, the crime is unsettling. Your President and I have monthly meetings set up with the city manager to address what appears to be a lack of community policing downtown. I am assured by the police that the downtown post is monitored and we have two police that 'walk the beat' until 3 AM on weekend evenings. However with more violent crime happening in other wards we are sharing those resources where they are needed. The good news is that our APD are finding the bad guys. And they are doing this by gathering trust in the neighborhoods so that residents come out and see what they saw. This has never happened before.

In Ward one we are asked to do the same, that is to

report anything – no matter how small – to APD. For example the other day while walking home from Graul's I saw some hypodermic syringes around a tree and I called them. they now will monitor that space for drug activity.

This budget cycle we will have tough decisions to make requiring your input on what is important to you. We will be renegotiating union pensions while being disciplined on our expenses. Without an increase, we will reallocating our funding based on your priority so I will need to hear from you.

I do have several legislative initiatives that I will be introducing at our first city Council meeting this term. One is a sprinkler bill that will require sprinklers in commercial buildings on main and Francis street to protect are historic district. I also have a draft bill to codify parklets so that outside dining in parking spaces are in conformance with our current code for sidewalk cafés and that the applicant will pay for the loss their respective parking revenue. Another piece of legislation addresses a loophole in our code which investors are using to purchase multiple properties and turning them into STRs. On STRs, I have assurance from my colleagues that a title 21 revision will be made to address STRs specifically in each zone by a special use table defining respective special exception conditions.

And finally I will be introducing a resolution defining milestones in the budget process.

In closing I do want to express the need for public engagement. In spite of my outreach I discovered residents, while door-knocking, who had no idea of our garage and city dock plans. Please sign up for my email blast if you haven't already by emailing me at ellymtierney@gmail.com and tell others as well.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the first midnight madness as I will be following my tradition of ringing the Salvation Army bell downtown!
Alderwoman Elly Tierney
aldtierney@gmail.com

Legislative Update

Auxiliary Dwelling Unit Ordinance (O-9-21)

The bill on allowing Auxiliary Dwelling Units (ADU) in Annapolis did pass with all amendments. We had hoped that the allowance of short term rentals in the bill would have been voted down as these type of rentals are far from the bill's goal of affordable housing. The bill's sponsor (Alderman Gay) seemed to recognize that fact but it did not change the outcome. However, it should be noted that in the Residential Conservation Districts within Ward One, a special use hearing will be required for any ADU.

Market Space Lease Agreements/ Outdoor Dining Ordinance (O-30-21)

All street area outdoor dining in Annapolis that was put in place during COVID has been removed effective November 1. However, the outdoor dining at Market House, Iron Rooster, Federal House, McGarvey's, and Middleton has been given a permit and lease to continue outdoor dining. Those restaurants will pay for the street parking spaces they utilize and the Historic Commission will be approving the final design of the outdoor facilities.

PEACE Ordinance (O-12-21)

The Police Enhancement and Community Engagement (PEACE) ordinance put forward by Alderman Savidge was withdrawn. Introduced during the height of unrest in many cities in the summer of 2020, there did appear to be some positive outcomes in what was proposed; however, much of the bill duplicated recent State of Maryland enhanced guidelines on policing and attempted to further restrict standing police orders. The Council met in closed session for what turned out to be some heated testimony by members of the Police Department. The bill was then withdrawn without objection by unanimous vote.

Hillman Garage Update

As you may know, the garage will be rebuilt over the 2022-2023 timeframe through a public-private partnership. The design looks great and the extra parking (one more story in height) and funds derived will be used to upgrade the City Dock in 2023-2024.



Conceptual Rendering, Gorman Street Side

There will be a meeting hosted by the City on Wednesday November 17 at Maryland Hall at 5:30 PM to go over plans for the garage. You are invited to attend and can also check in on the City's YouTube channel. In addition, we will be hosting the City Manager at our December or January meeting to discuss how residential parking will be handled during construction. Over 400 cars will need to be dealt with daily while the new garage is under construction. There has also been much coordination with our Main Street merchants in this area and we hope a reasonable compromise between residents needs for parking and Main Street customers can be reached.

