



Eastport Civic Association

**To: Mayor Pantelides, Members of the City Council
The Chief of the Annapolis Police Department
Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis
The Capital Gazette**

May 11, 2016

From: Karen Jennings, on behalf of the Eastport Civic Association's Board of Directors

On April 17, shortly after 4 AM, families living along President Street and in the Harbor House development in Eastport, including my own, woke up to the sound of gunfire. In one home a father lay on his kitchen floor covering his son, as more than 30 bullets smashed through three homes, and nine cars along President Street. The identities of the gunmen are still unknown, and they are still at large.

According to the Annapolis Police Department, there were 57 reports of gunfire in the blocks immediately surrounding President Street in 2015 (an average of more than once a week), and so far, in 2016, these incidents are on the rise. Four people have been shot there since Christmas Day, including a 22 year old woman whose injuries have confined her to a wheelchair. To date, police have solved only one of these four crimes.

Members of the Annapolis City Council described the April 17 gunfire as "the last straw," and the Police Department assured us that "The community deserves better and we are not going to tolerate it." At a public forum on April 18, four members of the City Council, the Chief of Police, and the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) promised a 24/7 police presence on President Street "for the foreseeable future," new security cameras, and aggressive new efforts to finance and reopen the Harbour House police substation.

We ask Mayor Pantelides and HACA to announce a timeframe for when residents can expect to see each of the following items implemented:

Develop a security plan for HACA properties with defined budget requirements and implementation timeframes.

Install additional cameras with good imagery in high crime areas along Madison and President Street.

Enforce the existing banning list.

Complete City building code inspections of Harbour House and Eastport Terrace.

Reopen the Harbour House Community Policing Substation.



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Additionally, we strongly encourage the City to implement the following:

A violence interruption program similar to Safe Streets in Baltimore.

Issue parking permits for Harbour House parking lots so non-resident vehicles can be easily identified.

Partner with the Spa Creek Conservancy and Hawkins Cove residents to make Hawkins Cove a park destination that will bring more foot traffic through the neighborhood.

Beautification efforts and wall murals to promote a sense of community pride and ownership.

We should all be ashamed that bullets are flying into homes where children are asleep and that innocent people are being shot in the streets of our state capital with impunity, less than two miles from the State House. We take the police and the City Council at their words that April 17 will be the turning point that ends this violence. We hope and pray it will be so, we stand ready to help, and we will hold the police and our elected representatives accountable if it does not stop.

With great concern,

Karen Jennings, Treasurer, ECA
Board of Directors, Eastport Civic Association

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