

Introduction

It is a remarkable feature of residing in the Village that even though we have only slightly more than 700 homes, we have our own police force patrolling our streets and our own 24/7 communications center.

As a community, we greatly benefit not just from having these outstanding public safety resources devoted to protecting us 24/7, but also from having community control over these resources.

Topics for tonight:

1. **Public Safety Committee** -- Our Committee serves as a citizens advisory board to the Board of Managers and to the Chief. We also serve as a liaison to the Bethesda District of the Montgomery County Police. Our members are: Oliver Davidson; Peter Kilborn; Betty O'Connor; and Lisa Sanders. We have some openings on the Committee for new members. If you are interested, please let us know.

2. **Chief Fitzgerald's Departure Announcement** -- As you know, Chief Fitzgerald has announced that he will leaving his position this fall and has kindly provided the Village with substantial advance notice to permit us to plan for a smooth succession. We have been truly blessed to have had Chief Fitzgerald in charge of our public safety functions for now more than a decade. He has done an extraordinary job for us. We will have an opportunity later this year to thank Chief Fitzgerald for his many

contributions to the Village, but right now our focus is on recruiting someone to fill the Chief's very big shoes. That process is ongoing.

3. **Lock Your Car** -- There is one thing everyone can do to improve our collective welfare. That is to lock your cars at night. We have way too many nighttime thefts from unlocked cars. They are not significant in terms of dollar value, but, by leaving our cars unlocked at night, we are creating the potential for far more serious crimes and we are putting everyone at risk. Please lock your cars at night.

4. **Call if Anything Arouses Suspicion** -- Call the police immediately when you see or hear anything suspicious. Residents are sometimes reluctant to call the police (or delay calling) for various reasons. Our police department wants to hear from you right away when something happens so that they can respond and investigate whatever you've seen or heard. A successful night of property crime emboldens the thieves to come back to the Village and commit their crimes again. Call the police. That's what they're here for. For emergencies, call 911. For anything else (including any suspicious activity), call the Communications Center at (301) 654-7300.