The WORA board is very concerned about how this will be handled given construction is only 6-8 weeks away. To that end, we have sent a Letter of Concern and made a formal request to the City for a plan on the construction of the garage and how it will impact city traffic and residential parking. That letter is reprinted on the next two pages.

Ward One Residents Association (WORA)

Date: 5 October 2021
To: Annapolis Alderwoman Eleanor Tierney – Ward 1;
David Jarrell, PE - Annapolis City Manager
Eileen Fogarty- Annapolis City Dock Action Committee
From: Rick Lober - WORA President
CC: WORA Board of Directors
Subject: Letter of Concern on Hillman Garage Reconstruction – Impact to Residents

Elly, David and Eileen:

Please find outlined below, the WORA board of director's concerns on the Hillman Garage reconstruction's impact to Ward One Residents. This is based on two recent meetings held with the WORA Board and General Membership concerning the project. This information has also been passed to the planning commission for their October 7th meeting on the project (we feel it must be part of the overall project plan and review).

1) In general, the two recent presentations to WORA (Ward One Residents Association) have left out any analysis of residential parking – both in terms of the number of non-garage/metered spaces available and a study on where those who do not park at Hillman (i.e. most residents) will park. We have only seen an analysis of available paid parking and the impact on those who do park at Hillman. We view this as a major flaw in the analysis to date. While the impact to city employees, merchant employees, and merchant customers are all being considered, there has been little or no consideration given to the residents in the area outside of some initial thoughts by David.

2) With only three months to go before demolition/reconstruction, we have seen no plan on how this will occur and what the impact will be to traffic, other delivery vehicles, residential access to closed streets, noise and dust. This all will be exacerbated by the nearby demolition/reconstruction at the same time of one of the State of Maryland buildings at State Circle.

3) Given COVID driven material and labor shortages and what was already an aggressive schedule, we view both of the above concerns occurring over a 20-24 month period versus the proposed 15 month period.

4) Clearly there will need to be a balance between supporting both the downtown merchants and residents with regard to parking during construction. However, it should be noted that while a City/Merchant employee or customer may need to find a parking space once per day, most downtown residents are using their cars 2-3 times per day and will suffer a greater inconvenience than those coming to the city to work or shop. Priority must remain with the residents for on-street parking. It should also be noted that the residents will live with this construction 24 hours per day.

5) The use of Park Mobile may be a viable solution to the balance required above and offers advantages in terms of “programmability” in the future along with a revenue stream for the City. However, there is considerable concern by the residents regarding the following:

- Will the application be programmed to recognize existing residential parking zone restrictions - specifically the 2 hour max limits during the day at various times? This is a must with regard to residential parking as we cannot go backwards.

- What will be the hourly fees?

- How will this be enforced given the lackluster job we currently witness?

6) There are areas of the City that should likely be resident only parking already – before construction. These include one way streets, single side parking streets, and dead end streets. This should be considered as these areas will be impacted in a larger way than most. Past parking studies have clearly identified these areas within the City. There is no issue with “going back after construction” as these areas should already be designated residents only.

7) There should be a City sponsored incentive to move as many vehicles off the streets as possible. It has been noted that the other garages should have room. This incentive would be free monthly parking (or a greatly reduced rate) for residents who may want to park second or third cars, or vehicles that are rarely used. All vehicles would need to be licensed and have a valid residential parking sticker. In addition, there should be a review of all handicapped spaces as most of us are aware of some degree of fraud in this area.

8) The city should consider a free or subsidized service to move residents and others around town – this could include the water taxi and small cart-like vehicles.

9) The city should consider free or subsidized parking in all other garages and lots for residents with paid parking zone stickers from 6 PM to 8 AM when the garages are empty. There are many residents near those garages.

