



### NWCP Catches Up With: Baltimore City Police Commissioner Kevin Davis



**NWCP:** Commissioner Davis, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to speak with us today. Can you please tell us a bit about your background and how you got into law enforcement?

**KD:** Well, I have a pretty strong family background in public service: my father was a police officer in Prince George's County, and both my grandfather and great-grandfather were firefighters in Washington, DC. So I come by my profession naturally. I also served as Chief of the Anne Arundel County Police Department and retired after 21 years with the Prince George's County Police Department, so I already had a career in law enforcement before coming to the Baltimore Police Department (BPD).

**NWCP:** You took over the BPD at a particularly volatile time, just after the tragic death of Freddie Gray while in police custody and the ensuing unrest. What's it like heading the department during these troubled times?

**KD:** These are times of change not only for BPD but for law enforcement in general throughout the entire country. The

relationship of our officers with the citizens they serve is improving, in part due to critical events such as the death of Freddie Gray. We are learning how to do a better job in policing and are transitioning to being better public guardians. I am working very actively with our officers to foster better understanding on both sides of the officer/citizen conversation and

am heartened by the results we've seen so far. This will be an ongoing process for some time to come.

**NWCP:** And if that weren't enough, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has just issued a report critical of some aspects of the Department. Do you have any thoughts on that report?

**KD:** We see the DOJ report as an opportunity to improve BPD. The report is a mandate to work out issues in the Department, some of them longstanding, and the necessary changes won't happen overnight. But I'm confident that we're on the right track and with patience we'll see some much-needed changes take place.

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### Spotlight on Baltimore Jewish Council: Howard Libit, Director

**NWCP:** Can you please tell us what the mission statement is for the BJC?

**HL:** I look at our mission as being in four general areas:

- 1) Advocacy at all levels of government for issues of concern to the Jewish community: legislative issues, seeking financial public resources, etc.
- 2) Fostering intra-community relations: seeking greater cooperation within our Jewish communities.
- 3) Fostering inter-community relations: essentially building better relationships with different ethnic and faith groups outside our community.
- 4) Advocating for Israel and the Jewish people: that includes everything from pushing for a



strong U.S.-Israeli relationship at the national level to promoting and delivering quality Holocaust education here at the local level and partnering on those types of issues. It's a fairly broad mandate.

**NWCP:** Right. It's not too complicated in terms of what you're doing but it's the number of levels that you're involved on, everything from grassroots to international. It's a broad reach. Can you tell me who composes BJC? Community volunteers, paid staff, both?

**HL:** We have a staff of 8 here, but really the Council is made up of representatives from across the Jewish communities. We have a Board that has a number of people from all

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## The Safe Way to Shovel Snow

By: Jonathan Libber

While it is highly unlikely Baltimore will experience another massive snowfall as we did last winter, it is likely that we will need to shovel snow at some point this winter.



While shoveling snow just seems like an everyday chore, it is potentially quite dangerous.

Approximately 100 Americans die every year from shoveling snow, and thousands more are injured. Why is such a seemingly mundane task so dangerous? The first issue is that many people have done little or no exercise for months, and then they pick up a shovel and start moving hundreds of pounds of snow. This can put an enormous strain on the heart. Pushing a heavy snow blower also can cause injuries. On top of this, you have to deal with cold weather. The National Safety Council explains:

Cold weather can increase heart rate and blood pressure. It can make blood clot



*The Meth Family cleaning Rabbi Teichman's property*

more easily and constrict arteries, which decreases blood supply. This is true even in healthy people. Individuals over the age of 40 or who are relatively inactive should be particularly careful. Here are some tips on how to shovel snow safely based mostly on National Safety Council recommendations:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch before you begin.
- If you can, shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it's lighter.
- If you are shoveling wet snow, reduce the amount of snow you are moving with your shovel.
- Where practical, push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Take frequent breaks. Do not work to the point of exhaustion.

Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. If you feel tightness in the chest or dizziness, stop immediately. A clear driveway is not worth your life.



Commissioner Kevin Davis continued from page 1...

**NWCP:** What's a typical day look like in your job? Is there any such thing?

**KD:** I actually wake up excited to go to work every day! I love what I do and enjoy it, although I couldn't really describe a typical day. Every day is different.

**NWCP:** So it's never boring?

**KD:** No, it's never boring.

**NWCP:** What concerns you most about the city? And what do you think are our best assets?

**KD:** I believe in moving forward and don't worry too much about what's wrong, rather I try to focus on what's right. I have a lot of faith in the people of Baltimore. They love their city, and for the most part, work hard to improve it.

