



Reston CONNECTION

Reston District Station Commander Capt. Ronald Manzo addressed the Reston Association Board and members during the meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28, about crime activity. Though traffic is typically the No. 1 concern for the station, he reported an increase in thefts of property from parked cars in the area as well as gunshot complaints.

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ork, Play and involved.”

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PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 4-10, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

The Last DACA Clinic

Applications for renewals must be filed by Oct. 5.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

A sign outside Annandale United Methodist Church on Saturday, Sept. 23 read, "Welcome - Just Neighbors DACA Clinic." What the sign didn't say is that this would be the final DACA Clinic.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Donald Trump's Executive Order on Sept. 5 repealing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Current DACA recipients with a work permit due to expire before March 5 can apply for a two-year renewal but no new first-time DACA applications can be filed.

DACA is a program that allows individuals meeting certain requirements, who either entered the country illegally as children or remained, to receive a renewable two-year deferred action from deportation and be eligible for a work permit. However, a DACA permit is only a temporary protection and not a path to legal citizenship.

Erin McKenney, director of Just Neighbors Ministry, says 12 people were preregistered for Saturday's clinic with some walk-ins. Immigration attorneys would review the required paperwork to minimize errors and the possibility of missing the deadline. McKinney observes there haven't been a lot of people at the clinics recently. She speculates that maybe they are filling out the paperwork themselves. "I hope so." She says when they had "know your rights" clinics early this year, a lot of the people who first came out for the clinics were later afraid they would be identified and people stopped coming. They were worried that their families were unprotected.

McKinney added, "In general the immigrants feel let down by the repeal. They feel they are as American as anyone and have never known any other country."

Tori Andrea-Babington, an immigration lawyer with Just Neighbors and director of Legal Services for Northern Virginia Family Services, says about half of the applications are being processed by the United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS) "super fast and about half are taking about six months. I think there has been a serious effort to turn them around quickly."

The immigration lawyers stood outside a room of eight tables where applicants worked through a pile of papers. The lawyers will review the paperwork before it is sent to USCIS.

McKinney calls the lawyers her "bullpen." She said, "They are the saviors," and added, "we don't send anything forward that we think won't be approved. That just puts the applicant in jeopardy."

McKinney estimates there have been about 2,000 people with DACA permits in Northern Virginia since President Obama established the program by Executive Order on June 15, 2012. The Executive Order was issued after several failed attempts by Congress to pass permanent immigration



Tori Andrea-Babington, an immigration lawyer with Just Neighbors, says USCIS is processing about half of the DACA applications "super fast" and half are taking about six months.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Erin McKenney, executive director of Just Neighbors, says, since 2012, there have been around 2,000 people with DACA status in Northern Virginia. Over 50 percent of their clients are from Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Loudoun, Alexandria and Prince William.



A DACA applicant begins the process of a two-year renewal of her DACA status on Saturday, Sept. 23. Applications for renewals must be filed by Oct. 5 to be considered.

legislation referred to as the DREAM Act bill. There were an estimated 800,000 individuals enrolled in the DACA program nation-wide as of September 2017.

A MOTHER SITS along the wall of the reception area with her 10-year old and 4-year-old daughters who translate for her. The mother is illegal, having come to the United States in 2005. Her two youngest daughters were born in the U.S. and therefore are U.S. citizens. They are waiting for the 17-year-old daughter to finish her DACA renewal application. The oldest daughter joins them in the lobby and said, "I'm kind of upset. I don't remember much about El Salvador, and my friends whose work permits expire after March 5 won't be able to get a renewal." They will be eligible for deportation.

To be eligible for DACA, a recipient must have come to the U.S. before their 16th birthday and prior to June 2007 and have been living continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007. They must have been under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012 and with no lawful status at that time. They must have completed high school or a GED, have been honorably discharged from the armed forces or be enrolled in school. They cannot have been convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor.

Just Neighbors Ministry Inc. is a non-profit organization providing legal services to low-income immigrants in Northern Virginia, focusing on humanitarian cases. Fifty-eight percent of their clients live in Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Alexandria, Prince William and Loudoun. Eighteen percent of their cases are for DACA. They have moved to a new location at 7630 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

This is the first part of a series focusing on DACA.



