

Ten Hills Neighborhood ResiStat Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

City Officials Present:

Chief Anthony Holloway, Chief of Police

Capt. John O'Connor, Somerville Police Department

Officer Alex Capobianco, Ward 4 Community Police Officer, SPD

Ethan Field, ResiStat Analyst

Ward 4 Alderman Walter Pero was ill and sent his regrets.

Updates on Issues from Previous Meetings:

Ethan Field gave updates on issues raised at previous meetings, including:

- Steel plates on Mystic Ave
- Winter Hill Star Market closing
- Maintenance of the Mystic River wetlands along Shore Drive
- Assembly Square traffic mitigation planning
- Mass Highway updates regarding I-93

See meeting presentation for details. Residents brought up additional questions/issues:

- Residents reported that snowplows have plowed up some dirt on the island that merges Shore Drive into Rt. 28. Residents requested the DCR clean up and re-seed the grass in the area in the spring. Some bushes in this area are also overgrown.
- A resident reported that a tree was down at the intersection of Bailey and Ten Hills Road.
- A resident reported large downed limbs at the Blessings of the Bay Boathouse that needed removal or attention.
- One resident complained that they thought 311 was not a good use of City funds and felt it added an unnecessary level of bureaucracy. This resident also wondered how many people called 311 by mistake when they should have been calling 911. (*Note:* Somerville's 311 Director reports that only one call in the over 100,000 calls 311 has received was intended for 911, and that call was not an actual emergency situation.)

Police Reorganization and Issues:

New Somerville Chief of Police Anthony Holloway gave details about the reorganization of the Somerville Police Department planned for this summer. See presentation for details. Residents had the following feedback.

- Residents were overall very positive about the reorganization and the shift towards community policing.
- A resident asked if the schools are a part of the reorganization as well. Capt. O'Connor responded that while we can't put an officer in every school, the schools are definitely included in all of the coverage areas and will receive the attention that other public buildings receive.

- A resident asked about the locations of the new substations. Chief Holloway responded that the Police Dept. is looking at rental office space in Teele Square and on Broadway in East Somerville for the immediate future, with a long-term goal of moving into City-owned buildings.
- A resident asked how the substations would be staffed and if it would take officers off the streets. The Chief responded that the District Captain would be the only person in the office for long periods of time. Patrol Officers would only use the substation for writing and filing reports, stocking supplies, etc., but would otherwise be on patrol.

Residents also had comments about crime issues in the neighborhood:

- Residents reported hearing stories of thefts of car wheels in the area. Capt. O'Connor responded that they have twice encountered possible thieves in the area with paraphernalia (jacks, tire irons, etc.) . Police warned these people to leave the neighborhood, but could not make an arrest because they did not catch them in the act. Capt. O'Connor reported that the peak times for theft of car parts seemed to be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2AM to 5AM.

Neighborhood Activity:

Ethan Field told participants that the City was interested in helping organize some kind of activity in the neighborhood that would help each ResiStat neighborhood achieve one of its priority goals. For example: Ten Hills Residents have listed excessive traffic on Temple Road as being a primary concern, and so perhaps Temple Road residents could spend an afternoon or weekday evenings counting the number and kinds of cars that go up that road. A few residents were interested in such a project; others said that they were not interested in a data collection exercise, but they might come to a Shore Cleanup.

Next Steps for City Staff:

- Continue to take action on unresolved City issues, and continue to inquire about unresolved State issues.
- Request that DCR clear the mounds of dirt at Shore Drive and Fellsway West, and re-seed grass in the spring.
- Continue directed patrolling of the Temple/Bailey Road area to deter car break-ins.
- Consider options for a data-gathering activity for the spring, and how much support it would be likely to have.