**NWCP:** The Northwest Citizen's Patrol is proud of our close association with the Baltimore Police Department over the past 30 years. Can you please share something with our readers about your association with the NWCP?

**KD:** Yes. The banquet! The annual NWCP banquet is a highlight for all of us in the Department. I cannot tell you how many careers have been saved because of the banquet! The acknowledgment of our officers, the well-deserved honor given to law enforcement at the banquet have caused many officers to rethink a career change. Of course we also appreciate the work the Patrol does in helping prevent crime in the neighborhood. But the banquet is such an important annual event and we look forward to it every year.

**NWCP:** Commissioner Davis, thanks again for speaking with us. We wish you the best of luck in leading the Department and greatly appreciate your dedication to the people of Baltimore. And of course, we look forward to seeing you at the NWCP banquet!



*Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, Chief of Patrol Colonel Melissa Hyatt, NWCP President Neil Schachter, Board Member Mr. Simcha Retter*

## Lost Flash Drive Scam



With recent surveys suggesting a good many people find it hard to resist popping a found USB stick into their computer, it's no surprise that hackers are using them to try to spread malware. Police in Australia have reported that a number of the diminutive storage drives have been left in the mailboxes of residents in a suburb of Melbourne. Curiosity has clearly gotten the better of some of the recipients, with a few them

learning to their detriment that it's really not a good idea to plug such an item into a computer if you have no idea where it's come from. Without offering much in the way of detail, police described the contents of the unlabeled sticks as "extremely harmful," adding that residents who stuck them into their PC experienced "serious issues" with their machine.

A U.S. study earlier this year found that nearly half of 297 USB sticks placed randomly around a university campus were picked up and inserted into computers. Hackers can use the sticks in several ways. They could load them with malware that infects the system without the user realizing. Such malware could pull personal information from a computer before sending it back to the hacker, or lock the computer up until a ransom is paid. It could also contain malicious software that once activated can read keystrokes, giving the hacker access to the computer owner's user names and passwords, as well as other personal information.

Either way, plugging a found USB stick into your computer -- whether through curiosity or in the hope that you can discover its owner so you can return it -- isn't worth the potential hassle. As for an unmarked drive showing up in your mailbox ... the only place you should stick that is straight in the trash can.

**Howard Libit**, continued from page 1...

different segments of our communities, representing the different organizations, synagogues, prominent leaders from our community who jointly serve. We are intended to be a representative voice from our community. We know that there's not one Jewish community and not one Jewish point of view, so we try and work together among all these different representatives to reach a consensus and to advocate. Even though there are differences, we share a lot more similarities and common values. We try to forge advocacy based on those shared values.



**NWCP:** Where does your funding come from?

**HL:** Primarily from the Associated Jewish Charities. We're an independent nonprofit, but we're part of the allocations that come from the Associated.

**NWCP:** Do you do lobbying?

**HL:** Yes. A big part of our mission is that we are essentially advocates for the community. That includes advocating on behalf of the agencies. We'll advocate on behalf of funding for JCS, for CHAI, for the JCC and for Lifebridge. We work with all the different agencies by playing the lead down in Annapolis. We work with our local and federal officials as well, helping secure, for example, Homeland Security grants for a number of institutions.

**NWCP:** What about you personally. How did you get involved in this kind of work?

**HL:** I've been a lay leader with BJC since 2009-2010. I originally moved to Baltimore in 1994; I was a reporter and editor at the Baltimore Sun for 15 years and most recently worked on the Mayor's staff. I started here at the beginning of the summer.

**NWCP:** You've given us a few examples of the kind of work you do in terms of advocating for the Jewish community. Can you give us an overview of your major initiatives?

**HL:** One of the great successes of the last legislative session was us working with a number of other community groups to secure \$5M in the state budget that goes toward scholarships for needy families who have children attending private schools. The Governor appointed a member of our executive committee to serve on a committee to decide how to allocate these funds. Roughly \$900,000 of the \$5M has been designated to go to families attending Jewish day schools here in Baltimore.

**NWCP:** So, it's not divided among schools, but rather among families?

**HL:** Yes, it goes to families who are at the level where they qualify for free lunch. It's aimed at helping families in need, who are challenged with being able to afford the education that they want and need for their children.