Just Neighbors Ministry held its last DACA Clinic at the Annandale United Methodist Church on Sept. 23. DACA was repealed on Sept. 5.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Flavors of Fall. noon-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. By the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, autumn brews, food from area restaurants and live entertainment. Free admission; purchase tickets for food and beverages. Visit restonflavors.com.

Mucca Pazza in Concert. 3 p.m. at CenterStage. Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Mucca Pazza has appeared on Late Night with Conan O'Brien and NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. \$20 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. Call 877-775-3462.

Meet the Author. 6-8 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center 11862 Market St. Tell Tale Tarte discussion and signing with mystery author Maya Corrigan. Email info@scrawlbooks.com, call 703-966-2111, or visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

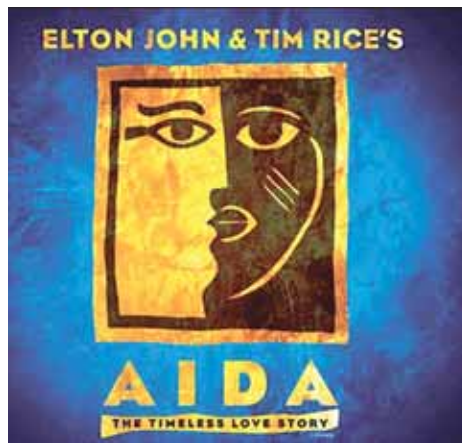
SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Reston Pumpkin 5K. 8:15 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Halloween costumes welcome. Visit restonflavors.com/reston-pumpkin-5k.

Meet the Artists Reception. 2-4 p.m. at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. "Stolen Moments" exhibit by the League of Reston Artists' runs from Oct. 2-30. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 9

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Every Monday in October



'Aida'

From Oct. 21-Nov. 11, it's "Aida" at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods Village Center at 2310 Colts Neck Road. Reston Players presents "Aida" with music by pop legend Sir Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. Visit restonplayers.org.

free fitness classes in the Pavilion presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Visit crunchreston.com or call 571-267-5000.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Finances Lecture. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Rock Your Runway: Financial Fitness For Women. Financial advisor, Monica Mason, will present this program for women on how to get and stay financially fit. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Cabaret Performance. 1 p.m. at The Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St # 1, Part of the week-long Herndon Arts Week, Oct. 9-15. Visit www.herndon-va.gov or call 703-464-6200.

Adult Coloring Session. 7 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "Color Me

Happy," release the inner artist. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

Light the Night Walk. 5 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer. Visit lightthenight.org/nca or call 703-399-2941.

DEADLINE OCT. 13

Herndon Good Neighbor. Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2017 award for a neighbor that's gone above and beyond. Call 703/435-6800 X2084 or e-mail information@herndon-va.gov.

Meet the Author. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Author and poet Mike Maggio discusses art and poetry. Part of the week-long Herndon Arts Week, Oct. 9-15. Visit www.herndon-va.gov or call 703-464-6200.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

16th Annual Reston Home Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Featuring six private homes in throughout Reston. Tickets: before Oct. 7, \$25; Oct. 7-14 and online \$30. Group discounts. Tickets available at Reston Museum, Appalachian Spring. GRACE, Chesapeake Chocolates and The Wine Cabinet at North Point. Call 703-709-7700 or visit restonmuseum.org.

Runway to the Cure. 11 a.m.-noon at Reston Town Center, Pavilion. See designer fashions on the runway presented by Scout & Molly's Boutique and more Reston Town Center retailers. DJ music and emcee. 100 percent of proceeds received will benefit Susan G. Komen Foundation. \$25/ticket. Call 571-526-4185 or visit restontowncenter.scoutandmollys.com.

Magnificent Monarchs. 1 p.m. at National Wildlife Federation Building, 11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston. Lecture by Georgina Chin, an elementary school teacher with a passion for monarchs and an instructor with Monarch Teacher Network. \$18 members/\$22 non-members. Visit www.nwf.org/.

