

**ST. BERNARD CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007**

The regular meeting of the St. Bernard City Council was held Thursday, September 20, 2007 in Council Chambers.

President of Council, Mr. Curtis Walden – The meeting was opened with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call showed that all members were present: Ms. Hausfeld, Mr. Asbach, Mr. Schildmeyer, Mr. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brickweg, Mr. Meier and Mr. Zix.

Mr. Burkhardt made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Mr. Asbach seconded the motion. Council agreed 7-0.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

MAYOR, Mr. Estep – Before we begin, I would like to have a moment of silence for the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Finkes who died suddenly this week.

We sent out a letter to the residents who live on Baker St. Park regarding the rims and the situation at the park down there and we received a lot of feedback. Right now its about 50% to take them down and 50% to leave them up and we're working on trying to take a little bit different slant on that situation. The police will continue to patrols. We're going to try and get the pavilion open beginning next week from maybe 3:15 till a little after 7:00 and we'll see how that goes, if that's workable and we'll have the Service Dept,. lock that up and the police will be more visible down there and it should lessen some of the crowds up there at Baker St. We sent out a Call Command earlier for Water Aerobics that begins Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, two sessions, 7:30 to 8:15 and 8;15 to 9:00. Thirty five dollars for residents, 40 dollars for non-residents.

I had a meeting yesterday with Chief Moeller and Mr. Geiser and Mr. Walt Moeller. We met with a property owner to discuss ways to upgrade his property and to improve the clientele, some of the people that rent from him and other owners discussed low interest loans and other ways we can improve that situation.

AUDITOR, Mr. St. Clair – The reports for the City's investments and bank accounts have been distributed to Council and members of the Administration. On the bank account listing, the swimming pool account book balance shows as unverified. That account has now been verified. Before Council tonight is Ordinance No. 38, 2007. As discussed at the COW, this Ordinance provides for the establishment of a new line item in the Master Plan – Capital Improvement Fund entitled "Advance Ave./Errun Lane improvement project" AND MAKES AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION TO THAT TLINE ITEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,673.80. This amount was received from the City of Cincinnati and deposited in the Mater Plan-Capital Improvement Cash Account for the Water Works portion of the work on the Advance Ave./Errun Lane project.

DIRECTOR OF LAW, Mr. Geiser – Before Council tonight is Resolution No. 7, as was discussed at the COW. This is, our City Council urging the

State Legislature and the Governor not to pass House Bill 154 which would eliminate our Mayor's court. I'll have a few more things to explain about that issue when it comes up before Council if I may. To follow up also to a couple of actions at COW. I contacted Meiners' as was requested about their intentions of fixing the walls and replacing and doing some kind of maintenance up there, after discussions with them I told them that Council and the Administration would really like to see what the plans are and in fact I told them to contact Gerry Wiedman and to follow up so we know exactly what they are going to do up there.

Also with regards to the parking lot down at the shopping center and the request by the Post Office to have an agreement that they can use so many spaces. I contacted Jeff Harris and talked to him about that possibility and as can be expected as I indicated at the COW his first issue is going to be, he wants that new contract. He wants to extend the current lease to 2051 and I don't think he's going to budge on that. I talked to Mike Schildmeyer about that, put it back to his committee, and appreciate that Walt went down and counted the number of spaces and it is 235 exactly what is in our contract so, I don't know what we can or cannot do down there right now because it doesn't seem like we're going to get any way of changing that. We'll have to look at other options.

Also as a result of COW, there was some discussions about the sexual offenders within 1000ft. of school, and I brought up the fact that I was receiving some information from the Police Chief and we had been looking at some other options at what we can and can't do, so I went ahead and gave you a copy and I presented each member of Council a copy of that, what I put in front of you is a copy of Cincinnati's Code for notification of persons who have been paroled for violent crimes. They are in the process of changing this. This is just their current, but I just got a note that they are going to change that. That is the first two pages. You'll see the third pages and on, you'll see some laws that are our laws, that I talked to the Chief about these, we saw these and they were passed in 1995 about notification of individuals somewhat similar to what the City of Cincinnati does and I asked Steve if we ever enforced this and to the best of his knowledge, we never have. So I would just like to let Council take a look at those, obviously the biggest issue with our laws is that we haven't enforced it that I know of, but if we were to, would we get sued? I'm researching that to try to find out and Steve's been helping with getting this information.

TREASURER, Mr. Kathman – No report.

SAFETY DIRECTOR, Mr. Stuchell – As I reported during my first Safety Director's report for the month, this is national preparedness month. This last week while we were off was national preparedness month ready business, that was their focus. The Ohio Dept. of Public Safety is focusing on businesses being prepared and every business should have an emergency plan. A commitment to planning in advance will help support employees, customers, the community and the economy. Small businesses account for more than 99 percent of all companies with employees employ 50 percent of all private sector workers and provide nearly 45 percent of the nation's payroll.

Tips for preparing your business for an emergency;

- Be informed- perform a risk assessment; review how your company functions for continuity planning.

- Communicate with employees about emergency planning and make sure they know the company response plan; encourage employees to have emergency kits on-hand.
- Plan for “sheltering-in-place” or evacuating. Make sure fire safety is part of the plan.
- Coordinate with other businesses in the same building, complex or area.
- Review plans annually.

Currently this week during national preparedness month focuses on multi-cultural preparedness. It is critical for multi-cultural communities to be aware of the sources available to them and know how they can work with local governments to plan an appropriate response in the community. To help bridge this gap, the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety and its partners are focusing on their efforts on establishing relationships with these diverse communities to not only provide information but to also learn how to best incorporate them into the local disaster response and recovery plan.