I hope that these comments not only reflect our concerns but give you some new ideas on how to handle the reconstruction and resulting parking issues for both merchants and residents. The WORA Board appreciates the tremendous amount of good work that has gone into the plan to date, but again, feels that residents concerns on parking and other issues during reconstruction are not being addressed.

The Hillman garage and resulting City Dock renovation will be a major enhancement to the City and for its residents and I look forward to working with all of you, along with our merchants, on a viable plan for parking during the reconstruction period.

Please feel free to contact me at worapresident@wardone.org or at 858-774-5705.

New and Renewed Members Membership Renewal September & October

Charlie Szold	Monticello Ave
Danielle Buente	Southgate Ave
Thomas Corboy	Franklin St
Ryan Kendrick	Steele St
Jack van Geffen	Southgate Ave
Elly Tierney	Park Place
David Rey	Windsor Ridge Lane
Brandi McKeating	Market St
Ingrid Kohlstadt	Prince George St
Cara Moulds	Market St
Michael Parker	Madison Pl
Barb Brown	Conduit St
Cynthia Danjczek	Conduit St
Cecelia Wyatt	Brooke Ave
Susan Golden	Southgate Ave
Eileen Leahy	Archwood Ave
Robert Beguelin	Prince George St
Dede Binder	Spa View Ave
Michael Spataro	Charles St
Kitty Higgins	Frankin St
Patricia Quinn	Market St
Larry Claussen	Prince George St
Ernest Anderson	College Ave
Susan Margulies	Conduit St
Lisa Hillman	Randall Ct
Susan Eagle	Shipwright St
Carol Mason	Archwood Ave
Ben Mednick	Prince George St
Nancy Steere	Spa View Ave
Laurie Timberlake	College Avenue
Thomas Creely	Conduit St
Eric Shea	Conduit St
Sharon Kennedy	Randall Ct
Deborah Frassica	Green St
Debra Connors	Franklin st
Andrew Miller	East St
Barbara Mersereau	Franklin Street
Narric Rome	Charles St

Invite your neighbors to join!

If you need to review your WORA membership, please do via the WORA website (wardone.org) or via check, which can be made out to "Ward One Residents Association" and mailed to WORA, PO Box 175, Annapolis, MD 21404. Single memberships are \$20/year (and afford a single vote), household memberships are \$35/year (and afford 2 votes), and Associate memberships for businesses in Ward One or absentee-homeowners are \$25/year. If you renew a single membership, please provide us one email address. If you renew a household membership, please provide us two email addresses. Thank you for helping us "get-the-word-out" about WORA and encouraging your new and old neighbors to join!

You are receiving this Ward one Residents Association newsletter because we have you in our mailing lists. If you are a paid member, you will continue to receive the newsletter and all communications on social events & updates from WORA. To check your status or to opt out of receiving this newsletter, send an email to treasurer@wardone.org. To join as a member [click here](#).



2021-22 Board of Directors

Executive Board

Rick Lober – President
Craig Harrison – Vice President
Paige Ferguson – Secretary
Marty Etzel – Treasurer

Board of Directors

Mark Mhley – Board Member
Norman Lerner – Board Member
Carolyn Patenaude – Board Member
JD Derderian – Board Member
Stacy Hennessey – Board Member

Giving Back

Total Donations to Date: over 2,200 pounds of food, hygiene and household cleaning products!

Next Impactful First Sunday:

Sunday, December 5 from 10am-6pm

Drop Off Locations:

Acton Landing Park, Lafayette Park, Fleet Street Park, Presidents Hill Community Park



Ward One Notecards

Annapolis artist Linnea Payne kindly created the newsletter logo for WORA, and is now selling similar note cards on her website. She has offered to donate 10% of all notecard profits to WORA! To order, go to linneapayneart.com/artwork-for-sale.

Your Opinion Matters

Have an opinion on something pertaining to living in Annapolis or community affairs that you'd like to share? Please send your submissions to wora21401@gmail.com.

Photo Contributions

We welcome any photos that you would like to share with your fellow Ward One residents, for the newsletter as well as the website. Please send them to wora21401@gmail.com.