Meet the Author. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local author and paranormal investigator Rob Gutro will present his "Double Murder Ghost Investigation" and talk about his book, "Lessons Learned From the Dead." Adults, teens. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Concert. 4-6 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Crys Matthews in Concert. Part of the week-long Herndon Arts Week, Oct. 9-15. Visit www.herndon-va.gov or call 703-464-6200.

Artschool Lecture. 5:30-7 p.m. at

Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. "So You Want to Go to Art School?" Free. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

Artists Awards Reception. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. 9th Annual Expressions Portrait Competition & Exhibit Reception. Part of the week-long Herndon Arts Week, Oct. 9-15. Visit www.herndon-va.gov or call 703-464-6200.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Meet the Author. 4-6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center 11862 Market St. Discuss the Should Syndrome with self-help Karen B. See. Email info@scrawlbooks.com, call 703-966-2111, or visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 16

Muscle Up Mondays. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Every Monday in October free fitness classes in the Pavilion presented by CRUNCH Fitness-Reston group instructors. Visit crunchreston.com or call 571-267-5000.

Jewelry Making Workshop. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Tania Ebrahimi will teach the basics of jewelry-making and participants will create an original piece in this hands-on workshop. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Photography Exhibit. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts of all skill levels to attend meetings on the third Monday of the month. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

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NEWS

Zoning Amendment Under Scrutiny

FROM PAGE 3

The Lake House is also used for camp programming during school breaks in the winter and summer. If these were to be continued with the corporate rentals, the association is projected to yield a net profit of \$119,368, according to Ganesan.

After discussion and testimony from one parent whose child participates in the after-school program during a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 28, the board voted to continue using the space for camps but to end its after-school programming in 2018 in favor of having more time to offer the space for corporate rentals.

Member Feedback

The RA Board adopts a biennial budget to direct the organization's spending every two years. The first public hearing on the proposed 2018-2019 budget will be on Oct. 26 during a regular board meeting. A second hearing is scheduled on Oct. 30 during a special meeting of the board. The board will vote on the budget and assessment rate on Nov. 16 during a regular board meeting.

Members can also provide feedback by email to RABudget@reston.org, or by mail to Reston Association, ATTN: RA Budget Suggestions, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Members are encouraged to describe their ideas in detail.

Board Seat Filled

During the Sept. 28 meeting, the board also voted to appoint John Bowman to fill the at-large seat that was vacated by Ray Wedell on Sept. 1. Bowman will finish Wedell's term, which expires in April 2018.

The board decided between four candidates who applied for the position when the RA issued a call for candidates on Sept. 7: Bowman, who ran for positions on the RA Board in 2008 and 2015; Ven Iyer, who ran for an open at-large seat during the 2017 spring election that was won by Eric Carr and was also considered for Eve Thompson's at-large seat

when she resigned in June but was passed over for Sridhar Ganesan; Moira Callaghan, vice president of the Reston Citizens Association; and John Pinkman, co-founder of Rescue Reston and a member of its board of directors.

Bowman is currently chair of the RA Multimodal Transportation Advisory Committee was a past member and vice chair of the RA Transportation Advisory Committee. Bowman was a past member of the Reston Citizens Association Board of Directors; founding member of the Reston 20/20 Committee; alternate representative to the Fairfax County Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force; and principal and founding member of the Reston South Park and Ride Neighbors.

**Unified in Opposing
PRC Zoning Amendment**

While the board will wait to take a formal position on the county's proposal to increase the density of Reston, board members were unanimous in their opposition to the amendment.

The proposed amendment would alter the zoning regulations by changing the density cap in Reston for areas that are zoned Planned Residential Community (PRC) District. The current cap for these areas, which the majority of Reston is zoned, is set to an average of 13 people per acre. The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning is recommending raising the cap to an average of 16 people per acre.

The amendment would also increase the maximum number of dwelling units per acre for PRC zoned land. The maximum number is currently 50 dwelling units per acre.

Each director who was present made statements at the end of the public portion of the Sept. 28 meeting before going into executive session. The board members either fully supported holding the density cap at 13 or expressed significant hesitation in increasing the density without first expanding infrastructure before the amendment is approved.

