

Highlandtown Community Association meeting notes
September 18, 2023

Announcements:

Board elections are coming up!

The December HCA meeting will be a social gathering rather than a business meeting

Fundraiser for Robinson Street Fire: https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=ijkghUZWONklit0GH1C8f4wtYDjggIWOrMLYP0YG7XKKxCbFN_iV-VB9eJJtMFLcJn0VUF6tcStbR_A0

Contact Dr. Larry Nunley of DPW at (443) 615-2626, larry.nunley@baltimorecity.gov after you make a 311 request. Keep track of your 311 confirmation number!

DPW, other city agencies are hiring

Events:

Highlandtown Basement Bar Tour – November 11, 2023, 2-6 p.m.

- Interesting in hosting? Email HighlandtownBasementBarTour@gmail.com (you do not have to host in an actual basement!)
- Follow the event on Facebook – ticket sales will begin soon! <https://www.facebook.com/highlandtownbasementbartour>

Highlandtown Arts District is celebrating its 20th anniversary

- Great Halloween Lantern Parade - October 21
- Fiesta Baltimore: Oct. 7, 2023, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. <https://baltimore.org/event/fiesta-baltimore/>
- 5th Annual Parade of Latino Nations: Oct. 8, 2 p.m.
- Trick or Treat on Highlandtown Main Street – Oct. 31, 3—6 p.m.
- Small Business Saturday – Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Highlandtown Train Garden – Nov. 25—Jan. 1, 520 S. Conkling St.
- Highlandtown Holiday Celebration – Dec. 1 at 3601 Eastern Ave (Southeast Anchor Library)

Breath of God events:

- Blessing of the animals – Oct. 1, 1 p.m., just inside from the corner of Pratt & Ellwood
- Octoberfest fundraiser for Highlandtown preschool (featuring Sour Beef made from Haussner's recipe!)– Oct. 22 , 12:30- 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, free for young kids: https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=w_BIRuI4X7yVVybURIDVIQtXtrR339kK3R-c25vvYt5InsmqXDGS3e4Rj4h0IUshcM8XtDiEH-QH40S

Veterans Day Parade – Nov. 10 beginning at 12 p.m. at Washington Monument, Charles & Centre Streets. The Grand Marshal is Major General Janeen L. Birckhead, The Adjutant General, Maryland National Guard

Hot topic: Crime reporting

Police non-emergency reporting: 311

According to the Baltimore Police Department, citizens can self-report crimes under the following circumstances:

- The incident is not an emergency.
- There are no known suspects.
- There are no known witnesses.
- The crime is not in progress or has not occurred within the last 30 minutes.
- The incident occurred in Baltimore City.
- There is no evidence to collect. *
- The incident is not a hate / bias crime.
- The incident did not occur on a state freeway.
- The incident is domestic related. *
- There was no injury or threat of bodily harm

Methods of self-reporting crimes:

- Telephone Crime Reporting (TRU): 410-637-8849
- Online crime reporting: <https://www.baltimorepolice.org/file-police-report>

Presenter: Senator Bill Ferguson

Highlights from 2023 legislative session:

- Privacy and access around reproductive health. There will be a ballot measure in Nov. 2024 giving Marylanders the ability to enshrine right to reproductive care in the Maryland State Constitution
- Maryland Corps service year for young people

On the horizon:

- Study of red line project – anticipating reports by November
- Baltimore Regional Water Task Force – working on governance water around water & wastewater in the region to address challenges
- Thrive Academy – wraparound approach for 150 juveniles who are most likely to offend

Questions:

- Are there measures to improve food and healthcare affordability?
 - o Escalated minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour beginning January 1, 2024

- Expanded Earned Income Tax Credit
- Single-cost healthcare has decreased healthcare costs in hospitals

- Investing in public transit?
 - Revenue is declining for Transportation Trust Fund; the Trust Fund is multi-modal, and prioritization of expenditures is key. A new Commission will present report on investing in transportation in 2025.

- Red line – Who decides? What mode?
 - Agency decision; agencies apply to federal DOT

- Funding from marijuana and gambling?
 - More money than was expected is flowing in!
 - New licenses will be issued at the end of this year – will be test of equitable access to market
 - Sports betting has been fractional compared with state budget

- Teacher shortage/Blueprint?
 - More acute in some parts of the state; school system in Baltimore City is working to fill teacher positions