Town of Riverdale Park, Maryland
Status and Information Report
Report No. 6 for 2020

March 20, 2020

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 April 3, 2020.

COVID-19 Response

At this extraordinary time, I begin this report differently than all others. I begin by assuring the Mayor and Council, and the community that the staff Leadership Team, and more broadly the staff team, are working to ensure the safety of our community and ourselves. We do this, as we continue to prepare, to monitor, and to act in response to the changing conditions caused by COVID-19.

The staff team is finding balance as we work to accomplish three (3) goals:
1. Continue the delivery of high-quality services to our residents, businesses, and visitors; and
2. Adhere to CDC guidance; and
3. Minimize potential exposure for our residents, businesspersons, our employees, and by extension, all our families.

As the Staff Leadership team guides the many changes to operations, we are reminded of a mantra that we adopted several years ago, *'in times of great change, we must be patient with ourselves and each other.'* Collectively, the Town as an organization, and as a community will continue to undergo great change and significant stress in the coming days, weeks, and months. At a given moment, we may not have an answer that someone is seeking or the answer for which someone is hoping. In all of this, we will remain focused on finding balance as we make steady progress towards achieving our goals.

While the cancellation of several in-person events and meetings are necessary, the Town is exploring opportunities for virtual meetings and events. The following cancellations and suspension of services are in place until further notice:
- State of the Town presentation (March 23)
- Town Council Special Legislative Session (March 23)
- Town Census HUB in Town Hall (March 23 – 27)
- Town Ethics Commission Meeting for the next 30 days or until further notice
- Town Board of Code Appeals Meeting for the next 30 days or until further notice
- Town in-person committee and workgroup meetings to include:
  - Chief's Community Advisory Committee meetings and activities
  - Green Team meetings and activities
  - Centennial Planning Committee meetings
- Mixed-Use Town Center Local Design Review Committee meetings

- Use of Town Hall for community meetings
- Notary services
- Police Ride-Along program and station tours
- Police fingerprinting services

The Town's COVID-19 Communications plan includes posting, sharing, tweeting, and the like on the following platforms:
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park_ and https://twitter.com/RiverdaleParkPD
- Town Announce: To subscribe, email townannounce@riverdale-park.org
- Website: www.riverdaleparkmd.gov
- Status and Information Reports: http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/town_administration/status_and_information_reports.php#outer-172sub-1785
- Town Crier: http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/our_town/town_crier/crier_2020.php
- Cable Channel: 10 and 71
- Neighborhood Electronic (solar) Message Board
- Neighborhood Sign Boards

Many Town services such as reporting concerns with residential trash removal, applying for and inquiring about permits, licenses, and inspections can be completed through email and forms available on the Town's website at www.riverdaleparkmd.gov. Other non-police services can be arranged by telephone at 301.927.6381. Non-emergency police assistance is available at 301.927.4343. If you have an emergency, call 911. Residents, businesspersons, and visitors are encouraged to utilize the above resources in lieu of conducting in-person business with the Town.

Department specific changes:
- Town Hall and the Department of Public Works offices will remain closed to the public through Monday, March 30th. This change will be reevaluated as conditions change. The Town is also implementing a limited telework program. Residents and businesspersons will not experience any delay in conducting Town business through the website, by email, or by telephone.

- Police patrols and emergency response remains unchanged. However, the Town's Police Department has expanded its use of telephone reporting for specific incidents such as reporting thefts, damaged property, and minor assaults, if the incident is not in progress and the suspect is not on scene. If you are reporting such an incident, please call 301.927.4343.

- Neighborhood Services has implemented an online reporting procedure for specific complaints of non-life safety conditions on the interior of buildings. Please visit the Neighborhood Services section of the Town's website at: http://www.riverdaleparkmd.gov/government/departments_and_offices/neighborhood_services.php

 Only exterior and life safety interior inspections will be conducted in-person until further notice.

- All Town issued permits scheduled to expire within the next thirty (30) days will be automatically continued without penalty until April 30th.

The Town reminds residents and businesses to continue with the CDC's recommendations to wash hands frequently, stay at home if you are sick, and social distancing.

For the latest and most accurate information about this evolving situation, visit the CDC, state and county health department websites:
- CDC: www.coronavirus.gov
- Maryland Department of Health: www.health.maryland.gov/coronavirus
- Prince George's Co. Health Department: https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus
- World Health Organization: www.who.int/

Employee Recognition

- COVID-19 Response: The staff team has and continues to demonstrate dedication to the community, resourcefulness, creativity, and resilience as we work together through this difficult time. Kudos, for a job well begun, as we hope for a timely resolution!

