

# Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland Status and Information Report Report No. 15 for 2018



July 27, 2018

To Mayor Thompson and Town Council,

The goal of the Status and Information reports is to share relevant information in a timely fashion. The Status and Information Reports are distributed to the Town's elected officials, residents, and employees. Status and Information Reports are also available to businesses and visitors through the Town website. The reports are published in English and Spanish. The next Status and Information report will be published on August 10, 2018.

### Upcoming Meetings:

National Night Out	August 7, 2018, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Police Department
Community Walk	August 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m.	Meet at Town Hall
Council Work Session	August 27, 2018, 8:00 p.m.	Town Hall

- Employee Recognition: Please join me in extending a sincere thank you to the following team members for their years of dedicated service to the Town's residents:

- Emilio Guitierrez            21 Years of Service
- Tracey Perrin                17 Years of Service
- Anna Wendland            17 Years of Service
- Frederick Quander        13 Years of Service
- Joseph Sommerville      11 Years of Service
- Jose Quinteros              5 Years of Service

Best wishes on your work anniversary and thank you for your dedicated service!

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## Community Engagement

- Thank you! Thank you to everyone who attend the Family Movie Night on July 18<sup>th</sup> at Riverside Neighborhood Park. We look forward to scheduling another Family Movie Night soon!
- National Night Out: The Town's annual National Night Out celebration will be held on Tuesday, August 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Riverdale Park Police Department, 5004 Queensbury Road. Please plan to join us for an evening filled with lots of fun!
- Volunteers and Vendors Needed for Riverdale Park Day: Riverdale Park Day will be held on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Volunteers and vendors are needed to make this fantastic community event possible. Please contact Waverly Pollitt at 301-927-6381 (ext. 500) or [wpollitt@riverdaleparkmd.gov](mailto:wpollitt@riverdaleparkmd.gov) for details.
- Please follow the Town on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/>



## Council Direction Summary

The Mayor and Council provided direction to staff through the following Legislative Actions:

### **July 23, 2018:**

1. Defeasance/Reallocation of 30-year CDA Loan: Motion to approve potential uses of available bond proceeds. **Approved**
2. Motion to adopt Resolution 2018-R-13 to approve job description for Director of Public Projects and Services. **Adopted**
3. Motion to introduce Ordinance 2018-OR-11 regarding amendments to Chapter 64 section 64-20 School Zone Speed Monitoring Systems Authorized. **Introduced (Fair Summary posted in 7/26 Enquirer Gazette.)**
4. Motion to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter of invitation for visitors from the Town's Sister City, Ipala, Guatemala. The letter will be addressed to the American Embassy in Guatemala and assist in initiating the process of obtaining VISAS. **Approved**

## Environment

- Mosquito Spraying: The Town has received notification from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) that they will do an "off schedule" spraying for mosquitoes in the areas between Route 1 and the Railroad tracks. The spraying is scheduled for Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> after 7:30 pm, weather permitting. If MDA is unable to spray on Thursday, spraying will take place on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, after 7:30 pm, weather permitting.

The Town's scheduled night for spraying is Tuesdays after 7:30 pm. Our area was sprayed on July 17<sup>th</sup> and MDA will spray again on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. As a reminder, spraying begins after dark and may continue until midnight or later. MDA will not conduct spray activity during daylight hours.

Residents should take the usual steps to reduce the presence of mosquitoes on their property. For example, residents must keep their property free of mosquitoes breeding containers,

stagnant water, bird baths, wading pools, pet watering dishes, tin cans, old tires, clogged gutters or flower pots. Other water holding containers should be stored upside down.

Complaints about mosquitoes can be faxed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 301-422-0502 or call 301-422-5080 with questions or concerns.

- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) Quarterly Inspection: Department of Public Works staff met with the State/County SWPPP staff for a quarterly permit inspection. SWPPP staff recommended drip pans for Town trucks. The drip pans have been ordered and received. No other problems were identified during the inspection.
- Tree Removals: As a result of recent storms, staff are pruning damaged branches/limbs and in some cases removing trees. Two (2) claims have been filed and one (1) is pending for property damage due to falling limbs/branches from Town-owned trees.
- Recycling Reminders: Staff have observed that residents continue to put their recycling in plastic bags. In 2014, the Waste Management Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources required that ALL recycling be placed in the blue totes or in collection cans/containers (i.e., trash cans), clearly marked "RECYCLING" or with an "X." NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RECYCLING CONTAINER (i.e., plastic grocery bags, plastic wrappers on soda or water containers). For additional information, please call 311 or 301-883-5810.
- Trash Tote Repair/Replacement: To coordinate the replacement of damaged trash totes, residents should call the Department of Public Works at 301-864-1803. The Town's contracted trash service provider will replace the damaged totes. Please note that a replacement tote will not be delivered if the damaged one is not there for pick-up. Replacements will take place on Thursdays.

