



City Council President Jack Young

Bernard C. “Jack” Young, President of the Baltimore City Council was kind enough to give us an interview for the inaugural edition of the CITIZEN. Mr. Young has been President of the Council since 2011 and on the Council since 1996. The President of the City Council is second only to the Mayor.

NWCP: Can you tell us what a typical day looks like for you?

JY: When you like what you do, you look at every day as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people you serve. Sometimes I don't get home until 10:30-11:00 at night. I call myself a man of the people. People know that if they call me or call my office we're going to get things done, and if we can't get it done we're going to let you know, and we're going to keep working at it. Oftentimes you hear politicians say, “Well, I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that,” but when you call them you can never get them. I don't consider myself a politician, I consider myself a public servant.



NWCP: Can you tell us a little bit about the function of the City Council and why it's important to the people of Baltimore?

JY: Each Councilperson is elected by the constituents in their district and the city council president is elected by the entire city. There are 14 Council members and I am the 15th. The City Council deals with anything that affects the lives of people every day. Some of these include Transform Baltimore, urban affairs, the city budget, public safety, health, and education. Continued on page 3...

THE PATROL

Each night for over 30 years, eight NWCP volunteers, from a pool of over 400 members, spend three hours at night protecting the entire community by being extra eyes and ears for the police, looking out for problems and concerns within the community. Most nights are quiet – because our highly visible patrol units prevent criminals from even entering the community. Volunteers are assigned a patrol area and issued an overhead light, a radio, map and flashlight, and then proceed to the streets of Baltimore to put a stop to crime – before it even happens. They even stop to watch residents leaving their cars until they are safely in their homes.

Each evening's shift leader, the Watch Commander, in a specially marked vehicle, together with our police liaison, A Baltimore City Police Officer, respond to both calls on the police radio and observations that units report.

Auto anti-theft devices prevent car theft. Available from the NWCP.



Officers Dickstein and Bennett

Officer Ken Dickstein Retires After 33 Years

Officer Ken Dickstein, the Baltimore City Police Department's (BCPD) liaison to the Jewish Community, retired on June 17th. Officer Dickstein, a lifelong Baltimore resident, was raised on Rogers Avenue and attended The Talmudical Academy. He joined the police department in 1983. For the past seven years, he has served as BCPD's liaison to the Jewish community.

A community tragedy in 1969 inspired Officer Dickstein to do police work for a career even though he was only 9 years old at the time. Officer Dickstein first started as an investigator in the City Solicitor's office, and then joined BCPD in 1983. As an aside, it is interesting to note that one of his assignments landed him in BCPD's K-9 unit where he was paired with a German Shepherd named Niko. The two became very close. The way it works in the K-9 unit is that an

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officer is with the dog the entire day, and then he brings the dog home at night. Not surprisingly, Niko became part of the Dickstein family. When it came time for Niko to 'retire' from the K-9 unit, the Dicksteins adopted him.



Officer Dickstein generally didn't work in the Jewish community for the first 25 years with the Police Department. But in 2009, there was a spike in serious crime in the Jewish community, particularly burglaries and muggings. The then commander of the Northwest District, Major Keith Tiedemann, realized he needed an officer to serve as a liaison to the Jewish community to help address these issues. He knew Officer Dickstein well and realized he would be an ideal fit with his background and upbringing in the Jewish community. Dickstein accepted the position, and it quickly began yielding results. Officer Dickstein became responsible for communication with Baltimore's entire Jewish community and organizations which covered an area from Northwest Baltimore to the downtown area.

Major Tiedemann noted that prior to Officer Dickstein making the move, residents of the community would call the Major directly with community issues. Now with Dickstein on board as liaison, those calls were directed to Officer Dickstein. Dickstein drew on his experience as a seasoned officer and his intimate knowledge of the Baltimore Jewish community to effectively communicate its needs to BCPD. At the same time, he could provide the community with a dose of realism of what the Police Department could do.

Part of the liaison's job is to work with the two community groups that are the eyes and ears of BCPD. Those two groups, Northwest Citizen's Patrol and Shomrim, had a very productive relationship with Officer Dickstein. While Officer Samuel Bennett is assigned to the Patrol, Dickstein still worked closely with them. On those evenings when Officer Bennett was unavailable, Officer Dickstein often served as a back-up in case an officer was needed on short notice.

