

**Lakewood Neighborhood Association
VFW Hall – Washington Street
Monday, January 26, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Officer's Report: Robert Chille.

12/8/08 - Malicious damage- bb cracked a window on a sanitation truck on Spofford Ave, no witnesses.

12/16/08 - Drug arrest at Aldrich Jr. High School .
UPS package stolen off a porch at Village Green Condo's

12/17/08 - Drug violation at Aldrich Jr. High School , no arrest child released into parent's custody.

12/23/08 - Assault arrest at Firefighters Tavern

1/20/09 - Burglary Apt 23 Historical bldgs

1/21/09 - Damaged vehicle on Fair Street

1/24/09 - Trash bins stolen on North Hampton Ave. (trash bins being stolen across the area).

1/25/09 - O'Rourke's Bar a mirror was removed from the car of a patron.

Speaker: Councilman & President of the Warwick City Council, Mr. Bruce Place.

Mr. Place pledges to work in a bipartisan way, the time for everyone to work together is now.

Due to the State Government tax cuts the city is now facing a \$4.7 million dollar short in the present budget. This budget ends June 30th.

Mr. Place is working with the Director of Personnel & the City Solicitor in hopes of managing the cuts.

Mr. Place states that services will be cut due to people retiring, forced retirement, and/or layoffs.

Some examples of services cut :

1. Possibility of trash pick up twice a month rather than weekly pick up
2. Elimination of the Community Police
3. Removal of Police Officer from the High Schools.

According to Mr. Place the Governor will be handing down mandates that will affect schools, staffing, police, and fire.

Mr. Place states many contracts are due for renewal and the City Council has no authority to negotiate contracts. However, this year the City Council has the option to ratify any contracts the Mayor has negotiated. For example, if the City Council isn't in agreement with the contract negotiated they can request that the Mayor and other party go back to the negotiating table.

Mr. Steven Colantuono newly elected Councilman of Ward 1 states that the City Council has received revised budgets from the Mayor's office and that the priority is to look for ways to save without cutting services, if possible. Mr. Colantuono is interested in utilizing the Councilman's Corner on our Lakewood web site and he spoke with Larry on how too.

Mr. Colantuono is looking for thoughts and ideas from taxpayers on ways to better serve.

You can contact Mr. Colantuono via the City of Warwick Web Site. Also, Mr. Colantuono is looking into starting a Blog on the City's web site to better facilitate communication.

Although the City is facing a serious budget crisis and next year looks to be worse than this year, Mr. Place and Mr. Colantuono are committed to working together.

For February's meeting, Paula to book Mayor Avedisian as our speaker. Stay safe, warm, and keep an eye on your trash bins.