### Development

- Improving Curb Appeal (literally): Team members from the Department of Public Works continue straightened and replace outdated signage. And with today's sunshine, team members are repainting curbs.



- Neighborhood Design Center Meeting: On Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, staff met with representatives from the Neighborhood Design Center to discuss opportunities to collaborate on Town projects such as; the Field of Dreams, MD 410 underpass mural, and a new community garden.
- Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization CDC Collaboration: On Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, staff met with CKAR to collaborate on marketing business-related materials to the community. CKAR will be conducting a survey with local businesses to identify strengths and needs. In addition, CKAR will distribute materials on the Town's economic development programs and initiatives to business in Town.
- Riverdale Park Station Residents Meeting: On Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, staff met with residents in the Riverdale Park Station development to discuss parking concerns in the area. Staff will follow up with the residents to receive a full summary of concerns and explore potential opportunities to mitigate the parking concerns.
- Jersey Mike's Grand Opening Event: On Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am, Jersey Mike's will be holding their grand opening event. Jersey Mike's is located at 6761 45<sup>th</sup> Street in Riverdale Park Station. Representatives from the Town will be present during the event as part of the Town's Celebrating Business Initiative.
- Riverdale Park Station News: For more information on store openings, events and development news, check out the Riverdale Park Station website and social media pages:
  - Website: <http://www.riverdaleparkstation.com>
  - Facebook: Riverdale Park Station
  - Twitter: @RDPStation
  - Instagram: rdpstation
- Purple Line Construction Update Regarding Lane Closure on East-West Highway: Beginning on or about July 30, 2018, the eastbound right-hand lane on East-West Highway, between Kenilworth Avenue and Mustang Drive will be closed long-term for construction.
- Purple Line Construction Notices: Purple Line construction is underway. The next twelve (12) months of construction will focus on utility relocation work. Residents are encouraged to subscribe for updates via e-mail or text message. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, visit [purplelinemd.com](http://purplelinemd.com), find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates". The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.
- Notice received by Town:
  - A Preliminary Plan (#4-18011) for Wildercroft Subdivision located at 6901 Riverdale Road, will be submitted for review to the Development Review Division of Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information, contact Dean Packard at 301-208-0250 or [dean@packardassociatesllc.com](mailto:dean@packardassociatesllc.com).
- Upcoming Meetings: This feature in the Status and Information reports is provided to ensure awareness of upcoming meetings that may have information or agenda items related to development in or near the Town. Below please find links to the agendas for the Board of License Commissioners, the Planning Board and the Historic Preservation Commission. Please visit the links for additional information.

- **Board of License Commissioners:** *No information available at time of report.*
- **Planning Board:** *No information available at time of report.*
- **Historic Preservation Commission:** *No information available at time of report.*

- Development Activities from June 12, 2018 to July 25, 2018

Business Licenses:

Licenses Issued	30
Notices Issued	0
Fines Issued	0

Rental Licenses:

Inspections Conducted	8
Licenses Issued	10
Notices Issued	1
Fines Issued	0

Permits: Building / Storage Containers:

Inspections Conducted	7
Permits Issued	8
Stop Work Orders Issued	1

- Permits Issued:

Permit Number	Address	Permit For	Estimated Project Cost
2019-B-01	4905 Somerset Road	Install 21 roof-mounted solar panels	\$8,100
2019-B-02	6304 Taylor Road	ADA bathroom renovation, raise elevation of front porch and reinstall handrails for ADA access	\$8,000
2019-B-03	6304 Taylor Road	Install chair lift and concrete pad	\$30,000
2019-B-04	6304 Taylor Road	Install concrete driveway and walkway	\$12,000
2019-B-05	4510 Van Buren Street	Landlord work for future tenant	\$46,870
2019-B-06	4550 Van Buren Street	Landlord work for future tenant	\$46,870

2019-B-07	4590 Van Buren Street	Landlord work for future tenant	\$46,870
2019-B-08	5311 Taylor Road	Garage Replacement (34'x36')	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$218,710

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from July 12, 2018 to July 25, 2018

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	8
Exterior Conditions	3
Interior Conditions	38
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	1
Safety	69
Sanitation	10

Services Provided:

Complaint Responses Performed	12
Fines Issued	0
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	6
Violation Notices Issued	7
Warnings Issued	2

### **Neighborhood Improvement: Multi-Family Rental Inspection Report**

Staff recently performed annual rental license inspections of apartments / multi-family residential properties in Town. Currently, there are approximately **nine hundred thirty (930)** apartment rental units in Town. Staff inspected a sample size of approximately **three hundred seventy-nine (379)** rental units, which is **forty (40%) percent** of the total apartment units in Town. In addition, staff inspected areas throughout the apartment buildings such as; common hallways, exterior property areas, laundry rooms, stairways, and, storage / utility rooms. In sum, the inspections revealed **one thousand six hundred eight (1,608)** community standard violations in the apartments.