ODPS and its partners are asking multicultural communities to take three simple steps toward preparedness:

- Get a Kit- when preparing for a possible emergency situation, it’s best to think first about the basics of survival; fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.
- Make a family plan- your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.
- Stay informed about the various types of emergencies that could occur and the appropriate responses.

For information on anything in the areas of subject matter for the national preparedness month you can go to [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov). for more information.

SERVICE DIRECTOR, Mr. Kempe – No report.

TAX COMMISSIONER, Mrs. Williams – No report.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

FINANCE, Mr. Zix – The Finance Committee recommends passage of Ordinance No. 38, 2007.

SAFETY, Mr. Burkhardt – No report.

SERVICE, Mr. Meier – Last week at COW we discussed St. Bernard joining the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. For residents who would like to get more information about the Chamber and what it does, you can go to [www.cincinnati-chamber.com](http://www.cincinnati-chamber.com). Also, I brought the application and the information that we need to have filled out in order for the City to join, but also if you want to see what opportunities we have for meetings they are in the Enquirer in the Business section under the “business agenda” which is the list of meetings and seminars that are available. That’s where they publish what is coming up and in this morning’s paper, what they have on Friday is a seminar at lunchtime and there’s no cost to it and the discussion for this week is, building a better community, building trades and

construction trades and employment opportunities. That's just one of the different things that they have. Usually they have things promoting businesses, areas, a lot of networking opportunities and I think that by taking the step of the City joining it will help us in promoting the City which is one of the things we really need to do. Again, if anyone is interested in taking a look at it and getting some more information, its [www.cincinnati-chamber.com](http://www.cincinnati-chamber.com).

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, Mr. Asbach – I would like to ask the Committee, we received a packet from Mr. Miller in regards to the Bertus St. Park improvements, if everyone could review that and we will discuss it next week in COW, the possibility of putting a meeting together to discuss it further.

LAWS, CONTRACTS & CLAIMS, Ms. Hausfeld – No report.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, Mr. Schildmeyer – I want to report that we did finalize the last mail out for the Dr. Romanos' disc. I'm going to request from Mr. Weidman's office maybe five to ten more to have on hand in case people call and ask or call in and request a disc and also I'd like to encourage businesses that did not receive a disc because we didn't get to everybody on the mail outs or the drop offs, to please call and contact me through the main office here at City Hall and I'll be happy to get a disc to them. We haven't heard too much reply on anyone who received the disc already but we hope it will peak some interest as the fall season starts upon us.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION, Mrs. Brickweg – No report. I would like to thank the many people that sent me cards and planters and emails, I was pretty floored at the amount of things I got and I would just like to tell everybody "Thank You" and I'm still not sure whether I'm going to get out door to door, I'm beginning to walk now but I just wanted to thank everybody for being so nice.

Mr. Burkhardt – The COW report has been submitted to the Clerk.

**Committee of the Whole  
September 13, 2007**

1. Council approved the minutes of the Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, 6-0.
2. Council discussed extra parking for the Post Office, which is expanding their work force. Mr. Geiser will look into the deal with the shopping center and get back to Council.
3. Council discussed the walls at the parking at Meiner's Café. Mr. Geiser will look into whether they can come down or have to be repaired.
4. Council discussed joining the Regional Chamber of Commerce. This will be discussed further at the next COW meeting.
5. Mayor, John Estep, absent.

6. Auditor, Walter St. Clair
  - A. Council voted 7-0 to put an ord. on the table for an additional appropriation and to create a new line item for the Advance and Errun Lane project.
  
7. Director of Law, Edward Geiser
  - A. Ed informed Council of the need to contract with a tax attorney to represent the City in a case concerning a tax appeal. Council agreed. Also Ed is still looking into the legality of Employees running for public office.
  
8. Safety Director, Jonathan Stuchell
  - A. The Safety Director discussed speed bumps and the City of Cincinnati Street Calming Plan. Jonathan will report back to Council with more information at the next COW meeting.
  
9. Service Director, Joe Kempe, absent (Mr. Weidman reporting)
  - A. Council was brought up to date on the problems on Errun Lane where there was a problem with the existing ground under the street.
  
10. Tax Commissioner, Sheri Williams, no report.
  
11. Laws, Contracts & Claims, Patty Hausfeld, no report.
  
12. Public Improvements, Steve Asbach, no report.
  
13. Business & Industry, Mike Schildmeyer
  - A. Mike reported his committee will be mailing out the remaining CDs of Dr. Ramonos' report to the businesses in St. Bernard.
  
14. Safety, Bill Burkhardt, no report.
  
15. Highways & Transportation, Peggy Brickweg
  - A. Peggy discussed the possibility of making our sexual predator ord. more restrictive. Ed will look into this, but other cities have had problems in court trying to do this.
  
16. Service, Kevin Meier, no report.
  
17. Finance, Greg Zix
  - A. Greg asked about the KFC property and the problems at the Baker Ave. Play Park, also the status of the economic developer and the CIC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Burkhardt  
President of Council, Pro-Tem

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

4411 Tower Avenue  
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217

St. Bernard City Administration  
110 Washington Avenue

St. Bernard, Ohio 45217  
August 3, 2007

Dear Mayor Estep

On behalf of the St. Bernard Stingrays Swim Team, we would like to thank Dave Fossalussa, the Service Dept., Nancy Franz, Chris Newton and the pool staff for all their help in making our swim season a big success. We held 5 home swim meets this year. All of our meets ran smoothly through the assistance of the aforementioned people.

At championships this year we earned third place in the small teams division (only 59 points from first place). Our coaches, Ron and Iris Miller did an excellent job getting our swimmers prepared for the season.

With the beautiful pool we have, the helpful staff, great coaches and lots of parent help the St. Bernard Stingrays are thriving. Thank you again for a wonderful season.