- Employee Anniversaries: 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:

  - Walter Bustamante   14 Years of Service
  - Daryle Cunningham   10 Years of Service

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

Community Engagement

- 2020 Census Forms: Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census will be mailed and delivered to households between March 12-20. Once you receive that invitation, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Be on the lookout for the invitation in the mail!

- Historic Homes and Garden Tour: The Centennial Planning Committee plans to host a Historic Homes and Garden Tour on Saturday, May 16th. If you would like to have your home and/or garden included in this special event, please contact Doug McElrat dmcelrat@umd.edu. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the event. Student service hours are available!

- International Property Maintenance Code: Currently the Town follows the Prince George's County Property Maintenance Code which is based on the 2000 International Property Maintenance Code. The County's code is only applicable to residential structures. The 2018 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) applies to both residential and commercial structures and has been discussed at Council meetings over the last several months. Community

Input is encouraged and welcomed. Comments may be e-mailed to
Community_Input@riverdaleparkmd.gov.

- Trash Concerns App Streamlines Process: In partnership with Bates Trucking
  and Trash Services, the Town has launched a dedicated Trash Concerns app on
  our website! The Trash Concerns app can be used to order a new trash can,
  report missed recycling, and any other trash related concerns.
  http://www.riverdaleparkmd.info/ho…/trash_concerns/index.php.

- Social Media Outreach: The Leadership Team, along with key team members from the Office of
  Administrative Services, are reviewing the Social Media Outreach initiative to expand our reach
  in sharing information. The Town's website remains the primary source for
  electronic information. Facebook and secondary Twitter accounts will expand
  efforts to amplify our messaging. As we work to grow our social media
  reach, we have established a goal to have 1,500 Facebook followers by May
  31, 2020. If you haven't visited, liked, and followed our Facebook page,
  please do so. If you already have, encourage your neighbors, friends, and
  business associates to do the same. Link: https://www.facebook.com/RiverdaleParkMD/

  - The Town of Riverdale Park (TRP) is also active on the following social media
    platforms:
    - Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/riverdaleparkmd_gov/?hl=en
    - Twitter: https://twitter.com/Riverdale_Park_
    - Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeaNS8-6xwTyPJculj7vuCQ/videos?view_as=subscriber

Environment

- Yard Waste Mondays: Yard waste collection is every Monday. Yard waste should be at the
  curbside by 6:00 a.m. Residents are responsible for the following items:
  - Yard waste must be placed in paper bags or reusable bins that are clearly marked "Yard
    Waste"
  - Branches and limbs need to be bundled with rope or string (do not use wire),
    additionally all branches, limbs, and bundles must be:
    - less than 4 feet long,
    - individual branches less than 3 inches in diameter
    - weigh less than 60 pounds

- Recycling Collection – important note**:** The Recycling Collection Program is provided by Prince
  George's County. Items will not be collected if the items to be recycled are placed in any type
  of plastic bag. Town staff continue to receive reports that recycling items placed for pick-up are
  in plastic bags. Prince George's County requires that recycling be placed in a blue tote or in a
  reusable collection container that is 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.

<div align="center">**Development**</div>

- Purple Line Construction Notices: Purple Line construction continues. 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, find "Construction" and click on "Subscribe for Updates." The construction hotline is 240-424-5325.

- TRP-RPS - Riverdale Park Station News: For more information on store openings, events, and development news, check out the Riverdale Park Station transit and general websites and social media pages:
  - Transit Website: http://www.rpstransit.com/
  - General Website: http://www.riverdaleparkstation.com
  - Facebook: Riverdale Park Station https://www.facebook.com/TheStationRP/
  - Twitter: @RDPStation https://twitter.com/RDPStation
  - Instagram: rdpstation https://www.instagram.com/thestationrp/

- Development Activities from March 5, 2020 to March 18, 2020

Permits: Building / Storage Containers

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2020 Totals
Permit Inspections Conducted	5	48
Building Permits Issued	0	30
Stop Work Orders Issued	2	18

Permits Issued:

Permit #	Address	Work Description	Est. Investment
2020-B-31	4607 Tuckerman Street	Remodel Kitchen	$25,000
2020-B-32	6200 Baltimore Avenue Suite 100	Interior Alterations	$200,000
2020-B-33	6705 45th Street	Interior Alterations	$40,000
2020-B-34	6730 45th Street	Interior Alterations	$40,000
		Est. Investment Bi- Weekly Total:	$305,000
		Est. Investment FYTD 2020 Total:	$3,692,143

- Neighborhood Improvement Activities from March 5, 2020 to March 18, 2020

Community Standards Violations by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2020 Totals
Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish	10	98
Exterior Conditions	7	126
Interior Conditions	1	445
Overgrown Grass / Weeds	0	51
Safety	2	133
Sanitation	2	41
Total Violations Found:	**22**	**894**

Services Provided by Type:

Description	Bi-Weekly Totals	FYTD 2020 Totals
Complaint Responses Performed	8	197
Fines Issued	1	35
Outreach Events / Meetings Attended	4	44
Violation Notices Issued	9	119
Warnings Issued	6	151
Total Services Provided:	**28**	**546**

Note:

1. *"FYTD" means Fiscal Year to Date, starting from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.*

2. *"Accumulation of Garbage / Rubbish" includes violations pertaining to the storage of waste materials in interior or exterior property areas.*

3. *"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.*

4. *"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.*

5. *"Overgrown Weeds" include grass or weeds more than 10 inches in height.*

6. *"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.*

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

502 Calls for Police Service
03/05/2020 to 03/18/2020
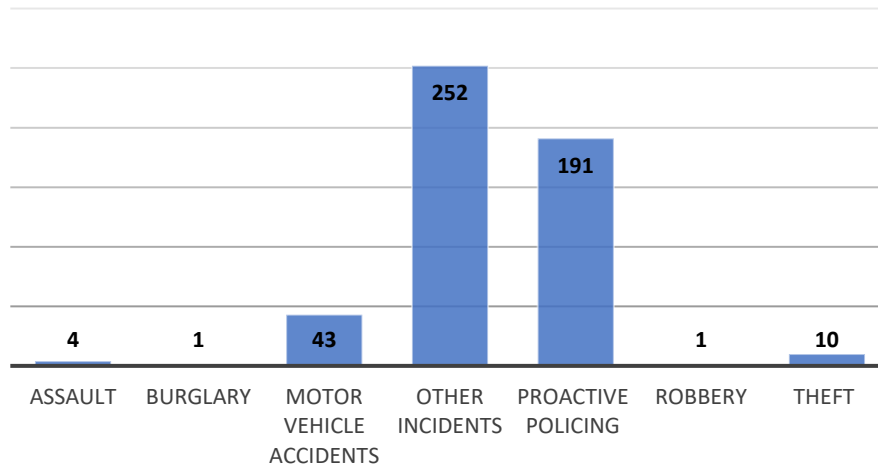
Calls for Service defined: A call for service is any activity performed by a sworn police officer in the performance of their assigned duties. Calls for service covers both proactive activities such as area checks and traffic enforcement, as well as a portion of field investigative reports, traffic accidents, 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, 191 or 38 percent 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 assisting individuals.

Highlighted reports:
- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 5400 block of Kenilworth Avenue. A records check revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant for failure to appear for driving on a suspended license. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

- Officers responded to the 6200 block of Baltimore Avenue for an attempt robbery. The investigation revealed the victim was walking when the suspect approached from behind and forcibly removed a cash deposit bag from the victim's shoulder. During the struggle the suspect dropped the bag and fled the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to a business in the 5500 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a trespassing complaint. Officers encountered an individual who had previously been banned from the property. The individual was placed under arrest for trespassing and disorderly conduct.

- Officers responded to the 5600 block of 54th Avenue for a theft in progress. A witness reported an individual breaking into a vehicle. Responding officers located and arrested the suspect inside the victim's vehicle. The suspect was charged with theft and destruction of property.

- Officers responded to a business 5300 block of Riverdale Road for a burglary. The victim reported unknown suspect broke into a maintenance shed and removed property. Through investigative means the suspect was identified and charged with 2nd degree burglary.

- Officers responded to the 4700 block of River Road for a theft. The investigation revealed unknown suspects entered a construction site and removed a large generator. The investigation is ongoing.

- Officers responded to a business in the 5800 block of Riverdale Road for a theft. An employee reported an individual entered the business and stole a bottle of liquor. Officers canvassed the area and located the suspect. The individual was issued a criminal citation for theft under $100 and no trespass order from the business.

- Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 6200 block of Baltimore Avenue. A records check revealed the driver to have an active arrest warrant for failure to appear for theft over $1000. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

- Officers responded to a business in the 5600 block of Kenilworth Avenue for a theft complaint. The investigation revealed the suspect entered the business, removed merchandise and fled the business without paying for the items. Through investigative means the suspect was identified and charged with theft.

- Officers conducted a suspicious person stop in the 6200 block of Kenilworth Avenue. A records check revealed the individual to have an active arrest warrant for trespassing. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to the Department of Corrections.

Respectfully submitted,

John N. Lestitian, Town Manager