

**Better Bevo Now**  
**Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
Meeting Attendance: 65

**6:30 – Welcome & Introductions**

**Guest speaker: Jimmie Edwards, Director of Public Safety**

([www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/profiles/judge-jimmie-m-edwards.cfm](http://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/public-safety/profiles/judge-jimmie-m-edwards.cfm))

Director Edwards has a long history with police, including a “bias in favor of police officers” because that’s the area he knows best. Director Edwards spoke to the importance of police engaging with community and his expectations of his officers because of a trust gap between police and the community, particularly minority communities. This includes beat cops and police having personal relationships with the community. He has met with the police unions and feels their partnership will be well. He will move officers where crime is happening, but not to the detriment of our neighborhood. SLMPD is currently 110 officers down. He mentioned that the residency requirement is causing the force to be short on officers. He wants to discuss redistricting the city to determine what makes sense with the Captains since they’re the ones getting complaints from the rank and file. Director Edwards noted that “If we don’t police at the low level, we increase crime at the high level.” Director Edwards said he’s also in support of the plan by new police chief John Hayden to increase police manpower in a rectangle of neighborhoods in North St. Louis, where 67% of last year’s murders took place. The vast majority of these murders involved drugs, domestic violence, and targeted violence. He said that they very seldom see these crimes being committed on strangers. Director Edwards has asked federal and outside agencies to get involved, including the FBI, ATF, East St. Louis PD, and municipal and county police departments. He is looking at policing as a regional problem. He has asked state highway patrol to remain on our highways. He encourages all citizens to call the police when it’s appropriate. He reported that the number of robberies and burglaries is down. If you see a car that doesn’t belong on your street, call it in! He mentioned the new trash task force which is designed to reduce or eliminate illegal dumping. Once the task force identifies hot spots for excessive dumping, cameras will be moved into those areas.

**Guest speaker: John Hayden, SLMPD Chief of Police**

([www.slmpd.org/chief\\_of\\_police.shtml](http://www.slmpd.org/chief_of_police.shtml))

Chief Hayden has served with SLMPD for 30 years including as a patrolman and detective, undercover narcotics officer, and commander of the detective bureau. For the last 5 years, he was a Captain in North STL, then a Major. The Chief reported that 50% of all violent crimes occur in North St. Louis. He further reported that SLMPD has supplemental resources which can be used to assist District-assigned officers including officers assigned to special tasks and federal and state assistance (FBI, State Troopers, etc...). He reported that the number of aggravated assaults are down in the places where they normally occur. He stated that District 1 officers will not be pulled from their assignments to assist in more problematic areas of the city. Chief Hayden has a mobile office and will invite community partners from SLATE, Better Family Life, and other organizations to join him in the community. “Within the next year they will make a vast improvement,” he added.

**Officer Keith Navarra, Trash Task Force** – Officer Navarra reported that SLMPD created a Trash Task Force which has 10 officers who have closed 12 cases in the two weeks the task force has been active. Officer Navarra instructed attendees to call CSB (622-4800) to report excessive dumping as you would normally do, but to be sure to specifically notify the responding operator that the call should be transferred directly to the Trash Task Force. Doing so will ensure that Officer

Navarra is notified and he will thereafter ensure that the issue is handled within 12 hours. There will also be 106 cameras installed, including between Alfred and Taft as Officer Navarro has noticed a dumping pattern. Call, call, call! Keep the trash reports coming in. If you use the CSB app to make reports, put in the notes that you want it assigned to the Trash Task Force. Do not use this taskforce to report neighbors not dumping correctly. This is for illegal dumping. Officer Navarro will email Gwen Murray promotional materials. Officer Navarro was asked if he knows who has been assigned as our new Problem Property Officer. He does not, but you can call Dotty McDowell. Officer Navarro mentioned one of our Alderwomen will call to get that information.

## 7:00 – BBN Board Reports

**Gwen Murray, Chairman** – The BBN board continues to work toward becoming an official nonprofit. The next quarterly Healthy Schools Healthy Community meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 6 at the Wohl Rec Center, located at 1515 N Kingshighway Blvd, St Louis, MO 63113. The 2018 Bevo community directory is still in the works, but should be complete in March. Don't forget to go to the Farmers Market on Tuesdays from 5 – 8 PM at the Heavy Anchor, located at 5226 Gravois Ave, St. Louis 63116. Oak Hill School has started an open basketball event for adults and kids. The first event is February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Oak Hill, located at 4300 Morganford Rd, St Louis, MO 63116. City Seniors ([stlouiscityseniors.com](http://stlouiscityseniors.com)) is hosting their only annual fundraiser which is a trivia night on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Grbic Restaurant. If you want to sit with the Bevo table, talk to Charlene Panek. Tickets are \$25 per person and include open bar. St. Louis Bike Works is hosting their Own a Bike Program for youth ages 8-27. Attend all seven sessions at the Thomas Dunn Learning Center (must attend all sessions) and receive a helmet, bike, and lock at the end of the program. ([facebook.com/events/1772162029756771/](https://facebook.com/events/1772162029756771/)) There is now a community calendar that includes all the events in Bevo which will be at all the BBN meetings. Check out Majeed, a new Mediterranean restaurant at Itaska & Gravois ([facebook.com/MajeedMediterraneanRestaurant/](https://facebook.com/MajeedMediterraneanRestaurant/)).