Best regards,  
Greg and Chrissy Lipp

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to receive and file the communication and send a copy to the Service Dept. Motion passed 7-0.

Vickie Messer  
2703 Route 50  
Batavia, Ohio 45103

St. Bernard Council Members  
Honorable Mayor of St. Bernard

I am writing this letter to you for several reasons, not as a citizen of St. Bernard, but as a past resident, and a possible future resident. My husband and I are considering moving back to St. Bernard in the future to be close to family and for that reason, we have been very interested in your recent conversations on the improvement of the City.

First, I want to thank and commend Norm Miller for his support, interest, dedication, and hard work for his comments at the Council meetings, and most recently his work on the park project. I understand the reason Norm takes his time to be involved, he loves this town he was born in and has seen seven generations of his family live here. The first generation having come from Prussia to help build the starch factory. Norm wants to see the town he loves so much thrive like it used to, and to be a community that is a good one to raise a family in. I too have great memories of the old City with its meat shop, bakery, ice-skating rinks, dance nights, and more. I too, like Norm, can see the possibilities that exist, with vision and planning, for St. Bernard to become a prosperous and thriving City that it once was.

The park project that Norm has proposed would be a beautiful and peaceful location for adults of the City to visit and relax. It would take us to an era that is past, but not forgotten, and remind us of our heritage. The

redevelopment of the park as he proposes would be a benefit to the community, and will do a great deal to increase property values surrounding that area of the park. Like he, I can see the park decorated for the holidays, hear the Mayor speak from the bandstand, and imagine sitting on a bench listening to the fall of the fountain, while conversing with friends and neighbors in a peaceful and visually positive environment. I believe this is a first step for the City to act upon improving existing property for generations to come. I sincerely hope that this is given serious consideration and would hope that it is made a reality.

I am also pleased that after so many years of decline that the City has taken the step to hire someone to look at the redevelopment of Vine Street. When I talk with residents everyone is in agreement that the City has gone downhill. It's a shame that more residents don't become involved at the Council meetings. I hear two schools of thought on this. 1). That St. Bernard will continue to go downhill so residents want to move out and 2) that St. Bernard could, with vision, be improved however those that feel this way don't want to get involved and are more pessimistic than optimistic. I can only be thankful that it looks positive now the City is moving in the right direction.

I myself can envision redevelopment of Vine Street. I can see upscale town homes from Church Street to the Police Department. I can envision the entire section of Vine Street from Bank Street and Ross Avenue which encompasses the St. Bernard Square property and the property across from it where IGA and the Dollar Store is to be a "Germantown Village" business district. I can see traffic rerouted around this via Girl Scout Lane which would be widened to accommodate the re-routing. The new "Germantown Village" would be a pedestrian zone only, with a brick road down the center. The business there would have to comply with City ordinances of décor and design. The City would own this property, and thus be the ultimate decision maker to decide which businesses are there. Those that are conducive to "drawing" residents to the village like Norm said such as Graters or Starbucks. I can see outdoor café tables at a place such as the St. Bernard Coffee Company (taken from the College Hill coffee Company who is thriving). With the City owning the property and leasing buildings, the City would retain the lease rents and control the environment. The property would be upscale and invite those companies who encourage growth and spending to the party. Business such as Check and Go, and Quickie Loan would not be invited to the party. The pedestrian zone could be put to use at various times of the season with festivals. Montgomery is a good example of this. When they have Bastille Day, traffic is re-routed and booths are set up in the road area for the festivities. Even produce vendors could be invited for a "Farmers Market" during certain times. We could have our own "Canal Days" or "Apple Fest" like the City of Lebanon does in this area of their main street. Octoberfest? Why not, aren't we German heritage?

I've heard a lot of talk on senior housing. Seniors don't want to be "set aside" in a canal bed or in the Nu-Maid area away from activity. First, seniors have no reason to leave their two story home, only to move to an "apartment." But, if there were such a place as ranch-style garden condos, on one level, and most importantly with ASSISTED CARE SERVICE or MEDICAL STAFF ON HAND, then it will be desirable. Seniors may not

need medical staff on hand, but would like the idea of it being there if needed. This could also be private units, purchased and paid for in full, as opposed to HUD housing. With the enlargement of I-75, the houses that face the back on the existing St. Bernard Square would be a good area to look at for this senior assisted living area. A senior who could walk across the street (or ride their jazzie) to the “village” to just visit with people and would be more inclined to purchase. Rather than being put in a canal bed and out of sight, they would be next to the “Germantown Village” where they could visit, shop, eat, etc. and have something to do and to look at. Keeping it private, by purchase keeps out government housing and all its downfalls.

Norm also brought up ice-skating at the park. The problem I understand is that non-residents are coming in and creating problems in these areas. Why then can't we go back to the days like when I was a kid, where we showed a resident card to gain access to these facilities? I'd love to see the ice-skating again and the bonfires like we had in the early 60's.

One thing I do know. I have watched many towns decay and have watched them revitalize again. Norwood, Oakley, Harrison, Mason, and the list goes on. St. Bernard can do it too with the want and the willingness to do so. I know that people are tiring of the suburbs, that they want a return to the “Main Street” community. The examples are there in other cities; the Esquire Theater in Clifton and the Mariemont Theater are owned by the same people (we could invite them to the party). Wouldn't it be great to have a theater like that in our “Germantown Village Square”. Just think, residents could leave their cars at home and walk to see a movie, have a coffee, have lunch, and be in a most enjoyable area in their own community to do so. Another area that could use improvement is where UDF and the Job Center is. I wonder if Carl has been to his store there lately? If you look at other communities that have ordinances on design, you'll see that Carl is complying, and building new facilities.

