

East Kensington Neighbors Association
Monthly Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 18, 2020
Via Zoom Webinar
Tori Engelstad, President
Contact: president@ekna.org
www.ekna.org



Meeting Minutes

- January 2021 meeting held virtually via Zoom due to Covid-19 pandemic
- Nov/Dec meeting minutes approved
- Concerns about crime and shootings on specific blocks in the neighborhood
 - first shooting was a homicide of person who had ties to block
 - second shooting was a juvenile who lived on block
 - police think it was a case of mistaken identity
 - shortly after - stopped vehicle matching description - witness was not allowed by parents to make an ID
 - problem house has residents with relatives who cause issues - police think gun violence will disipate in area
 - one person was responsible for shootings was killed in a different neighborhood so expect that crime will go down as a result
 - Sgt. Massi was injured in August, but now back on duty and addressing issues on block related to narcotics
 - one shooting incident in 2018 documented, 3 calls for narcotics sales
 - 2019 - no documented shooting incidents, 5 radio calls for gun shots on Letterly, one call for drug sales
 - 2020 - spikes - 3 shooting victims, 3 shooting incidents, 9 radio calls for gunshots
- Police doing more surveillance of block - working with neighborhood services to get vehicles towed and sent warnings to owners of vehicles, have to have sanitation remove rubbish from vehicles before they can be removed
- Police parking on block to try to deter crime from occurring
- Can anything be done at present to address nuisance properties from DA's office, police office, or City Council?
 - crime associated with people who hang out on block who are relatives from resident who lives there
 - one individual who lives on block who is causing issues as well - police trying to address related drug sales on block
 - hope to have outreach to individual whose relatives are causing issues to let them know issues will not be tolerated
- Late summer 2018 - string of shootings - police made contact with people involved - and had meeting - made arrest related to drug sales

- later plead down to misdemeanor - same individual was investigated and arrested again during covid peak and given gun charge - released on bail
- 2020 shootings had less cooperation from witnesses
- individual observed on video stealing catalytic converter arrested out on bail
- DA's Office -
 - Asking police department to provide "drivers of gun violence" info to DA's Office.
 - collaborating with divisions to argue on arraignment for appropriate bail
 - new policy implemented in March 2020 for gun related incidents in City have requested bail be \$999,999.99
 - hoping to continue collaboration with police on individuals identified as causing issues
 - producing crime reports - can provide reports for EKNA if provided boundaries
- What can be done to help alleviate fear of retaliation?
 - hoping to get funding for additional surveillance video
 - can take video anonymously via Police.co_26@phila.gov
 - may need to come to home to get video for more serious crimes but can still keep people anonymous
 - cell phone recordings of source video are often not usable but can use "Ring" doorbell video and similar video
 - Police have facial recognition technology but need video to use
- What is process for dealing with reforming and improving system?
 - DA's Office said they are still committed to addressing gun violence and prosecuting
 - Offered to provide contact info for anyone will questions on ongoing prosecutions related to violence in area
 - When able to link smaller crimes such as package thefts to actors who are involved in violent crimes - able to get higher bails and helps link issues together to deal with crime on block
 - Hoping to better integrate work of DA's Office with Police Department and community to increase ability to deal with issues
 - all information collected adds into a larger whole needed to deal with cases affectively
 - DA's Office has "Cares" program to assist victims of violence
 - Every team member has personally experienced gun violence in their family
 - If anyone knows someone who has been a victim, can reach out to program to get support
 - No longer have nuisance property abilities that used to have to force sales of properties - nothing like that currently in process on block experiencing issues
 - There's a process for Sheriff's sale but extremely difficult to remove owners of homes
- DA contacts:

G. Lamar Stewart, chief of
community engagement
glamar.stewart@phila.gov ;
215-686-9947

ADA Michael McFarland
michael.mcfarland@phila.gov

ADA Dylan Hitchcock Lopez
dylan.hitchcock-lopez@phila.gov

For More Info on Filing a Private
Criminal Complaint:
<https://www.phila.gov/districtattorney/aboutus/Pages/Private.aspx>

Criminal Complaint. The Assigned
Attorney to the Private Criminal
Complaint Unit is James Dellafiora,
215-686-9881,
james.dellafiora@phila.gov.

If you are the victim of a crime
such as the ones I mentioned, ask
the officer for your DC# and a
crime form

Your DC# should be 2021-26-
XXXXXX, then follow up with you
assigned detective at East
Detectives, 3901 Whitaker Ave,
215-686-3243 / 3244

- Budget Report
 - Expenses:
 - \$59.39 on Zoom fee
 - \$460 on insurance
 - \$1,903.95 - payment to NKCDC for losses on 2020 Derby
 - \$345.50 for Kensington Cans program
 - Interest
 -

- Committee Updates
 - Zoning - January meeting cancelled - cases to be heard in February
 - Local Business
 - No updates
 - Education
 - No Updates
 - Preservation
 -
 - Cleaning and Community Affairs
 - Work on street studies to add cross-walks and stop signs continuing
 - Have not received word from Streets Department about when study will officially begin but has been assigned a case number
 - Kensington Cans has new can at Frannie Lou's Porch
 - Pop's Park construction to kick-off Spring 2021
 - Tool library suspended currently while park under construction
 - Np updates on traffic circle at Frankford and York
 - Greening
 - Cleaned Letterly Green space, removed garbage, broken fencing and posts thanks to Jeff C. and neighbors who volunteered to help get space back in order. Reported abandoned vehicles that Councilperson Squilla will help remove
 - New business
 - None - breakout rooms to resume in February
- Meeting adjourned to breakout rooms at 8:59 PM