**NWCP:** Do you endorse candidates?

**HL:** We do not. We're a 501(c)3, so we do not endorse particular candidates. We take positions on issues affecting our community and we advocate for those. We cannot advocate for or against any specific candidates.

**NWCP:** Are you involved in getting out the vote or otherwise getting citizens in the Jewish community to be involved in government, local or otherwise?

**HL:** We sponsor Advocacy Day each year in Annapolis, where we bring down many members of our community and the Washington Jewish community. We set up meetings with legislators and have a reception where leaders come and speak to us about issues. So we're kind of pushing for involvement of the community with government. We certainly encourage people to vote through voter registration tables and events involving young people. We also help with the Elijah Cummings Youth Program with Israel. We run teacher training programs for teachers to learn how to better teach the Holocaust in their classrooms.

**NWCP:** What accomplishments are you most proud of?

**HL:** BJC has a great history of being a great advocate and a great voice for the Jewish community, since 1939. We'll continue to do that.

**NWCP:** Any particular major projects for the future?

**HL:** We're still formulating our legislative agenda for this coming year. We also continue to look for ways to promote security in the community, including working closely with NWCP. Our other big priority is simply helping the City, as a new Mayor takes office in 2016.

**NWCP:** You mentioned NWCP in passing. Any other involvement with our organization?

**HL:** Neil Schachter and I speak frequently. When he hears things, he gives us a call and vice-versa. It's great to see such community involvement. I'm looking forward to attending my first NWCP banquet in December.

**NWCP:** Thank you very much for your time.



*Howard Libit with (L) Hillel Socolof and (R) Councilman-Elect Isaac 'Yitzy' Schleifer*

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!

**President's Corner**



**Partners in Crime... Prevention**

The NWCP was built on the premise that there is much that we, as citizens, can do to assist and support the police department in their vital work.

To that end, citizens who reside in the Park Heights area, from Clarks lane to Manhattan Ave., have joined together and contributed the necessary funds to hire an off-duty officer to patrol on Friday nights and Jewish holidays. This response was originally due to an uptick in crime on Friday nights this past February in the Park Heights corridor. Community member Jonah Ottensauer is spearheading this mission and recruiting donors. For over nine months, he has ensured that money will be available to pay the officer. Donations can be made out to NWCP and earmarked "Friday Night Patrol".

The NWCP has been happy to participate by supplying a patrol car and gas for this important cause. The NWCP is happy and even excited to do what we can to help and be part of this citizen-driven effort to support the enhancement of security. We salute these citizens for their efforts and Jonah in particular for his vision and leadership. Once again, we are witnessing another amazing partnership between citizens, the NWCP and the police department.

*Neil*

**Neil (Nachy) Schachter**  
President@NWCP.info



Please join us for an Enjoyable Evening of Friendship and Support for the Police Department, City Officials and the NWCP

In Special Tribute to Councilwoman

**Rikki Spector**

For her 39 Years of Devoted Service to Baltimore City and Our Community

Meet-Greet with

Mayor Elect

**Catherine Pugh**

and

Councilman Elect

**Yitzy Schleifer**

**Bnai Jacob Shaarei Zion 6602 Park Heights Ave. 21215**  
**December 3, 2016 • 8:00pm**

Elegant Buffet Reception, Including a Delicious Variety of Fish, Pasta, Soup, Salad and Dessert

**Community Leadership Committee:**

Dr. Michael Elman   David Pink, Esq.   Shraga Goldenshaersht   Nechemia Ishee   Dr. Rephael Lieder  
Alba Pollakoff, Esq.   Jonathan Sperling   Shlomo Spetner   Hillel Teridlet, Esq.   Chaim Wealcach

**Dinner Hosts:**

Chaim & Chaya Glazer   Moshe & Aviva Heinemann   Yaakov & Yocheved Lieder  
Yaakov & Sarah Ottensauer   Moshe Dov & Sarah Shurin

RESERVATIONS BY NOVEMBER 23, 2016 • DONATION - \$40 PER PERSON  
FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 410-664-6927, EXT. 8 OR EMAIL [RSVP@NWCP.INFO](mailto:RSVP@NWCP.INFO)

**STOP CAR THEFT**

Use the Club. Order yours today by calling the NWCP office: 410-664-6927. Each Club is available for the subsidized price of \$39. Watch Lieutenant David Folderauer, Baltimore County Police Department, speak about auto theft protection at the NWCP Home and Safety seminar. <http://nwcp.info/cartheft/>



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The Citizen is looking for volunteers to provide articles for future editions.



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