It's just a vision, but I for one truly believe it can happen. People will want to come “home”, like me if it happens. If it doesn't happen, residents will continue to move and like those others, they'll still talk of what a shame it was that no one did anything to save the City.

I had a conversation today with a past resident who said “No one in St. Bernard would patronize Starbucks.” She doesn't know that my niece and niece-in-law keeps Starbucks in Hyde Park in business! The employees of the St. Bernard Soap Company and Smuckers would love, I'm sure, to have nice bistros or a coffee house to spend their money in close to work.

I congratulate you on a new beginning, and I believe in you all, that you will make it happen, for all of us.

I guess I'm just my father's daughter, a believer in dreams; and I'm darn proud of it, and him.

Most Respectfully,

Vickie Miller - Messer

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mrs. Brickweg to receive and file the communication. Motion passed 7-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to read this evening's Resolution and Ordinance by title only. Motion passed 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 7, 2007. A RESOLUTION URGING THE OHIO LEGISLATURE TO NOT APPROVE HOUSE BILL (HB) 154, BETTER KNOWN AS THE MAYOR'S COURT ELIMINATION BILL, URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW ST. BERNARD TO CONTINUE OPERATION OF IT'S MAYOR'S COURT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Schildmeyer to suspend with the second and third reading of Resolution No. 7, 2007.

## **REMARKS**

Mr. Geiser – I just wanted to go over some of the aspects of this Bill and why we're pursuing this issue. House Bill 154 is being considered by the Ohio Legislature, and this isn't the first time the Mayor's Court has been challenged, but it is unique at this time because the head of the Ohio Supreme Court, Justice Moyer is really pushing this bill. In the past Mayor's Courts have known to be speed zone traps, ways to raise money and I've seen it first hand, I've been to Mayor's Courts where they have been run like "kangaroo court" and it's very disappointing to see. St. Bernard has always run a very straight forward Mayor's Court. In fact there was an attorney out here who now is a judge in Hamilton County with Common Pleas who came up afterwards and said, "You run a very clean court." He was very impressed. What this Bill does is they're currently throwing around two numbers, sixteen hundred or five thousand, and they're looking more towards five thousand the best I can tell, if you have a population of five thousand or less you do not have a Mayor's Court, it's gone. So what that will do is they'll allow other communities to join together and form what they call community courts, say for example St. Bernard would have to join with Elmwood or somebody else and Norwood to have a community court so our police officers would have to go there. Every court is run different, our dockets are not that big compared to some of the other dockets around town. Some courts are run strictly to make money, I've researched one particular City where I found in their Council minutes, the Mayor said we need to increase our level of income from the Mayor's Court, because they use it as a base to operate their City. St. Bernard does not do that. The community court would be controlled by Hamilton County and the magistrates would be appointed by the County and its unclear who would pay for it, whether the community would have to pay for the salary of the magistrate or not. Our court, just to let everybody know, we pay our magistrate \$150.00 a night to be here, Glenna is our Clerk, she gets additional compensation for being here and the police officers are compensated thru their contract to be here. I as the Prosecutor receive no additional compensation, so I'm not pushing this for any issue on my own, I receive nothing else for being here, its just part of the job. I

listed, and I appreciate Steve Asbach for giving me some information on this, the four reasons we want to keep our Mayor's Court and I would just like to review those.

- It allows local officials to pursue enforcement of our local ordinances and zoning with greater emphasis on their impact on St. Bernard, for example our zoning and building code which is unique, and gives greater reference to our local court.
- It allows local evaluation of local criminal activity and permits greater insight into the cause.
- It allows our police officers to appear in court here and reduce the long delays and experience of going down town.
- It also provides law enforcement officers, our police officers the latitude to cite an individual to a local court where the defendants might feel less anxious and their issues are dealt with on a more personal basis.

I also put in here, as I stated, we do not use our court to generate money. Lastly, I think Mayor's Courts have really improved since the federal case came down that required most cities to have a magistrate because they run a lot more efficiently when you have magistrate who is a lawyer who knows what's going on. I think one of the greatest things that we've done is got a magistrate who is not from St. Bernard. The reason is, I think his judgment is independent, he remains unbiased, because we do have citizens in here from time to time and everyone knows, a lot of people are related, he gives very independent and unbiased judgment because he doesn't know who they are and I think that's a great asset to our court. Just some incite as to what we do generate, in 2005 we generated \$42,000.00 of income, 2006 was \$48,000.00 and so far 2007 we've generated \$33,000.00 in our court.

Motion to suspend passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Resolution No. 7, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 38, 2007. AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH A NEW LINE ITEM AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Mr. Asbach to suspend with the second and third reading of Ordinance No. 38, 2007. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion by Mr. Burkhardt, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adopt Ordinance No. 38, 2007 as read. Motion passed 7-0.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Asbach – I'd like to put on next week's COW to discuss this Ohio Attorney General's training seminar. Hopefully I'll get a chance to look at House Bill 9 this week and I don't know if this pertains to Council or if this

is for Administration, I would just like to discuss it so we know because I don't know that I can take off work to attend a three hour session. I would like to discuss that next week.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I also would like to be put on the COW agenda next week to discuss the St. Bernard parking lot and the issue that has come up with the Post Office.

### **AUDIENCE WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Kim Trosper, 412 E. Mitchell – Up by my house last year in Sept., and I'd like to direct this question to the Safety Director, I'm not sure, I spoke to the Mayor about this, but I'm not sure who makes the decision but I would like to see something implemented here like maybe a newsletter or something to let citizens know what's going on in St. Bernard as far as safety. I have three kids but two of my kids, 10 and 12, I let them ride their bikes to the library and some boys tried to steal their bikes while they were actually on them. After going to the police dept. I found out that this is a common problem with kids stealing bikes and I would have like to have known that. The house next door to me, the stain glass windows were stolen and that seems to be something that is happening so I would like to see something that we as citizens can be aware, because obviously if I would have known that I wouldn't have let my kids ride their bikes to the library, I didn't think it would be a problem but that's my concern.