**Karen Chaney, Co-Chair** – no report

**Donna Stueve, Secretary** – no report

**Mary Hackett, Treasurer** – At end of January the account balance is \$3,093. BBN needs help putting out BBN meeting signs. Contact Mary if you can help.

## 7:15 – NOM Reports

**Neighborhood Watch** – no report

*To learn more about this program, please contact David Tallent at [Improvebevotogether@yahoo.com](mailto:Improvebevotogether@yahoo.com). Join the Facebook group to stay connected -- [facebook.com/groups/141085126594273/](https://facebook.com/groups/141085126594273/).*

**Block Captains** – no report

*To learn more about this program, please contact Ryan Henson at [Ryan.Dave.Henson@gmail.com](mailto:Ryan.Dave.Henson@gmail.com), or call 314-825-2708.*

**Court Advocacy** – no report

*To learn more about this program, please contact Kristin Hoffmann at [kristin@kristinhoffmann.com](mailto:kristin@kristinhoffmann.com) or call 314-632-6508.*

**Victim Support** – There is a free class to be part of the program.

*To learn more about this program, please contact Kay Miller at [kayguth@yahoo.com](mailto:kayguth@yahoo.com).*

## 7:30 – Reports from Community Partners

**Beth Murphy, 13<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman** – There will be new playground equipment installed near the Carondelet YMCA which has been made possible by Healthy Schools Healthy Communities and the City's Parks Department, with the support of Beth and Sarah Wood Martin. Three Habitat for Humanity houses are being completed in Bevo. In the last few years, 6 new homes have been built. People are investing and expanding in the area. Habitat for Humanity is having a trivia night on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Beth and Carol Howard are sponsoring a round at the City Senior trivia night. Beth gave a copy of the Missouri Landlord Laws booklet to BBN Chair, Gwen Murray. Nothing has come through with new restaurant, Lucky Duck, and Beth has not heard any updates.

**Carol Howard, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman** – Recognized BBN, Officer Navarro and Rumpsa, and Christy Boyd for their work in the community. The camera project is going along. With regard to the trees which are being cut by Forestry, Carol reported that they had to come down due to disease and added that Forestry has promised to replace them this year. Carol reported that a multi-million dollar development project is being proposed for the current Midwest BankCentre site. Carol reported that the Conflict Resolution Center is available to neighbors who need help communicating effectively. As of February 15<sup>th</sup>, a resolution was introduced regarding the Lambert International Airport. St. Louis City may not have to sell the airport, but instead can lease it to make money from outside sources. Grow Missouri will pay and complete a study to see if leasing will bring in money. They are currently working on a proposal which has to be passed by a majority vote from the Board of Aldermen, Comptroller, and the Mayor. This process will take about two years with regular updates to the BOA. There will be public input if this moves forward but currently it's in its infancy. Carol is currently researching residency in St. Louis City for her sponsored bill to remove the residency requirement in the city. This bill will go before voters. "This is not so police can move out of the city." Beth Murphy was asked if she supports the bill, but Beth said it's up to the voters. The light at Delor and Gravois was mentioned. Neighbors think it's too fast. Carol has noticed. Carol will call MoDOT and said you can call too.

**Christy Boyd, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighborhood Improvement Specialist** – 622-4800 is the CSB number to call for any issues. Please avoid putting trash on the ground unless it's the bulk pickup week. Neighborhood Watch and Block Captains work to help report litter and issues as well. If someone is dumping behind your house report it to the CSB. Court Advocacy and Victim Support are great resources for when you've been a victim of crime. Volunteer for the committees! Contact Christy or David Tallent for \$13 car clubs. St. Louis City has the nuisance ordinance in place so call the non-emergency police line (321.1212) if you're having a problem. 657-1377 is Christy's number. If you have a problem property that warrants calling the police, please call Christy. Andrew Hernandez is the Neighborhood Improvement Specialist for the 13<sup>th</sup> Ward.

**Officer Steve Wilson (represented by Officer Chris Rumpsa)** – 57 crimes this time last year and this year it's only 53 (7% decrease). Trying to get bike police back in Bevo. STLMPD has new 6 new recruits. April 25<sup>th</sup> is the First District Annual Awards Luncheon at The Christy at 11:30 AM to recognize officers in our district. Officers will have "Block blitzes" in the communities to bring our firefighters, blood testing, fire alarm testing, ice cream truck, and other resources to communities. The next "block blitz" will be Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> the 3900 & 4000 block of Schiller Place from 2 PM – 6 PM. They will also have recruiters if anyone is interested in being a police officer. This program will move throughout STL but will start on the blocks that need it the most.

**District 82 MO Representative, Donna Baringer (represented by Alex Rapert)** – Rep. Baringer is working on a food pantry tax credit bill (HB 2389). Rep. Baringer saw the needs for this bill as it will allow people to donate more to food pantries. The proposed bill will keep this program going to 2026. The bill also includes soup kitchens.

## 8:00 – Announcements

BBN meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at St. Louis Firefighters Local 73, 4271 Delor St, St. Louis 63116

50/50 raffle totaled \$56 with \$28 awarded to winner. Board elections were held and the new BBN board members elected are as follows:

Chair – Gwen Murray

Co-Chair – Mary Hackett

Treasurer – Kristin Hoffman

Secretary – Alicia Hernandez

Victim Support Leader – Kay Miller

Neighborhood Watch Leader – David Tallent

Block Captain Leader – Ryan Henson

Court Advocacy Leader – Kristin Hoffman

Community Members – Charlene Panek, Kenya

Webster, Donna Stueve