Neil Schachter, president of the Patrol, greatly appreciated the 33-years of police experience in BCPD that Dickstein brought to the liaison position. "When you have that kind of experience and knowledge, you can recognize problems before they occur and save the community from a lot of unnecessary trouble." Not surprisingly, Dickstein



will not be disappearing from the community just because he retired. He still plans to help with security issues here in his new role as a private citizen, using his knowledge and expertise to assist where he can. The entire community thanks him for his dedication, caring and all the many extra hours he put in to keep our neighborhoods safe. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

NWCP Again Offering Popular Self-Defense Course

After a great turn-out last year, the NWCP is once again offering self-defense courses for men and women this summer at the Park Heights JCC. The goal of the course is to know the basics of what to do if confronted by an assailant. The men's course will be presented 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM on August 8th. The women's course will be presented in two parts, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM August 3rd and 10th.

This hands-on, interactive course is being presented by the Comprehensive Survival Arts, Martial Arts & Wellness School and will teach participants actual self-defense techniques. All participants must be post high school or older. Reservations for these free courses are on a first come first served basis. Please call (410) 664-6927, extension 7 to reserve a space.

NWCP's "Safety on Wheels" Course held at Three Local Synagogues This Summer

Dozens of youngsters, ages 7 – 12 arrived by van, car and of course bicycle for the Bicycle/Car Safety Class sponsored by the NWCP. The children excitedly watched Officer Sam Bennett, the NWCP police officer, engrave bicycles with their parent's license numbers after which everyone went inside to hear Mrs. Debbi Baer, President of the Maryland Child Passenger Association. Mrs. Baer, an expert in child vehicle safety, has been giving classes on the subject for the past 26 years. Armed with a funny, interesting, entertaining video and lots of props, she kept the kids involved and the program interactive. Officer Bennett then spoke to the children about bike safety, showed an interesting video on the topic and answered many intelligent questions from the rapt audience. Besides having a good time, the participants left with bike and vehicle safety tools and tips, an etched bicycle, and as a bonus, a coupon for a free bag of popcorn from the Candy Store.

HOLD THE DATE

34th Annual NWCP Reception

Saturday night, December 3.
Honoring Council Woman Rikki Spector for her many years of outstanding service.

The NWCP extends a special thank you to the management of the **Strathmore Tower Condominiums** for supporting the patrol and safekeeping the Watch Commander's patrol car when it is not in use. They keep it safe, so we can keep you safe.

The CITIZEN News & Views

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Safety Tips

Summer Barbeques with either charcoal or gas grills are a tasty tradition and a great way to make a hot summer meal without heating up your home. However, there are some safety precautions you should be aware of.

General grilling tips

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. Using them indoors could result in deadly buildup of carbon monoxide gas.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grates and in trays below the grill. If you have a grease fire, try to smother it if it is small enough. This can be done by simply closing the lid to the grill and cutting off the gas (if you have gas) and closing any vents. If it is too big for that approach, a fire extinguisher rated for grease can be used. If you have any doubt whether you can contain the fire, call the appropriate authorities immediately.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

Propane grills

Before you use your grill:

- Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose.
- Check the gas (propane) tank hose for potential (gas) leaks. To do that:
 - Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose using a brush or spray bottle.
 - Turn the propane tank on. If there is a gas leak, the propane will release bubbles around the hose (big enough to see).
 - If there are no bubbles, your grill is safe to use.
 - If there are bubbles, turn off the tank and check connections, then have your grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - If the leak doesn't stop, call the fire department immediately.

When the grill is on:

- As you are cooking, if you smell gas, turn off the gas tank and burners.
- If the leak stops immediately, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
- If the smell continues, move away from the grill and call the fire department immediately. Do not move the grill.

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The Council functions in committees: they have their hearings in committees, they vote in committees then present it to the full Council and the Council takes a vote on whatever that bill, ordinance, or issue is. It's very important work that we do, because our decisions affect the lives of the 680,000 people who live in this city. As an aside, people really need to understand that when the census comes around, we need to be counted. We get political clout based on the number of residents. One time Baltimore City had the most delegates and the most senators in Annapolis, but not anymore. We really need to stand up and be counted and we can only do that if people participate in the census.

NWCP: What accomplishments are you most proud of?

JY: There's a lot! Setting a cap on unpaid parking tickets, discounting water bills for seniors and those in need, inclusionary housing bill, children's youth fund, P.L.A.Y. (Productive Lives, Active Youth), and tax credit and programs for seniors. Just to briefly highlight one of them, P.L.A.Y is a program where money is provided to help schools with library books, uniforms for sports teams and all kinds of activities for kids.