Mr. Stuchell – Just in response, it's not just St. Bernard that's one of the issues, yes it is a common occurrence any more with bikes being stolen. My own son's bike has been stolen, obviously he left it out for it to be stolen. The problem, it is becoming common and I have to say that its not just St. Bernard but I would entertain your idea, to try to come up with some kind of newsletter but again, we'd have to work with some budget restraints to make that work. The other issue, we have been mentioning on Council for people to be more cognizant of their environment as far their home, some of the empty unoccupied homes that we may not have realized were empty are being targeted. We have had stained glass being taken out homes, again, that's more than just St. Bernard. It's been all around the area, but yes, I will work with you to try to keep the people more informed but I guess it's not a total failure, we try to report on problems, we mention on Council when there is at least a televised version if there is something that is going on, I'll try my best to get the word out a little better.

Kim Trosper, 412 E. Mitchell – And that means what?

Mr. Stuchell – If we try to get a newsletter, we've never had a newsletter in the past as far as just safety concerns, maybe we could do a Call Command, I can't say we could designate just a newsletter just on safety. One of the things we're trying to do also within the Police Dept. not necessarily from me being the Safety Director but when we are able to have the time to dedicate to it is maybe try to reestablish a newsletter that came from the Police Dept., that did end at one time but the Police Dept. really would be the ones to try to issue some of those alerts on that aspect, but that might even be something that would be quarterly. There is just no way for us to have like say a monthly newsletter, but if there's areas of concern we can try

to focus within particular areas of town, and we do track that. It's not just Mitchell Ave. but we would try to better inform you. I'm going to try to work on that with the Police Dept. once we have the ability to dedicate somebody that can do the newsletter, that would be who it needs to come from.

Kim Trosper, 412 Mitchell – And just adding to that, when I moved here I had to register obviously to put my kids in school, but my house is a two family and I had a tenant that I urged to register and they didn't know anything about it and I live next to a Section 8 building and I just wondered how many people even know to come and register so if something was put together with just information like that. I mean I had to do it because my kids were in school but if somebody doesn't have kids or anything then how would they know that so I just feel like the community needs some type of communication to let you know whether it's landlords or the tenant or somebody know that there are things the people do to live here. I don't know who would be in charge of that or the process.

Ms. Hausfeld – Kim, just to let you know, we are in the process of getting an Economic Developer hired. One of the things he mentioned is exactly that. A newsletter to get out to the public to let them know what's going on and this would be a great opportunity for some part of safety to be in there as well. It is something that we have discussed with the Economic Developer just recently within the last month and one of his ideas, and he only gave us four ideas so far, but one of his ideas was a monthly newsletter to get out to the public to let them know what is going on so that they can be informed. Not everybody has Cable so that they could see these meetings. Not everybody realizes that they can also pick up the Council minutes right down here in St. Bernard's lobby to where they can keep informed of what is going on but this would be another avenue for the residents to know what is going on is this, like Jonathan said, I think he mentioned a quarterly newsletter or something but it would be a way that we could inform the general public or what is going on and that is a perfect suggestion from you.

Mr. Zix – Jonathan may I suggest possibly doing something on the police website or on our website, I know it will take Al a little bit of time to get here and get on his feet before that letter comes out, I think Patty is right on the money with that, but we could possibly put some information out that way. I think Kim's idea, I forgot your last name already, I told you I wasn't good with names, about registering is something right on that nobody really knows to do and thank you for that.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just a couple of things, I would think that the Tax Dept. should be on top of getting people to register. I hate to say that but that would be the first thing. In the past, many years ago, I didn't receive it when I moved here but there was like a welcome committee that would give you a packet on St. Bernard and tell you all about St. Bernard. It's been suggested over and over but nobody's ever done anything again with it, but that's an idea, I mean we're missing out on all these opportunities just because we don't do it and I guess the second thing is why did we stop doing the police newsletter?

Mr. Stuchell – There's a good question but there was between some of the down sizing there was actually an elimination of a person to have the time to dedicate to do it. But, I can actually see the light and possibly having it rejuvenated, to have it going again. I will try to work on getting that done but that is actually something that's been on the docket and I can see it happening but if we could actually what had said, if it's not just coming from the Police Dept. if it was something that could be more just the police newsletter but we would have a portion in it, that would actually be more worthwhile for just the community to give more information out. I will work on that.

Mrs. Brickweg – And I know what Al was talking about with his newsletter, it is to keep people informed but a lot of it was on economic development so we really need something from the safety side which we used to have. Straight forward, when we laid off the officers, when we down sized, is that when we stopped it? I'm just curious because all of a sudden I realized we're not getting it anymore and it looks like now we have another problem.

Mr. Stuchell – I think it was actually before that, but I'll check the time line.

Mrs. Brickweg – Thank you.

Ms. Hausfeld – I don't know how to do this tactfully but I'm going to tell you how I feel. Kim brought up a great point. The citizens need to be informed of the safety factors for their homes, for their livelihoods, for their personal property. When we went to this Call Command I thought this Call command was supposed to be just for that, emergencies, informative things and I think recently and I've gotten citizen's complaints on using the Call Command for things like "water aerobics". I'm not saying that the Call Command cannot be used for different things, but I think exactly what Kim is mentioning, that Call Command should be used for more serious things, not, in my book, the frivolous things and we put out a quarterly newsletter for the recreation dept. That kind of stuff can be covered under that recreational newsletter. I'm not picking on anybody, I'm not trying to down anybody, I wasn't sure how I was going to do it, I have had residents, I keep saying customers, residents complaints about the Call Command being used for frivolous things and I have to tell you tonight just hit me when Kim mentioned it. The Call Command would be a perfect opportunity to let the residents know the safety issues or the more important issues of St. Bernard and not the frivolous things and that is my opinion.

