

**Hillcrest Community Civic Association**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**August 2, 2003**

Pastor Senger called the meeting to order at 10:02. After a reading on the subject of Trees, Chaplain Hawkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. July minutes, as amended, were approved on a voice vote. Dennis Logan's Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$953.72, was approved on a voice vote.

For the Recreation Committee, Paul Savage said that Neal Albert has committed to improving the fence at the Rec Center site. A representative of the Fundraising Committee said tickets for the September 13 Crab Feast would be \$40.00. Membership Chair Gloria Logan reported 396 households, with one new member.

Education Chair Carrie Thornhill said the HCCA Board was not inclined to sponsor an additional forum on the voucher question but would put the question to the membership at the next meeting, "informed" by the resolutions of the Ward 7 Democrats but developing HCCA's own position. She said the Board of Education's FY04 budget presents major challenges, and that there is a threat of a job action in October. In response to a comment by Mr. Savage about the difficulty of understanding where the system's money is going, she said that there is a "gulf" between city officials and the Board about the numbers, and they are now meeting to resolve it. She said the fundamental problem is that the budget is not built from the bottom-up. She urged more Hillcrest attendance at hearings and meetings.

With respect to the Skyland situation, Ms. Thornhill said that landmark designation is a "real threat" to total redevelopment, and urged residents to show up in force at the September 25<sup>th</sup> hearing.

Environment chair Phil Hammond urged members to use the pick-up sticks they've bought.

ANC7B Chair Kathy Chamberlain said there hasn't been much citizen participation in the Clancy's and Alabama Express license-renewal actions. If there are no citizen complaints about Clancy's by October, there will simply be a voluntary agreement regarding conditions surrounding the establishment.

Neighborhood Watch Chair Dennis Logan, noting that PSA 610 has the most stolen autos in the Sixth District, said flyers will be distributed to all of 610. He introduced Connie Simmons, who discussed Naylor Gardens' plans for Night Out Against Crime, with the theme of "Moving Crime Out of the City." Officer Walker gave the crime report, noting that a perpetrator caught in a recent burglary is a suspect in several others as well.

Mr. Logan then led off a Crime Forum by applauding Hillcrest's 175 Neighborhood Watch block captains and zone leaders. During the Forum:

- Inspector Joel Maupin discussed Internet crimes, con games, and crimes against the elderly;
- Secret Service Agent Kent Ingleheart discussed identity theft, which he called “easy money for crooks.” He said that DC leads the nation in reported cases, but that there is currently no local DC identity-theft statute.
- Det. Eric Wheeler of the MPD’s Computer Crime Forensic unit reported on spam and viruses, urging residents not to open emails from unknown senders;
- Det. Vincent Tucci of the Secret Service’s Financial Crimes unit discussed in detail several current confidence schemes, and urged residents to use common sense. (“If it sounds too good to be true – it is.”)
- Officer Eagle of the MPD’s Auto Theft unit said residents should put some kind of anti-theft device on their cars, and said brake clubs seem especially effective. He also said political leaders need to enact more severe penalties for youth who steal cars “for fun.” Because they are so quickly released, he said “we’ve caught some kids seven times.” (In response, Dennis Logan asked what recourse judges have, when the alternative facilities are dysfunctional too.)
- Lt. Gottlieb of PSA 607 urged prevention, including joining the “Watch Your Car” program.

In response to questions from members, the Forum panelists said that:

- High-speed chases do cause collateral damage, and that the real problem is judges releasing repeat offenders too quickly.
- Residents should keep trying if there is not an immediate 911 response; calling the district station will confuse dispatchers.
- Residents should get some kind of “firewall” software to keep computer viruses at bay.

The Forum was concluded with applause for the agents and officers who participated. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm, with 60 Members and guests present.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nelson Smith  
Recording Secretary*