Carr

FROM PAGE 4

did the math, taking into account all of these amenities and features, they came up with 13 people per acre. We're approaching that number, and looking around our town, I'd say they were right on target. Reston is built out and complete, just as it was planned to be from the start. But now, of course, it's more than full because that plan did not envision the explosive growth along the Toll Road, a fact that only heightens the need for more infrastructure, schools and recreational facilities.

Reston is a marvel of community planning, and 13 people per acre is a core element of that marvel. Raising that number in isolation — that is, without adding parks, schools and roads — wrecks the model, plain and simple.

Finally, a cautionary note. Keeping the density at

13 helps to save us from golf course redevelopment. At 16, however, both courses can be turned into residential areas at the expense of open, green space. Now, the county promises us it won't ever let that happen. But once upon a time, the county promised us that 13 was the right number.

The county also says that if we raise this density limit, it will address infrastructure. Just like the Soapstone Connector they promised to build by 2014. Any changes to the density limit MUST be accompanied by changes in infrastructure. We need to see this happen together.

The county needs to earn our trust through actions, not words. If they are serious about addressing infrastructure needs, I need to see that happen first. Then we can talk about the density limit.

Until that time, we need to stand vigilant, and stand together. We need to hold the line at 13.

Eric Carr is an At-Large Director of the Reston Association Board of Directors.

Plum

FROM PAGE 4

issues once the trigger has been pulled.

From 1999 through 2014, the age-adjusted suicide rate in the United States increased 24 percent, from 10.5 to 13.0 per 100,000 population, with the

pace of increase greater after 2006.

Everytown for Gun Safety reports its research shows that on an average day 93 Americans are killed with guns with seven of those being children. How much more uncomfortable do we need to become before the public insists that commonsense gun safety laws are passed?

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org.

In-person forums:

- ♦ **Wednesday, Oct. 25** at 7:30 p.m. at Sully Government Center: 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

OCT. 2-6

Fall Clean-up. The Town of Herndon's fall clean-up provides an opportunity for residents to place large or bulky items curbside for pick-up on their scheduled trash collection day. Items can include:

- ♦ Appliances (remove doors before placing outside)
- ♦ Furniture
- ♦ Vehicle parts and plumbing fixtures (all under 50 lbs.)
- ♦ Tires (maximum 2 per household)
- ♦ Limited amount of building materials (approximately one cubic yard, lengths not to exceed 4 feet)

Loose yard waste, auto parts in excess of 50 lbs., large quantities of building materials, household hazardous, and electronics (e-waste) to include computers, televisions, monitors, printers, stereos, etc. will not be picked up.

Items should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on trash day only, but no earlier than 24 hours prior to pick-up.

Residents may contact the Department of Public Works at 703-435-6853, email public.works@herndon-va.gov, or visit www.Herndon-va.gov/FallCleanUp.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Metro – Fund It/Fix It. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNC) and the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG) will hold a free forum for the public to learn about funding and fixing our Washington D.C. area Metro system. Event is free. Lunch will be available for purchase (\$10), but a request for lunch must be made at the time of registration. Register at www.eventbrite.com and search "Metro fund it."

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Finances Lecture. 2 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Financial advisor, Monica Mason, will present "Rock Your Runway: Financial Fitness For Women" for women on how to get and stay financially fit. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Community Meeting. 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Lake Anne Elementary School, 11510 North Shore Drive, Reston. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meeting on the North Shore Drive sidewalk project. Area residents and other interested parties will learn about the project and will be able to ask questions and provide feedback. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian/northshoredrive.htm.

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

ABCs of Lyme Disease. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School (Little Theater), 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Lyme Disease is escalating and the impact on our students is enormous. Learn how to prevent it and how it is diagnosed. Panelists include Lyme medical, county and school specialists. Free. Contact Rick Smith at Daddy.Rick@gmail.com or 703-798-9931.

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A Question Which Begs What Answer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Twice recently, in print, I have been asked the same question. Once on an evaluation of a previous doctor appointment, and within the last week, on a pre-registration form for an oral surgeon.