Mr. Estep – I agree, we don't just put frivolous things, maybe water aerobics is not important to you Patty but there's a lot of people, we get positive feedback from. When I go to the Seniors luncheon, I probably get ten people that come up to me and thank me for reminding them about the Seniors luncheon whether its on Call Command or here. I did talk to Ms. Kim up there, I can't remember her last name either, Wigs, sorry, but she did call me and I was a little hesitant to put some bike thefts on Call Command. I didn't want to put the City on alert. I did talk with the Chief about that and they were aware of it and I'm hesitant to put all the negative things on there. We're trying to use that as more of a positive spin and it is partial for community events, the fireworks, the Easter hunt for the kids. We try to make everybody aware of that because everybody doesn't listen to the

Council meetings, everybody doesn't have Cable. It is also partially used for emergency response things, when the towers were on fire or whatever it was or when they were doing the flush out at Cognis, to let the people know right away. We were getting calls, is there a fire? Do we evacuate? We used that right away and it was implemented in a way to keep people calm. You may get some feedback in your neighborhood about certain things, I'm getting a lot of positive feedback from using that.

Mrs. Brickweg – Just so that we can really understand the whole Call Command thing, you're right we had the Call Command when Cognis', when the boiler, when the smoke went up. We had not paid for Call Command at that time, we were trying it out and you were even going to call Cognis and see if they would help us pay for it and it was Council's and I thought it was Administration's agreement to go ahead and pay for it for emergency uses and for very important meetings and I'll be very honest, when I got that message yesterday it was the first thing in my mind, I'm like "water aerobics"? But I didn't want to pick on anybody and did have a few complaints about Donald Duck and maybe this is nit-picking but the Call Command is supposed to be something for an emergency of something important and I'm going to be very honest, if people's bikes are being stolen around town, I don't care if it's negative or not, they have every right to be informed so they know to tell their children what to do, I mean that's like, let's not talk about the sexual predators, we don't want to have a negative image We need to let the people know the truth and then handle it and fix the situation, not hide from it. But my feeling on Call Command was the same thing because I think people are just hitting delete now. That's what they're telling me, once they hear, they've heard it so many times and that was my only fear that when we really want them hear it, so I do think we need to stick what we agreed to months ago when we ordered it.

Mr. Schildmeyer – I think too, if the safety or the police can tie in with the recreation letters that go out. That's seasonal. It seems like every season it changes and it's a good timing mechanism to get those type of letters out per season, for summer activities, for winter activities, for fall activities like we're in now and have them put letters together that would recommend, be on watch, keep your eyes open, it gets dark early, the lights, cars, things like that, time it so that it can go out with the recreation letter. It's a good vehicle to get it out there seasonally.

Mr. Meier – John, one of the things that you said just kind of hit me, not as a Councilman but as a father and you said you don't want to put something out to put the community on alert, that's exactly what you should be doing. I've got two small kids with bikes and they'd get practically crushed if they went out and their bikes were stolen. I think that's exactly what it should be used for, if that's a problem let people know and if people know and they're watching out maybe it would be less of a problem. I didn't want to get into the whole Call Command thing but that is exactly what it should be used for to put the community on alert if there was a problem.

Mr. Estep – I agree with part of that, but you're telling me that you want to put on Call Command every time a bike is stolen in this City. As a parent my kid would be crushed too, Kevin but as a parent I tell my kids to put their bikes away at night and I try to be a little more proactive. As Jonathan

mentioned, bikes are stolen all throughout this City, all the cities around us. I'm sure it's a nationwide thing that takes place. When we talk about Call Command being used for some alert situation, I don't think it's an alert that we send to the whole City, be on alert tonight, there was a bike stolen. I don't think that's major enough, it is major for that kid who has his bike stolen, but if you want me to go on Call Command every time there's a bike stolen, call me and let me know but I think that's over using Call Command. I really try and stay away from that.

Mr. Meier – John, what Jonathan just said a few minutes ago, he said it is an ongoing problem in the community and the other problem we're having in the community is stain glass being stolen from buildings. I didn't bring that up, that is something that came from the Safety Director and that's the first time I heard about it. While I don't have any stained glass in my house, but certainly if my neighbors had it, if I knew about it and they were out of town I would know to watch it. I'm just going back on what your Safety Director was saying that it is an ongoing problem. I'm not saying every time a bike is stolen, that's ridiculous. If we do have a problem, if something is going on in the community, then yes, get on the Call Command and tell people about it.

Mr. Burkhardt – I think Kim's situation is a little different, her kids were probably attacked. When a bike gets stolen it's one thing if you leave it out, that happens, my son's 21 years old, when he was about 10 years old he was coming back from getting his hair cut up there where the store used to be on Sullivan and he was actually knocked off his bike and the bike taken and stolen and we never did recover it, but luckily he wasn't beat up real bad. Those are the situations when the public needs to know, if there's a group of kids going around beating kids up and taking their bikes, yes that is an emergency. If a bike is just stolen out of a yard, that's one thing, but yes, if kids are being attacked, I think parents need to be aware of that so that they know to watch their children a little closer because evidently there's a group of kids out there willing to go up beat somebody up for their bike.