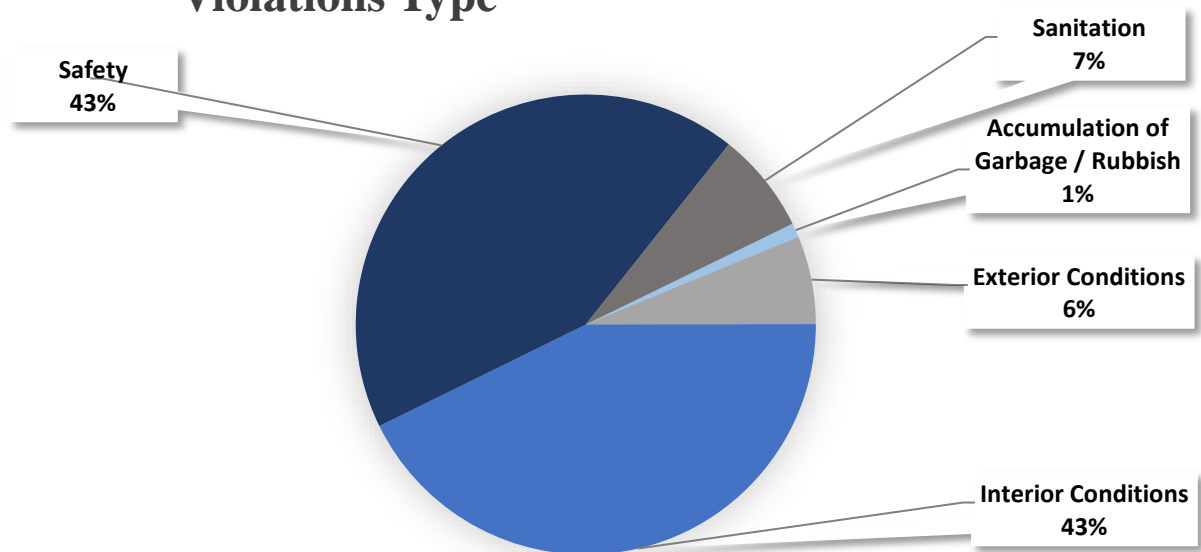
Moving forward, staff is working with the responsible parties of the apartments to educate them on the Town's community standards. Moreover, violation notices were issued to these individuals and staff is following up to ensure compliance.

The chart and table below detail the amount of violations observed and the respective proportion of the violations by type. Please review the note section below the chart and table for a description of each violation type.

## Community Standards Violations

Accumulation of Rubbish & Garbage	Exterior Conditions	Interior Conditions	Overgrown Grass	Safety	Sanitation	Violation Total:
17	100	688	0	691	112	1,608

### Violations Type



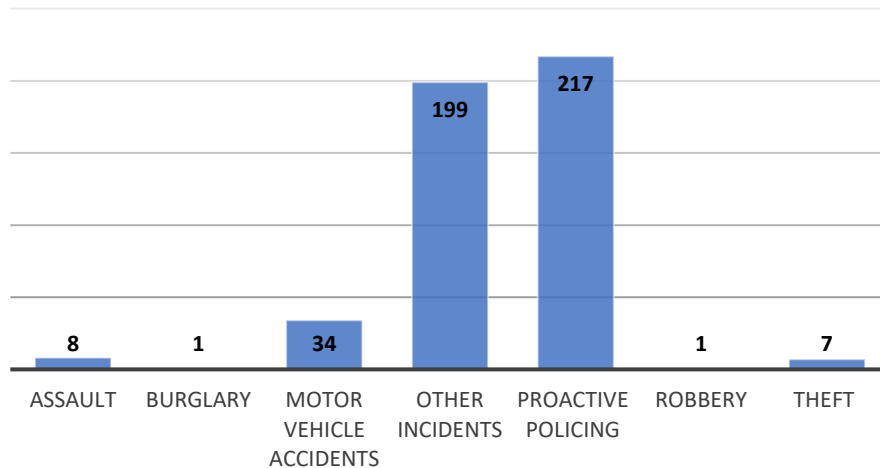
Note:

1. "Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish" includes violations pertaining to the storage of waste materials in interior or exterior property areas.
2. "Exterior Conditions" include, but not limited to; chipping, flaking, and peeling paint, graffiti, storage of inoperable vehicles, damaged accessory structures, driveways, doors, overhangs, roofs, stairways, walls, windows, and other exterior components.
3. "Interior Conditions" include, but not limited to; cracks and holes in ceilings, floors, and walls, missing stair railings, water-damaged surfaces, and lack of proper ventilation.
4. "Overgrown Weeds" include grass or weeds more than 10 inches in height.
5. "Safety" includes, but not limited to; damaged / missing electrical outlets, covers, light fixtures, carbon monoxide and /or smoke detectors, lack of escape windows in bedrooms, missing address numbers, major structural damage, and unsafe buildings.

- 6. "Sanitation" includes, but not limited to; insect / rodent infestation, mildew / mold on surfaces, uncleanliness, and storage of hazardous waste.

**Police**

**Calls for Service - 507  
07/12/18 to 07/25/18**



Calls for Service defined: A call for service is any activity performed by a sworn police officer in the performance of their assigned duties. Calls for service covers both proactive activities such as area checks and traffic enforcement; as well as a portion of field investigative reports, traffic accidents, and response to various incidents. Calls received for dispatch are also included in the calls for service total.

Staff are working to enhance reporting capabilities to more accurately differentiate between proactive police actions and responding to dispatched incidents. The above chart illustrates that at a minimum, 217 or 46% of calls for service were proactive actions on the part of the Town’s police officers.

Proactive Policing includes: traffic safety, business and residential checks, field interviews, and quality of life issues.

Other Incidents includes: disorderly complaints, fights, suspicious subjects/vehicles, parking complaints, traffic complaints, and citizen assists.

Highlighted reports:

Officers responded to a shoplifting complaint in the 4700 block of Queensbury Road. The store owner reported that two suspects entered the business, removed items from the shelves, walked past all points of sale, and left the store without paying for merchandise. Through investigative means one suspect has been identified and charged with theft. The investigation is ongoing.



Officers responded to the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue to assist the Fire Department with an assault. The investigation revealed that Fire Department personnel responded to assist an intoxicated individual who became disorderly and assaulted two members of the ambulance crew. The suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assault.

Officers responded to the 5800 block of Riverdale Road for a hit and run accident involving a pedestrian. While crossing East-West Highway, the pedestrian was struck by an unknown vehicle that failed to remain on the scene. The Fire Department responded and transported the pedestrian to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The Prince George's County Police Department Accident Reconstructionist Unit responded to the scene and assumed investigative responsibility. The investigation is ongoing.

Officers responded to a business in the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a trespassing complaint. The business manager reported that an individual who was previously issued a no trespass order was harassing customers in front of the store. The individual was escorted off the property and issued a criminal citation for trespassing.

Officers observed an individual known to have an open arrest warrant in the 6200 block of Kenilworth Avenue. The individual was contacted and the arrest warrant for theft was verified through the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

Officers observed a suspicious person in the 6300 block of Taylor Road. The individual was contacted, and field interviewed. A records check revealed the individual to have an active arrest warrant through the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear for urinating in public. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue for suspended registration plates. A records check revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant through the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office for credit card misuse. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of Riverdale Road for a citizen robbery. The investigation revealed the suspect approached the victim in the parking lot and demanded property. The suspect implied he had a weapon, and victim relinquished personal belongings. The victim wasn't injured during the incident and the investigation is ongoing.

Update:

Officers responded to the 5600 block of Riverdale Road for a fight with an individual armed with a handgun. The investigation revealed the victim and the suspect were involved in a physical confrontation when the suspect produced a handgun and threatened the victim. During the confrontation, the victim was able to wrestle the handgun away and the suspect fled the scene. A few days later patrol officers detained an individual in the 5300 block of Riverdale Road matching the suspect's photograph. The suspect was transported to the station and agreed to be interviewed. The suspect gave a full confession admitting to threatening the victim with a handgun. The suspect was placed under arrest and charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Assault, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault, and Use of a Handgun in Commission of a Crime of Violence.

After considerable research and testing, the Riverdale Park Police Department is preparing to implement a body worn camera program. Body worn cameras are being utilized by RPPD to help contribute to officer safety, provide evidence for criminal prosecution, assist in resolving citizen complaints and to foster positive relationships within the community, embodying the May 2015 President's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Task Force recommendations. The RPPD deployed the program on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John N. Lestitian". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager