

Code Compliance Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Committee Attendees:

- Gloria Felix-Thompson, Vice Chair
- Arinee Flurry, Member
- Laurence Wildgoose, Member

City Attendees:

- Rommel Sandino, City Council Member
- Jimmy McClellan, City Council Member
- Joe Brewer, Hyattsville Code Compliance Manager

Community Attendees:

- Cordell Eddings
- Mike Haw
- Jamie Bean
- Edward Bohls

Actions:

- The meeting commenced at 7:05pm EDT.
- The August minutes were approved (Arinee Flurry made a motion to approve the minutes; Laurence Wildgoose seconded the motion, and the motion was approved).
- The meeting concluded at 8:06pm EDT (Laurence Wildgoose made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Arinee Flurry seconded the motion, and the motion was approved).

Discussion:

- *Noise Issues*
 - City Council Member Sandino recently had a discussion regarding Noise Ordinance Chapter 79 of Hyattsville Code with community members and fellow council members.
 - During the last meeting, the Hyattsville Noise Ordinance Chapter 79 was also discussed.
 - Gloria Felix-Thompson subsequently shared a copy of the draft ordinance that was previously circulated (and drafted?) by the previous Hyattsville mayor, Candace Hollingsworth.
 - Gloria Felix-Thompson asked if committee members had any changes to the ordinance, as drafted; Arinee Flurry and Laurence Wildgoose offered no changes to the ordinance, as drafted, and requested additional time to review the material.
 - Committee members held a discussion about current level of noise complaints in Hyattsville.
 - Joe Brewer, Hyattsville Code Compliance Manager, explained the current procedure for noise violations which includes HCPD issuing a nuisance form for validated complaints and that currently the Code office has not received any of

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those notices recently and training new officers may be required to ensure consistency

- Gloria invited community attendees to participate in the conversation, if there were any issues to be raised regarding noise complaints or a potential desire to update the ordinance.
- Edward Bohls inquired how frequently the city reminds residents of the city's noise ordinance. Joe Brewer stated that there was "room for improvement."
- Edward Bohls asked if there was a log of noise complaints filed with the city and queried how city residents would request city records regarding noise complaint logs.
- Joe Brewer hinted that the records would likely be available via a Freedom of Information Act request.
- Edward Bohls suggested the idea of a noise nuisance database and pondered if it was a viable idea.
- Mike Haw suggested that it may be useful to invite a member of the Hyattsville Police Department to join a future Code Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. Committee members agreed that it was a good idea.
- Gloria Felix-Thompson asked if Joe Brewer would suggest a good police point of contact, and Joe Brewer recommended Lt. Frank DonBullian. Joe Brewer then committed to extending an invitation to the lieutenant to join the next committee meeting.
- Jamie Bean agreed with City Council Member McClellan that she would find ways to alleviate additional responsibilities going to police department.
- Cordell Eddings stated he benefited from hearing the committee's exchange about the ordinance.
- Gloria Felix-Thompson mentioned that the Hyattsville Environment Committee might have submitted for consideration to the City Council an ordinance that would prohibit gasoline-powered lawn mowers and/or possibly leaf blowers. Then, Gloria Felix-Thompson asked if committee members were interested in "weighing in" on the reported Hyattsville Environment Committee policy or should committee members allow the Hyattsville Environment Committee process to work itself out. Committee members decided to allow the Hyattsville Environment Committee to revise the policy as they saw fit.
- Gloria Felix-Thompson asked committee members to review the draft noise ordinance in advance of the next meeting.
- *Code Compliance Updates*
 - Joe Brewer did not have many updates regarding code compliance issues, however, he did note the following:
 - There was a recent eviction between a landlord and tenant.
 - The Valero gas station on Route 1 had been temporarily closed.
 - The city was in the middle of a busy business licensing season.

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- The city was having an issue with a vacant property on Ager Road. Joe Brewer, along with a city contractor, was on site earlier in the week to start a property extermination process.
- *New Business*
 - There was no new business discussed during the meeting.

Next Steps:

- The next committee meeting was proposed for October 20, 2021.