Kim Trosper, 412 E. Mitchell – I sorry, I just wanted to clear that up, it wasn't about kids bikes laying around, my kids were actually riding their bikes to the library and as far as the stained glass windows, if I would have known that because the house that sits next to me is vacant, I may have been more aware to look out for that. It kind of creeps me out, I'm a single parent that I live somewhere that someone comes in in the middle of the night or whenever they did it, to steal stained glass windows, if I would have been aware of that, I'm home a lot and so is my tenant, we may have seen something or been able to be alert. I've talked to other people who have stained glass windows and they didn't know anything about it so now they are alert and it's not about alarming everybody, it's just being aware. My kids wanted to ride their bikes to school this year and this happened over the summer and I thought, no big deal, other kids do it, but now I would not let them ride their bikes because of that experience and maybe if other parents know they would do the same. I just wanted to be clear on that.

Mr. Geiser – Kim, I'm the Law Director and this is the first I've heard of that, but are your kids OK were they hurt in any way?

Kim Trospen, 412 E. Mitchell – No, my daughter held on and wouldn't let go and I'm like, no, let the bike go. They're 10 and 12 and I thought it was OK. They walk to school that way and go straight up Mitchell to Tower. It happened on Tower.

Mrs. Brickweg – Since there seems to be some confusion on the Call Command can we put that on the COW to discuss how Council and the Administration feels it should be used.

Joan Ronnenberg, 4217 Sullivan – I want to suggest two things. That letter that you received, the person wrote about the City, maybe that could be given to the new person that is coming on, Mr. Al Kanters. Another thing on getting literature to people, when I see people moving into my section, I take the things from down here on recycling and the garbage and what days, couldn't the people that are from the Wards, each Ward, maybe take that on and when a house is sold deliver things to them about the community. To me that sounds like it could be one of their duties. Maybe get somebody to help them, but that's the way I try to get the word out to my neighbors about the garbage and the recycling and just give them a little welcome paper.

Mrs. Brickweg – That's a great idea. I had asked four years ago if I could be notified when new people are moving in. The main reason I was asking is because I send out my birthday cards. I had asked the tax department and they told me no, so maybe that's something we could do, I think it has something to do with taxes and stuff. I just thought that was a great place because she would know who was coming in. Maybe that is something we could work with the front desk, Carol Ungruhe. Maybe it is something, but I think that is a great idea, notify the Ward people and that'll be our job to welcome the new people in and then maybe we can come up with a packet or something and then the Ward representatives would have those packets at their home. I'd be more than willing to do that.

Mr. Zix – Yes, Mrs. Ronnenberg, we did that many years ago and it was very successful. I still have a sample of that, what the book has, all the social organizations, all the churches, all the businesses and it was fairly current, as much as we could keep it current and then we would drop one off to people, all the Council people, just an array of names, I still have one, they were so neat, I can bring it to the next COW. We just got an OK from every business to see if we could put it in and a funny story about that, Oscar Robinson called and I thought it was somebody joking with me. When they called back to say he could put his business in when he first came into St. Bernard many years ago and I thought it was a joke. I can bring that down and I'll show that to you the next COW meeting.

Norman Miller, 219 Washington Ave. – What this lady was just talking about I brought up months and months and months ago. My granddaughter happened to live at Greenlee and Delmar. She listened around the neighborhood blocks and blocks and blocks away from her, to find out that cars were stolen right almost next door to her that she had two of these funny people right within a block of her. She had to find it out from miles away. One of them wasn't even in St. Bernard. My point was then, the Police Dept. don't communicate with the people. If there's something going on like in this ladies neighborhood, why can't they say this is going on, go up

and talk to this lady. Maybe it's not in her neighborhood, maybe it's a block away, they could tell her, this is happening in this block. Communicate with the people, it fell on deaf ears. I think the Police Dept. if you see somebody standing out on the street, they can take time just to get out of their car and say, Hi, or anything going on in your mind. It wouldn't hurt at all. The other thing I want to comment on is the project down at Ross and Vine. I don't know whether you noticed it yet but our City's Service Dept. landscaped that, it looks great it sure added a lot to it. It don't look like the same old cement block, it's pretty acceptable, our City workers did it and I think you should thank them for it. The other thing, they elaborate on Asbach on this committee, I gave all of them this packet here, it's a seven page packet, it spells out what we expect of anybody that wants to bid on the Bertus St. Project in detail so that everybody is bidding apples with apples and not a substitute for anything, I gave them the names of the items that we want to deal with, not a substitute for that item. If anybody wants one that doesn't have one, we can make copies of them. There was one thing Mr. Schildmeyer brought this up last meeting I was talking to him about the memorial for the Veterans. He suggested that maybe it would be a better idea and I agreed with him, we do have a memorial for the Vietnam, Korean, and the Gulf War Veterans, but we should keep it down at the memorial that we have now so that when we have a memorial celebration, it's all done in one place and all Veterans are treated at the same place as heroes. I think that's a good idea and we're taking it out of this park up here and hoping that Council will put some kind of a memorial down here with WWI and II. The other thing, I had the four meetings that were working with, one is Evans Landscape Co., you're all familiar with them, it's a big operation and they're in a position where they can handle the whole operation. They have big equipment, big excavating equipment, they can do the site preparation along with the planning. The other one, and he's very good, I was with him yesterday, Don Gilder over in the Newtown area. He showed me a drawing that he has made with my drawing. It looked great, the problem is that he is not big enough to take care of all of the project with the contractor and I have a problem with that because that would let us in the middle to work with different people because he can't supply this or that. The other one was Jack Allen. I erased him off the books but I did call him, if he wants to come and he's coming tomorrow at 9:30 to go over what we got. He wants to submit a bid, that's fine and the other one was Fredricks and he again is limited to what he can do so we're kind of stuck there. The other suggestion was that maybe we could make it a community project, that doesn't work because we found out through Gerry that anything over \$10,000.00 would have to be bid, we've got a lot of items that are over \$10,000.00 so we would be involved in all kinds of bids and we don't want to do that. I gave the names of all the things that we want in this so everybody would have apples to apples, I gave them the phone numbers where they can talk to these people so when we get these bids we're dealing with the same people. The other thing that I want to say, if you all were on board, and I think you were, but I'm still not sure about Greg, I think you're all on board, I'll probably convince Greg, you'll get on board, there's a great big rock up at your end and I'll get the rock engraved with your name on it, if you come on board with us. Is that OK?

