

Graceland West Community Association  
2023 First Quarter Meeting  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Councilmembers present: Bruce Braun, Laurie Gillman, Janice Horwich, Joel McFarland, Colin McLeod, Paul Monzella, Brad Pierce

Sergeant Art Hernandez and Office Dave Delpilar from the 19<sup>th</sup> District provided an update on neighborhood crime. Sgt. Hernandez discussed recent crime data and noted the relatively low levels of crime within our neighborhood (Ashland to Clark and Irving Park to Montrose). The officers made the following observations and recommendations.

- Residents can participate in the catalytic converter sticker program so that the serial number on your catalytic converter is linked to you in the event of a theft.
- If you see a catalytic converter theft taking place, do not attempt to intervene. There have been recent incidents of thieves shooting at bystanders.
- Residents can take advantage of a reimbursement program that covers exterior cameras and floodlights.
- Gang activity on Ashland appears to be related to people passing through; not individuals based in Graceland West. Some graffiti tags are related to gang activity.
- Residents should report graffiti through 311 or contact the community policing office. Alderman Martin contacts Graffiti Blasters quickly to remove graffiti.
- Residents asked about officer patrols in our neighborhood and vehicle crashes.

Next, Sam Schoenberg introduced himself as one of our three newly elected representatives on the 19<sup>th</sup> Police District Council. He explained that the council members will serve as community liaisons and bring a community voice to policing. The council will hold monthly meetings. More information will be available on the city website after the council is sworn in.

Alderman Martin provided an update on issues in the 47<sup>th</sup> Ward. Highlights include the following:

- Public safety programs at Lakeview High School now provide mentoring and therapy for at-risk students, as well as job training leading to paid employment.
- LV2 Parking will now apply to day games.
- No further information on timelines for the installation of the Clark Street protected bike lanes and the Greenview and Belle Plaine traffic circle.
- The State of Illinois has transferred control of Irving Park to CDOT; as a result we will see pedestrian safety improvements.
- The alderman continues to work to develop and find funding for flood mitigation projects.
- Residents asked questions about air pollution from idling buses, cyclist safety at Berteau and Clark, and tree removals.

GWCA treasurer presented the organization's annual budget, which was unanimously approved.

Neighborhood resident Peter Wasik presented a request for a zoning change for a project at 1406-1408 W Cuyler. Mr. Wasik has renovated the Greystone at 1408 W Cuyler and would like to build a 3-unit condo building on the empty lot at 1406. Mr. Wasik provided extensive details on the project and attendees had no objection. GWCA will provide a letter of support for this requested zoning change.