

## University Height Collaborative General Meeting

December 8, 2020

The meeting commenced at 7:00 pm via zoom

Attendance- Mickey Vertino, Mike Cartwright, Candy Hayes, Ray Reichart, Linda Garwol, Gail Willsky, Susan Carpenter, Darren Cotton, Steph Bucalo, Chris Hayes, Anne Tarrantino, Ellen Harris Harvey, Theresa Johnson, Greg Kempf, Karen Piotrowski, Pam Landel, Allen G?, Anne Evangelos, Corey Bower, Daniel Emmer, Linda Banks, Madeleine Thompson, Councilman Rasheed Wyatt, Sean Brosius, Sharon Green, Tess Morrissey, Jim Rozanski, Jennifer Tuttle

### Report from Madeleine Thompson, from NY DOH Covid 19 contact tracing:

Goal is to reduce Covid 19 infections in the University District. Hotspots in Buffalo include 14215.

Number of infections in 14215-

End of Sept.- 913

End of Oct- 1025

End of Nov- 1409

As of Dec 8- 1676

In City of Buffalo as of Dec 8- 11,453

Erie County has 200 more contact tracers to inform people who need to quarantine, help arrange any resources needed, contact any contacts that person had contact with. All is kept confidential.

Advice- Wash hands, wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, social distance, cover all coughs, contact DOH for testing, contact doctor with symptoms

Free testing- Erie County 716-858-2929 or 888-364-3065

### Questions:

How many people have downloaded the app which tells you if you have been w/in 6 feet of a Covid + person for more than 15 min.

The answer is they don't know but it appears to be very few and is therefore not very useful.

Question on the rapid Test; There are 3 different tests- NY or Erie County web site will have information on what tests are available.

### Report on reopening Amy's

Greg Kempf owner of Amy's –

Amy's was closed due to Covid and difficulty of operating safely during the pandemic. Greg would like to transition the ownership to a worker's coop, hoping as it reopens it will attract employees who want to be involved. Greg hopes to reopen later in the winter or spring. He is applying for a beer and wine license to make the restaurant a wider draw and help make it profitable. Greg would like a letter of support for the beer and wine license from UHC for the Planning Board, Nov 30, and the Council legislative committee for a special use permit, Dec 15. UHC supports the reopening- and beer and wine license, Amy's has been missed.

Further plans for Amy's were initially to open a coffee shop next door, the space is currently being refinished. The spaces are not currently connected but possible could be, and the coffee shop could open as an add on to Amy's or a part of the restaurant.

UHC will draft a letter in support.

#### New businesses in the University District

Mirrors and More, gift type shop, opening on the east side of Main near Minnesota. Hopes to open before Christmas.

University Plaza- Pizza and Wings opening

Wing King was coming to Univ Heights, stopped by pandemic, may still open.

#### Report from Rasheed Wyatt

Life Storage Building- large 3 story storage building approved by Planning Board with no notice to the UHC or to the Councilman. The building will be built in the parking lot of the current storage building on Kenmore by the bike path. Councilman Wyatt said it may be that it didn't need any Council approval because its within existing Green Code zoning. However its not a business that will provide any benefit to the neighborhood or help increase foot traffic on that stretch of Kenmore, and may add pressure to other businesses on the block to redevelop as big storage type buildings as opposed to local retail.

School zone cameras- the 15 MPH speed zone and cameras on Main in front of St. Joe's is still without adequate signage to inform drivers that they are entering a reduced speed zone. In addition, not clear if the speed zone is in effect when schools are closed, and beacons are not working and, where there are signs, they are blocked by trees in some places. Councilman Wyatt reported that the speed zone cameras had been set up by the vendor along with Public Works. (Their interests are in maximizing the fines not in reducing speed because they receive a percentage of the fines). UHC will write a letter to the Council asking for the problems to be fixed.

Candy Hayes brought up a long-standing problem with the light at Kenmore and Englewood that at certain times just goes to blinking making it very difficult and dangerous for traffic turning onto Kenmore from Englewood. Community members have had near misses at that intersection on numerous occasions and the intersection is very hazardous for pedestrians. Candy has reported the problem for several years and it has never been fixed. She asked Councilman Wyatt to intervene and get the light fixed. He asked her to write a letter to the Council and promised to follow up.

#### Other Issues and reports

Darren reported that the Tool Library has gone remote with curbside pickup because a volunteer had tested positive for Covid. Orders can be put in by phone or on the web site.

They have not been able to have their annual fundraiser breakfast because of Covid and are raffling off gift baskets. Make any donation to the Tool Library until December 17 and you will be entered to win a basket. Funds raised help cover the cost of neighborhood projects.

Also, Tooligan sweatshirts are available for sale – great holiday gifts.

Mike Cartwright is organizing a linear park committee. He asked people who take pictures along the park to send them to him for the UHC website.

Submitted by Susan Carpenter