



**Barracks Row Working Group Meeting Notes:
Tuesday April 16th 2019 at 7:00 pm
Location: 700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
7TH Floor Conference Room**

Introductions:

There were over 25 attendees, including Barracks Row business owners, neighbors, and representatives of the Barracks Row Main Street (BRMS), Eastern Market Main Street, CHAMPS, the Marine Barracks, and the Mayor's Office. A list of attendees is attached to these minutes.

Community Announcements:

Tio Javier closed Sunday; and the new Tortuga Restaurant will open next Tuesday.

Barracks Row Taste of 8th will take place on **April 27, 2019 from 1 pm to 4 pm**. If any attendees would like to get the "5 for \$15" coupons, please contact Martin at Barracks Row Main Street.

Presentation from 1ST District Police:

There was consensus from attendees that there have been "significant improvements in the last two weeks" within the 400 block of 8th Street; and a clear increase in MPD presence on that block.

Officer Mazloom is assigned to Barracks Row. He has an Instagram account that he invited everyone to join: barracks_row_bike_cop. He discussed his "compassionate approach" to people on the 400 block of 8th Street; Officer Maz provides pizza and coffee to them, encouraging them to help keep the 400 block clean.

There was a lengthy discussion about the drug K-2 (see <https://www.centeronaddiction.org/the-buzz-blog/what-k2-and-why-it-dangerous> for more information). K2 ingredients are "always changing" and the MPD needs a test kit to test for K2. MPD cannot search somebody for drugs without "probable cause".

Officer Fernandez works the 5 am to 1:30 pm shift; and Officer Mazloom works after that, often to past midnight.

The MPD can make an arrest for panhandling, but usually asks panhandlers to move away from ATMs or the front of businesses. They are given a warning, and know that if they do it again, there is a strong possibility of arrest. The MPD has an arrest diversion program.

Why is the 400 block so popular?

- Bus stop with several routes
- The Fire Department "won't put up with it" so they are across the street from the MFD
- Location of 24-hour business (7-11)
- Community Connections (which provides services) is around the corner
- They are comfortable there, and can make up to \$100 a day panhandling

Can we educate community members to *not* give money to panhandlers?

(NOTE: *This is part of the marketing plan that Gaynor is developing, see page 3 of these Minutes*)

- Can we find a way to solicit donations for Community Connections, versus individual handouts?
- Can we get Department of Behavioral Health to go to the 400 block more frequently?
- Can we support/fund an off-duty detail?
- Can we get Salvation Army-type kettles to collect funds for NGOs that provide support to people on the 400 block of 8th Street?
 - Martin mentioned Atlanta's use of recycled parking meters for this purpose, but there may be "public space challenges" with DDOT

Capitol Hill Group Ministry Services:

- Meals provided at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church
- Outreach workers go to this Church also
- They host a Day Center near the Potomac Avenue Metro that provides food, showers, and laundry facilities, among other outreach services
- They have a focus on housing outreach – in DC, *there is only one housing intervention per 10 people who need it*

Community Connections:

- Due to grants not being renewed, half of CC's outreach team is going away. CC will be down to 1.5 person for outreach
- Every hour, CC goes to 8th Street
- It was noted that many people who hang out on 8th Street are *not* homeless

CC Day Program that provides free lunches will get its budget to Chandler

There is a DC coordinated campaign to end chronic homelessness, the "Way Home Campaign" with more than 100 community partners. City Councilmember Charles Allen is hosting a Budget Town Hall on **Tuesday, April 23**, at 1000 5th Street, SE from 6 to 8 pm. **Please attend and actively support more funding for Community Connections.**

There was a discussion about the "DC ethos" of inclusive neighborhoods. In DC, there are the "haves" and "have nots" with very little middle class in between.

Officer Maz could use support for an Uber account to transport people to services, which include:

- Connections to an outreach worker
- Individual assessments
- Support from a nurse practitioner
- Help with public benefits, i.e., SSI, Veterans, Medicaid, etc.
- Housing

Discussion of MPD "pop-up" sub-station on the 400 block of 8th Street

- Over 500 signatures have been collected by MSBR (and sent to Charles Allen)
- Martin asked that folks fill in the "comments section" about why this is needed

MPD representatives said this is NOT likely to happen – we would not "make the top five" of neighborhoods with high/violent crime. The MPD First District Commander said that we "don't need a physical space with the technology available today."

8th Street Aesthetics and sidewalk repair:

Martin is meeting with DDOT this week about the funding “that disappeared” to beautify Barracks Row, and will keep us posted. Chander will also reach out to Mary Che about this. Ms. Williams from the Mayor’s Office is trying to track down the original correspondence about these grant funds.

Power washing of sidewalks on 8th Street has commenced.

The Marines have agreed to lead a monthly cleanup of 8th Street, with hopes that businesses and neighbors will join in.

It was asked if the Blue Crews can clean up on E Street between 8th and 9th Streets, SE.

The DC Arts Commission has small grants for neighborhood beautification, i.e., raised planters, sculptures, etc. **Brian will follow up on this.**

Marketing Plans

Gaynor spoke of a proposed marketing plan to provide “unity” and “alignment” among businesses, and that that will:

- Create a “single identity” as a whole, versus Barracks Row and Eastern Market, etc.
- He will create a “Discovery Committee” to identify needs and brainstorm solutions
- Neighbor Erica Stanley of Stanley Strategic Communications has submitted a one-year budget (between \$25K and \$30K) that will create a website; implement an overall marketing strategy; and create an ongoing, dynamic social media campaign.

Gaynor will meet with leaders of BRMS and EM Association in the near future, and proposed that they contribute part of their marketing budgets to this endeavor.

Eastern Market Plaza Construction:

Is schedule to begin in January 2020.