



Public Safety Town Hall Briefing Summary

Date: October 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location: Langston Hughes Community, Business and Resource Center & Virtual

Purpose & Overview

Park Heights Renaissance (PHR) hosted a **Public Safety Town Hall** to bring together Park Heights business owners, local law enforcement, the State’s Attorney’s Office, city agencies, and community stakeholders. The meeting aimed to foster open dialogue about safety concerns, share updates on upcoming revitalization initiatives, and introduce PHR’s newly released **Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Partnership for Comprehensive Safety, Beautification & Community Revitalization Strategy**.

PHR emphasized that creating a safe and thriving business corridor requires collaboration across public, private, and grassroots sectors — an “ecosystem approach” to safety, beautification, and economic vitality.

Key Discussion Themes

1. Safety Through Collaboration | Shared Responsibility

- **Yolanda Jiggetts, PHR CEO:** opened with remarks underscoring that “true safety is a shared effort — one that blends community trust, environmental design, and opportunity.”
- She highlighted PHR’s commitment to addressing the root causes of crime through environmental transformation, business activation, and equitable investment.
- She emphasized PHR’s shift toward **community-informed safety design**— installing better lighting, improving facades, activating vacant spaces, and creating environments that deter crime while promoting pride and ownership.
- She also acknowledged that we have already gone through the process of gathering surveys and feedback from business owners and partners along the Main Steets,

through a series of charrettes to better understand what the community needs and wants. We are now in the implementation stage.

2. Business Owner Concerns

- **Business Owners & Property Managers** shared real challenges such as illegal dumping, loitering, vandalism, and the need for better lighting and surveillance technology that respects community dignity.
- Attendees emphasized the need for faster city response times and clearer communication between businesses and law enforcement.

3. Law Enforcement & Prosecutorial Updates

- **Ivan Bates, State's Attorney of Baltimore City:**
Provided detailed insights into ongoing trends and priorities related to public safety and business crime enforcement in Northwest Baltimore. Key points included:
 - **Shift Toward Data-Driven Prosecution:** The office is using pattern recognition to identify “hot zones” where property crimes, illegal dumping, and vandalism repeatedly occur. These data points are being shared with agencies like DPW and BPD to coordinate cleanup, lighting improvements, and enforcement.
 - **Small Business Crime Prioritization:** While violent crime remains the top prosecutorial priority, crimes that directly impact small businesses—such as vandalism, theft, and property damage—are being elevated when there’s evidence of repeat offenses or patterns tied to economic destabilization. The representative emphasized, *“Business corridors are community corridors—if they decline, everything around them follows.”*
 - **Encouragement of Reporting:** Business owners were urged to file police reports consistently. Even minor offenses, when documented, create the data foundation prosecutors need to link repeat offenders and request stronger sentencing or diversion interventions.
 - **Alternative Approaches:** The office is exploring diversion programs that combine accountability with workforce training or restorative justice—particularly for youth and non-violent offenders caught committing nuisance crimes.

- **Baltimore Police Department Representative:**

Acknowledged resource constraints but reaffirmed the Department's commitment to partnership. They noted the **Clean & Green workforce** and **PHR's business engagement teams** have become valuable allies for early detection of problem areas.

4. Business Owners and Community Perspectives

Community participation was strong and candid, reflecting both frustration and hope.

- **Lighting, Loitering, and Dumping:** Multiple business owners and residents voiced concerns about dark corners, overflowing trash, and abandoned lots becoming “hot spots” for illicit activity. One business owner remarked that *“simple lighting and consistent cleanup would make people feel safer walking here after sunset.”*
- **Trust and Responsiveness:** Several participants shared that when they call city agencies or police about dumping or vandalism, response times can be slow or unclear. The call was made for a **dedicated business corridor point of contact** within BPD or City Hall.
- **Youth Engagement and Opportunity:** Residents and faith-based leaders discussed the importance of prevention, not just enforcement. They emphasized investing in youth employment and safe recreation spaces as long-term safety strategies.
- **Community-Led Monitoring:** A few residents proposed a neighborhood ambassador or “peacekeeper” model—trained community members who could serve as visible, approachable safety stewards along Park Heights Avenue.
- **Beautification & Pride:** Participants praised the recent façade upgrades and asked for more “quick wins” like murals, flowers, and outdoor seating that visually demonstrate progress.

5. RFQ Announcement & Call for Collaboration

- PHR introduced the **Safety, Beautification & Community Revitalization RFQ**, inviting contractors, designers, and practitioners to join a qualified vendor pool that will support long-term corridor improvement projects.

- This RFQ represents a key step in PHR's Collective Impact Model, connecting safety, workforce development, and business revitalization to create measurable change across 12 neighborhoods.

Stakeholder Insights

- **Community Leaders:** stressed that safety should include youth engagement, workforce opportunities, and neighborhood pride.
- **Faith-Based Partners:** offered to collaborate on mentorship and restorative programs.
- **Residents & Business Owners:** called for better maintenance of public spaces and accountability for dumping and neglected properties.
- **PHR Clean & Green Crew Representative:** shared ongoing work to maintain lots and public spaces but noted that stronger partnerships and enforcement support are needed.
- **PHR Main Street Manager, Curtis Eaddy,** discussed upcoming projects focusing on better corridor lighting, signage, and beautification — integrating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.

Action Items & Next Steps

- **Joint Agency Coordination:** PHR to schedule follow-up meetings with the State's Attorney's Office, BPD, and DPW to streamline corridor response.
- **Community Peacekeeper Pilot:** Exploration of a neighborhood ambassador model in collaboration with local partners
- **RFQ Information Session:** Scheduled for **November 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM (Virtual)** via www.boldnewheights.org/RFQsafe.
- **Lighting & Design Implementation:** PHR to release updates on selected projects and vendor opportunities.

- **Ongoing Reporting:** Businesses encouraged to document and report issues for coordinated response and data tracking.

Closing Message

The Town Hall reinforced that revitalization in Park Heights is not a policing initiative but a **community-centered safety strategy**. By working together — aligning public resources, private investment, and community leadership — Park Heights can model what equitable redevelopment truly looks like.

One participant said, *“We can’t just police our way to safety; we have to build it together.”*

For more information and to reach a representative from the PHR Business & Economic Development department at PHR, please email **businessengagement@phrmd.org**