The question: "How is your health?" "Excellent." "Good." "Fair." "Poor." The two times I saw this question, I snickered. I mean, I have cancer: Stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer in fact, the terminal kind.

And even though I've lived way beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, (eight and a half years and counting, always counting), I'm still undergoing treatment. I see my oncologist every three months. I'm not in remission. My tumors, so far as I've been told, are not necrotic (dead). I'm still scheduling CT Scans, brain MRIs and PET Scans quarterly, semi-annually and yearly, respectively. And while amazingly thrilled to be still alive, my fate turns on the results of any one of these diagnostic scans so I wonder aloud: how is my health?

In the two most recent opportunities (I've had others) to answer this question, I have erred on the side of reality (my reality) and answered "Poor." Whether I'm up and about or down and out, cancer is sort of the definition of 'poor,' isn't it? Let's be honest: who wants to receive a diagnosis of cancer, regardless of type and/or stage. Moreover, it's hardly the gift that keeps on giving. Quite the opposite. It's like the houseguest who never leaves. It's always there and the more it's around, the worse it's likely to get.

As much as one tries, a cancer diagnosis is hard to forget. Whether you're still undergoing treatment as I am, or have been told you're cancer-free/in remission/N.E.D. (no evidence of disease), the prospect of a life unaltered by the experience is unrealistic, especially so when questions are asked pertaining to your health. It's not as if you become stigmatized by your cancer diagnosis and/or medical history, but you do become a lifetime member of a club you'd rather not have joined (the more serious and exact opposite of a feeling expressed by Groucho Marx when he so famously joked that he wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a member). If only it were that simple – and funny.

A straight forward question about one's health which requires a thoughtful and honest answer. Yet, an answer which somehow must, in my opinion, educate the asker. I'm not a normal respondent (no comments from the peanut gallery). I'm a cancer patient/survivor. Presumably, my immune system is somewhat compromised. What's good for the goose is probably not good for the gander. My life expectancy is all fouled up. Cancer is likely in control.

As much as I want to delude myself otherwise, the writing, if not necessarily on the walls, is certainly in multiple books and journals. And not that there aren't exceptions to every rule (my survival is proof of that), generally speaking, a cancer diagnosis "spells trouble with a capital 'T,'" if I may invoke the late actor, Robert Preston, from his career-defining role as Harold Hill in the 1962 movie, "The Music Man." Still, life is going on, and not too badly, I may add. But on any given day ...

I suppose the solution then is an asterisk. But how does one add an asterisk to a standardized form. And given the evolving nature of our almost-entirely inhumane (non-human) electronic contact, where does one go/what does one say, to separate and be heard. I want to be treated equally, but as a cancer patient, I'm not. I'm different. If there's a box for that, I'll gladly check it. I want the best outcome, naturally. But not giving me the opportunity to properly define myself/my circumstances doesn't help either one of us. And does even less for the next respondent.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

Challenges Remain for Police Reform

Including communications and body cameras.

BY PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

October 8 will be the second anniversary of the 2015 release of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report. The catalyst for the Ad Hoc Commission's formation by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was the August 2013 shooting death of John Geer. The commission was charged with assessing the Police Department's performance against national best practices.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The commission made more than 200 recommendations for transforming an excellent Police Department into one that is "best in class" and for strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the department.

I served as commission member and as the chairman of Use of Force Subcommittee. I am also a member of a loosely configured Implementation Committee, a group of former commission members dedicated to helping to see that our recommendations are effectively implemented.

I commend both the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Police Department for their progress implementing the commission's recommendations. Significant reforms are underway that when fully realized will generate increased accountability and public confidence. Major reforms already in place include:

- ❖ forming the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to determine the thoroughness, completeness, accuracy, objectivity and impartiality of investigations of death or serious injury cases.
- ❖ convening a Civilian Review Panel to review civilian complaints regarding "abuse of authority" or "serious misconduct" by a police officer;
- ❖ creating "Diversion First," which offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities; and
- ❖ recrafting the Use of Force General Order to enshrine sanctity of human life as an organizing principle, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force.

WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN accomplished, more is work is needed. For example, the commission advocated in strong terms for information-sharing reform to promote timeliness, completeness and transparency. In this regard, a revised Police Department Communication Policy is still in process.



The commission also called for all officers to be outfitted with body worn cameras, contingent on the enactment of laws, policies and procedures that protect individual privacy. These cameras are to complement the dashboard cam-

eras now mounted in each Fairfax patrol vehicle.

While a potential aid to criminal prosecution, the body-worn camera's equally important contribution is to foster greater transparency and the accountability of all parties during the interactions of the police with the public. As the American Civil Liberties Union noted in an October 2014 report, body-worn cameras "[have] the potential to be a win-win, helping protect the public against police misconduct, and at the same time helping protect police against false accusations of abuse."

While the county leadership has committed to deploying this technology, its approach has been appropriately methodical. Key considerations are operational, privacy, data security and cost. For example, the supervisors have approved a pilot project that will deploy cameras in two of the county's nine magisterial districts and the department is currently evaluating proposals from prospective suppliers.

THIS PILOT PROJECT needs to generate answers to following questions, among others: the county needs to establish when cameras will be running and how will the public know the cameras are on? When can biometric technology – such as facial recognition – be used? How will the video footage be secured from hackers? Who will have access to the data and under what procedures?

How will the massive amount of video data be stored and for how long? As the county understands and appreciates, the cost of deploying body-worn cameras is not in the cameras themselves, but the storage of the massive amount of data that is generated. As reported by the Center for Digital Government and Government Technology magazine, "When it comes to [body-worn cameras], data storage is the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Video ... is a data hog."

This reality generates cost-driven data-retention policy considerations. How long should non-evidentiary video be maintained? Some police departments say it should be 60-90 days,

others say less or more. With regard to evidentiary data used in criminal prosecutions, the Virginia Commonwealth requires that evidence be stored for 99 years.

Finally, who controls access to the data? This question is becoming an increasingly significant issue nationally. Protecting evidence chain-of-custody for purposes of criminal prosecution is a necessary but not sufficient role to warrant the cost and the data protection risks inherent in the deployment of body-worn cameras. The real return-on-investment is the potential for influencing the behavior, through greater transparency and accountability, of all parties in a law-enforcement engagement.

The drive to use this technology is inexcusable. A recent CATO Institute/YouGov poll found that 92 percent of the public supports the use of body-worn cameras. Implicit in this level of support are high public expectations that this technology will make a difference in law enforcement practices. Heightened expectations alone should give our policymakers pause, particularly when we know that no technology deployment is free of all mistakes and errors. The only thing worse in today's context than not collecting the data during a controversial use-of-force incident, is for the public to learn that video data under the Police Department's control is missing.

We should therefore challenge the assumption that video-camera data must be maintained under the sole access control of the Police Department. Options that should be given explicit consideration by the Board of Supervisors, Police Department and Commonwealth's Attorney include assigning video data access control to the Independent Police Auditor or alternatively assigning this role to a board composed of the Police Chief, Independent Auditor and Commonwealth's Attorney.

On this second anniversary of the Ad Hoc Policy Review Commission Report, the county and Police Department have many accomplishments to be proud of with regard to implementing the commission's recommendations.

Quality-driven change is hard; some changes are especially difficult. Body-worn camera deployment is one that requires careful study and diligent attention to complex legal and operational details. I commend the county for taking the appropriate measured response to meeting this recommendation and, especially with regard the matter of access to video data, challenge the conventional wisdom that access control to such data must be under the sole purview of the Police Department.

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner is a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia Holds Workshops

On Friday, Sept. 22, the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWVVA) held Workshops in Fredericksburg, Va. attended by new and long-time members from among the 14 local

leagues in the state. The Workshops' objective was to help these members discover ways to engage with the League and to enhance League impacts in communities. Among the subjects covered were voter engagement through

VOTE411.org and election-related activities, the LWVVA's engagement with state legislators through the weekly Women's Legislative Round Tables during the Virginia General Assembly, and engaging with local governing bodies

through Observer Corps. LWVVA, a non-partisan political organization, encourages participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Visit www.lwv-va.org.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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