

SUMMARY OF MEETING ON MARCH 25

Thanks to Councilman Squilla for arranging this important meeting on ATV's.

Present were,

Council: Councilmen Squilla and Domb, with Anne Kelly King

Philadelphia Police: Deputy Commissioner Dales, Inspector Evers and Lieutenant Waters

Managing Director's Office: Michael Carroll

Avenue of the Arts: Carl Dranoff and Paul Beideman

The police are continuing their raids to disrupt and seize illegal vehicles. Tickets are being issued and arrests are being made. Last week virtually every police district participated in these raids and many illegal bikes and ATVs were seized. These activities will continue thru the spring and summer. We all thanked the police for this work and support their continued efforts.

It's important to note that an officer was injured during the most recent activity. He is recovering, but has not yet been able to return to duty. We all hope he fully recovers soon and is able to return to work.

Several other plans for increased intervention were discussed for implementation.

- More frequent patrols and deployment on S. Broad St. All agreed that more patrols and a presence, especially on weekend evenings is important. Budget constraints hamper the effort, but the police will increase their presence. One way to increase presence is to provide funds for overtime. Some companies and communities make these funds available. We've agreed to clearly define the parameters for such a program and begin to raise funds to support the effort. If would support an officer and vehicle presence.
- A meeting will be held with the Deputy Police Commissioner who oversees police radio to seek a policy change that will increase the priority of 911 calls in response to illegal vehicle activity to improve response time.
- Intervention without pursuit has been effective in recent incidents. While not chasing, a presence of police at the fringes causes the posse to move along which is a good outcome.
- Installation of cameras. Permanent installation of red light cameras is a time consuming process controlled by PPA, which is a state organization. It was suggested that we make use of "city cameras" that can be installed on a temporary basis. The police and managing directors office will investigate and provide an update soon.
- Councilman Squilla and Domb are proposing legislation that would prohibit the sale of gasoline, citywide, to illegal vehicles. This could be a game changer if implemented. It's the equivalent of not serving alcohol to minors.
- Ticketing and fines will be more aggressively perused for noise violations regardless of whether vehicles are legal or illegal.
- It was noted by Deputy Commissioner Dales that illegal drag racing has also been a priority of the police Dept. And that significant progress has been made to reduce this activity.
- There was a discussion of physical barriers, but they have been proven largely ineffective and actually, in some cases, are a draw for the illegal activity.

- All of these planned enhancements will have a positive effect on the gatherings that occur at the Speedway gas station.

It was emphasized that all of these efforts require funding and that the city's budget process is moving forward with hearings in April. It is vitally important that the community support the funding of police in the budget so that essential activities can be maintained and enhanced.

Next steps:

AAI will work with all involved to define the components of a Reimbursable Overtime Program and seek funding. Districts 6 and 9 will work to free resources to increase patrols and presence at high risk times.

Police and Managing Directors office will create a plan to install city cameras on S. Broad as soon as possible.

We will endeavor to change the current policy within the 911 system to increase the priority on ATV calls to improve response times.

We will all work to support Councilmen Domb and Squilla in efforts to pass legislation and to seek funding for the police efforts in the city budget.