

Councilman Brings New Public Safety Technology to the East End

By Carolyn Ristau

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Garfield/East Liberty – City Councilman Ricky Burgess (District 9) has played an instrumental role in bringing new investment in public safety to the East End neighborhoods of East Liberty, Garfield, Homewood, Larimer, Lincoln-Lemington and East Hills to help combat the high number of gun-related incidents, including homicides, in these areas.

This summer, SST, Inc. is installing the ShotSpotter Flex System in these neighborhoods. This system is a series of acoustic sensors that work together to detect and locate gunfire. Once the sensors detect gunshots, they transmit the location to an offsite server, which then passes the information to 911 dispatchers and police patrol cars simultaneously.

When installation is complete, 60

sensors will be placed within an area of 3 square miles, stretching from the western end of Garfield through East Hills. The only gunshots guaranteed to be picked by the sensors are within this area. However, the sensors are powerful enough to likely pick up shots within a half-mile buffer around the targeted area as well, according to SST.

Concurrently, Avrio RMS Group is installing additional video surveillance cameras within the same 3 square miles. These new cameras and the already-existing Homeland Security cameras will work with the Shot Spotter sensors. When the sensors locate a gunshot, the nearest cameras will be aimed in that direction to record immediate visual evidence of the incident.

“The intent is that these two systems will work together,” said Marita Bradley, executive assistant to Councilman Burgess.

According to SST, less than 20 percent of gunfire incidents are reported to 911, on average. With this technology, every gunshot within the targeted area will be reported to the police within seconds of the occurrence, and audio and visual forensic evidence will be captured instantly.

Councilman Burgess introduced a reso-

lution that provided up to \$1 million to pay for the installation of this new technology in the East End. The legislation passed on April 30, 2013, and was signed into law on May 3.

“This investment will complement our current and ongoing public safety campaigns to reduce the number of guns and gun violence in our neighborhoods,” remarked Aggie Brose, deputy director of the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, who chairs the Garfield Public Safety Task Force. ♦

COMMENTARY

The Future of McCleary School An Update

By Matthew Galluzzo

Lawrenceville Corporation

Lawrenceville – As part of the current disposition process of Pittsburgh Public School-owned properties being facilitated by Fourth River Development, LLC, Lawrenceville Corporation (LC) and Lawrenceville United (LU) have been granted permission to participate as community stewards in relation to the sale of McCleary Elementary School in Upper Lawrenceville. Accordingly, potential purchasers are being asked to approach us in order to review potential projects and provide feedback to Fourth River.

Given that the proposed projects are in the earliest stages of pre-development – i.e., limited or no architectural drawings, site plans, etc. – LC and LU staff are currently looking only to provide general evaluations of the potential developments based on developer track record and capacity, and whether the proposed projects comport with relevant community plans. We trust that any selected developer will continue to liaise with us and the community at-large as plans advance.

LC and LU know that residents and other stakeholders are concerned about the future of larger institutional sites in the neighborhood. And it is clear that the redevelopment of McCleary will have a significant impact on the surrounding blocks, potentially serving as a hub for a quickly transitioning part of the neighborhood.

Luckily, a nearly year-long public planning process involving more than 200 residents, business owners and developers culminated last month with the release of the Upper Lawrenceville Community Plan. The plan identifies both McCleary School and its adjacent thoroughfare, McCandless Avenue, as critical to the future health of the neighborhood, and it makes discrete recommendations about its re-use and 21st-century infrastructure. We firmly believe that any redevelopment at this site should occur in accordance with the community vision laid out in the Upper Lawrenceville Community Plan.

As mentioned above, this is an early-stage proposal review. We appreciate the chance to participate in the vetting process in a substantive way, and we anticipate working with the selected team to advance a contributing project for the neighborhood. To that end, the opportunity for broader community input will likely occur as the selected applicant initiates its redevelopment process of the site. As is typically the case with developments of this scale, LC and LU will host community meetings at the appropriate time where residents of Upper Lawrenceville can provide input and ask questions of the development team.

Please feel free to contact LC at 412-621-1616 with any questions or concerns. ♦

INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST DOCTOR

The physicians and staff at Craig Medical Associates-UPMC are pleased to welcome our newest doctor, Anju Arora, MD, to our office in Squirrel Hill.



Anju Arora, MD
Internal Medicine

Dr. Arora received her medical degree from Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital-Temple University School of Medicine Clinical Program. She is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and licensed in Basic and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. In addition to English, Dr. Arora speaks Hindi.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment at Craig Medical Associates-UPMC, please call 412-422-5970.

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