Mr. Zix – I'm still at the point where I have to see those numbers, Norm, but I do appreciate the thought. Maybe we could put some \$\$\$ on instead.

Norm Miller, 219 Washington – We won't put your date of birth or your end of birth on we'll just, with you having said this, I want to see the numbers, I want to bring this up and I'm serious about this. This is going to be expensive, it's going to be expensive and I don't want when these bids come in for seven people up there to start poor mouthing it. Oh look at the money, look at the money and why I'm referring to this is, we spent for a lot at Delmar and Sullivan Aves. \$309,000.00. Out of that we got a piece of property that's grass, we got set back, we can't even put a building on it. This was blight, we bought it because it was blight. If you'll all get on board, and forget these big numbers, that we're going to do an acre park with the most beautiful piece, center pieces, gazebos, lamps, the whole nine yards, we're going to do this. If it's \$300,000.00 plus, we've already spend, I can give you \$300,000.00 worth of grass and equal what you did over there. We're getting all the extras for maybe \$100,000.00. When this comes in, I don't want to hear, if you want to say it fine, but don't say it in front of me. This is too much money. Let's get on board and do it, this will be something for generations to come. If you want to save a buck, save it somewhere else, if I'm going to be involved in this project, do it right, and do it for the people, not because you think it's too much money, we've already blew a lot of money on projects that's too much money. Let's get together and when these bids come in they probably will be by next week, it won't be a bid, it will be an estimate and when they tell them to you I want you to all be in your seats and stay in them. We can all do this if you stick together. Money is one thing but developing our town is another. Money ain't no good in Walter's books. You have to spend it and let's spend it and do something for the people.

Mrs. Brickweg – I did forget one thing, I wanted to thank Gerry and Walt, I have had a few comments on the fence but the fence down at Baxters. Great, we don't have to look at anything back there and I did get one phone call that they didn't like how it was put in but I got many phone calls from other people in the neighborhood saying thank you for taking that away that we don't have to see it anymore. I'm going to write them a thank you but I also wanted to thank you guys for doing that.

Norman Miller, 219 Washington – Matter of fact there is Peggy. The fence that you're talking about and I called Walt and left a message, I don't know whether he got the message. This fence down there as far as I'm concerned is as non professional as you can put up. Whoever put that fence up, however the bump in the hill ran they put the fence, it goes straight, then it goes up, then it goes straight again. If that's a professional fence job from one post to the next post it's a straight fence or it's supposed to be. That, when you drive in there, every time I go down there and I go down there two or three times a day passed that thing, I look at that and say, who in the world done this and I thought and I thought maybe Walt had some kind of control that they'd do this thing right I mean, the other problem I have is, it is the type of fence and I brought it up the last time, that if they don't finish that fence it's going to turn black and it'll look like, I've seen a lot of these type fences and they look like the devil once they turn black. I think we ought have some type of control that they fix the thing that it's worthwhile looking at anyway.

Mrs. Kathman – I just wanted to address Ms. Kim and Mr. Miller. Thirty years ago my son was 4 years old and he was riding down Albert St. and I happened to be on my front porch and he had just gotten a new bicycle with dirt wheels on it, whatever they called them at that time and two boys came up and said get off your bike I want it and he was only 4 years old and they were like 7 or 9. So he got off his bike and ran home and I happened to be standing on the front porch watching, I just ran in and called the police in St. Bernard, God love them, I got a hold of Kenny Davis, he was the dispatcher at the time and he just called Frank Mayborg and chased these boys down and Frank showed up, popped the trunk of his Police car and said is this your bike? What's your name and he said David. And he said rubbed his head and he said, Don't let anybody intimidate you, scream, yell, I'm calling the Police, I'm calling the Police. This was thirty years ago, so it's not new. That's in defense of our Police Dept.

Mrs. Brickweg – I did want to let Norm know, when I came to Council tonight, I haven't been out driving a whole lot, it does, he called me yesterday, and we discussed the fence and I told him, yes, I guess it could have been put in a little better but to tell you the truth, I was so happy and the neighbors are happy just to have something up there, I do hope they stain it so it doesn't rot but it does have a label, it was put up by a professional fence, there are labels on both sides of it. They must have just put those up. I understand what your saying, but from the neighbors point of view, I'm glad there's something there and I don't think it looks that bad I'm just happy to have a fence so we don't have to see all that trash behind the building.

Mr. Stuchell – One last closure and it's still no excuse for bikes being stolen unfortunately in this day and age but there are a fair amount of success stories also just by the fact that we do have rather quick response time. Even though we have many, many different escape routes out of St. Bernard for a bike to be stolen, I can't tell you the number of bikes that do get recovered just by, unfortunately it doesn't happen when no one sees the being taken, but the number of times it's been witnessed, the time that the call has come in and the police dept. was able to respond very quickly and recover the bike. With an accurate description and fortunately in this day and age too that even if it does happen, the number of kids that are caring cell phones does help, but there are a good number of bikes that are recovered.

Mr. Burkhardt – The next COW meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:30.

Motion by Mr. Zix, seconded by Ms. Hausfeld to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0.