NWCP: What are your goals for this coming year?

JY: My goal is to work with the new administration to figure out how we can better our schools, keep our community safer, and grow the City of Baltimore.

NWCP: This is the inaugural edition of the NWCP newsletter. The NWCP has been in existence for 34 years and over the years has helped more than 100 patrols get started all over the United States including patrols in other parts of Baltimore.

JY: I think that is amazing and a very notable accomplishment. We are proud of the NWCP and the many hundreds of citizens who volunteer to drive for the patrol helping to keep their neighborhoods safe.

NWCP: Thank you very much for your time and all the information. It's been just tremendous.

This is just a small (paraphrased) summary of the important and interesting information that Jack Young shared with us about his many significant accomplishments on behalf of the citizens of Baltimore, including plans for the future.

To read the full interview, please visit <http://nwcp.info>.

This is the first in a monthly series of interviews with City and State officials, police command staff and community leaders profiling their duties, their opinions, and their relationship with the NWCP.

Visit <http://nwcp.info> for articles on the patrol, cyber security, NWCP services and safety tips. Sign up for the patrol, make a donation, read the CITIZEN archives, or become better informed.



We urge everyone to join the ranks of the NWCP. Especially in these times we need every pair of eyes patrolling our neighborhoods to keep our streets safe. Call 410-664-6927 TODAY!

NWCP Patrol Highlights

On Monday night, June 20, 2016, the patrol was flagged down by a community resident. Her daughter had returned home to find her roommate, a blind young woman, had gone out to walk her service dog and had not returned. The police were notified and the patrol started an immediate canvass of the neighborhood. Additional volunteers from the NWCP's City Watch division joined in the search. Within the hour the missing woman was found, safe and sound. She had accidentally locked herself out of the house, without her cell phone, and went to meet someone who had a spare key. Her friends, while greatly concerned during the search, were comforted by the efforts and assistance of the patrol.

WHAT DOES THE NWCP DO?

Neighborhood Patrol

Nightly patrols in the Upper Northwest area.

Project Recourse

Helping victims of crime navigate the court system.

Watch Your Home Program

We'll watch your home when you are away.

Citizen Protection Program

Someone will watch you into your home.

Event Protection

Event overwatch and traffic assistance to ensure safety.

Auto Theft Protection

Vehicle safety devices for sale.

Home Security Surveys

Our police liaison officer can visit your home and suggest ways to make it more secure.

Cyber Security

Articles relating to cyber security.

-See <http://nwcp.info> for details-

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Charcoal grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Other flammable liquids such as gasoline are not only ineffective in getting coals ready, they can explode and cause serious injury. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. To avoid a situation where the fire appears to go out before the coals are ready, make sure you apply a generous amount of charcoal lighter to the coals before you light the coals, not any time after!
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use and one that is rated for the electric starter you are using.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Cooking on Gas or Charcoal Grills

- Use appropriate utensils for handling hot food. Spatulas, forks, knives, etc., should be long enough to handle moving the grilled food without burning yourself. Plastic knives and forks should be avoided as they melt and can release toxic chemicals into very hot food.
- Make sure meat and fish are cooked properly. Sometimes the outer surfaces get done before the inside if the grill is very hot. In those situations, you may end up with meat or fish that may still be raw in the middle.

Cook Safe – Cook Smart



President's Corner

In today's busy fast-paced life, we are bombarded with news, but often we are unsure of what is fact and what is fiction. The aim of our newsletter is to keep each Citizen of our community accurately informed of the goings-on in our community in regards to security and safety and whenever possible include "the rest of the story".

It is very exciting to see the first issue of The CITIZEN coming off the press. The credit for this accomplishment is shared by the

thousands of NWCP members who collectively have volunteered hundreds of thousands of hours patrolling our neighborhoods. For the past 34 years, our dedicated and loyal volunteers have donated their precious time to help keep our community safe. On behalf of the entire community, I extend a heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers and their supportive spouses and families.

In addition, we thank all the officials and police officers who dedicate their time and energies to make our area a safe place to live and raise families. As a side note, I was just contacted by a concerned Citizen who when in a convenience store line, paid for the purchases of the police officer behind him. Kudos to Josef G., who made this gesture and suggests others look for similar opportunities. If you have a story to share about how you or someone else showed appreciation to a police officer, please e-mail us. Police officers should not just know that we care, they should see that we care.

Wishing all a safe rest of the summer,

Neil

Neil (Nachy) Schachter

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