

Woodley Park Community Association
Special Meeting
Tuesday January 29th 2008
St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church
7PM

7:15PM President John Goodman welcomed all of the WPCA members to this special meeting with Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. President Goodman thanked St. Thomas the Apostle Parish for graciously allowing the use of their church for this meeting.

President Goodman made a few more introductory remarks and welcomed our first speaker for the evening, Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3-Democrat).

7:20: Council Member Cheh reported many positive outcomes from her previous meeting with WPCA in November including securing new stop signs, having the street lights repaired, and posting Metro Police Department officers to ensure compliance with street regulations. The community applauded her for her constituent service.

Council Member Cheh then reported on some upcoming initiatives that she is working on. One of those is the energy bill which will help to drive down the use and consumption of power for the DC government. She also touched on her proposed noise bill. Currently there are very few noise ordinances that apply to people from 7AM to 9PM. Councilmember Cheh's legislation would do that. She is also working on a bill that will encourage property owners to do more with vacant properties. Finally she talked about an upcoming pesticide bill that will make pesticide companies disclose what chemicals are being used when they treat a property.

Councilmember Cheh then finished her remarks with a request that we should consider using non-chemical pesticides or other alternatives to dealing with insects. Councilmember Cheh then made some introductory comments about the Mayor and then John Goodman made the formal welcome to the Mayor to Woodley Park.

7:35: Mayor Fenty thanked President Goodman and Councilmember Cheh for their kind words. Mayor Fenty then began to outline some of the successes that the District of Columbia has had over the past 13 months including a smooth transition that is faster than most other American cities, a financial surplus, the bringing on board of Chancellor Rhee to ensure that the children of our national capital city have a world class education. Mayor Fenty also talked about the future direction of his administration and how he hopes to continue to improve the lives of all DC Residents. The mayor than graciously took questions from the floor and suggestions from the community.

One member asked the Mayor what steps, aside from education, he had taken to improve the quality of life for the children of the District of Columbia. Mayor Fenty mentioned that they had installed some new medical suites into the schools and were looking for other things.

One member asked the mayor if he was going to send his children to the Public Schools. The Mayor replied that once they finish their current school that goes through grade three he would be.

Another member commented on the need for a new evidence warehouse and a more accurate count of how many police are actually on the street at any given moment and more accurate crime statistics. The mayor replied that he understood the concern and that the chief of police was working on the new evidence warehouse and ensuring that everything is safely kept.

He also talked about steps to improve community policing and the pro-active steps being done at the academy level, including the present plan to add more than 250 new officers over the past year and this coming year and the change in status of desk personnel to civilian (non-police personnel).

Another member asked about improving the quality agency staff, particularly those who deal with the public. The Mayor replied that they are working on that and he mentioned how much the city has improved. The mayor also talked about how he has redesigned the DCRA office and how that has streamlined permitting processes through a U shape design.

Another member commented on the lack of crossing guards for schools, including, but not limited to Calvert and Connecticut and 19th Street and Columbia.

Another member commented that the four lanes worth of traffic in Woodley Park during rush hours on Connecticut Avenue makes it unsafe to cross.

Another concern about making the crime statistics across the spectrum consistent was also brought up.

Another member complained that the perception of crime in the district discourages people from coming into the neighborhood.

Another member complained about the parking in the neighborhood, and how the proposed JBG condominium project will further cause issues with parking and that it would be nice to see the city take a more pro-active role in regulating parking and parking enforcement.

Another member raised the question of Klinge Road and when that would be reopened and what the citizen participation would be.

Another member suggested that it would be nice to have some additional citizen summits.

Another member raised a concern about the price of rent in the neighborhood and the need to reduce the cost of housing in DC, or increase rent subsidization.

A non-member of the community association brought up some concerns about police coverage in Ward 5.

8:35PM After the Mayor's public comments President Goodman thanked the Mayor and Councilmember Cheh for showing up and talking with the community. The Association meeting then adjourned.

Issues that were brought up with the Mayor after the meeting included:

- 1) Changing the online information shown for permits issued by the city to show size/scope of the project.
- 2) Making it easier for community groups and organizations to get "honorary" citizenships or letters of welcome.
- 3) A municipal hockey rink to allow children of DC to play.
- 4) Speed humps promised for Woodley Road by the end of November 2007 have not been installed, and DDoT (Frank Pacifico) does not respond to questions about when they will be.