

**SUITLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes - Virtual Zoom**  
**February 28, 2022**

**Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Presiding Officer Carol Jones**

Invocation given by: LinDonna Griffin

Presiding Officer Carol Jones; welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Roll Call of Executive Board Officers present:** Presiding Officer / Treasurer, Carol Jones, Recording Secretary Kenneth Waddell, Membership Committee Chairperson, Mary Allen, Correspondence Secretary, Charlotte Williams, Financial Secretary, Judy Bowie-Robinson Trustee, Monica Gaddy, Trustee, Brain Jacobs, Trustee Byanna Head, and Finance Committee Chairperson, Doris Jones.

Participants: nineteen (33)

**Guest speaker, the Honorable Senator Joanne Benson, represent the 24 District in the Maryland State Senate**

Senator Benson stated, “there is work to be done.” Which includes dealing with the legislation in Prince George’s County. She noted that the shopping center with the Giant grocery store at the intersection of Silver Hill Road and Pennsylvania has one entrance, which has created a horrible traffic backup issue that need to be addressed.

*Tobacco Stores:* Because of the Prince George’s County Charter, there are things we cannot do. But as for liquors stores, no more will be coming to the 24<sup>th</sup> District and we are dealing with those already here.

*Suitland High School:* Fifty (50) % of the seating in the high school auditorium and broken. They were going to renovate the school. The Senator spoke with Prince George’s County Public School Board Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Monica Goldson about funding to rebuild Suitland High School. She also spoke with Prince George’s County Public Schools’ Associate Superintendent for Support Services, Dr. Mark Fossett with Budget and Taxation. It will cost \$2.8 mil to get started to rebuild the high school and a total rebuild projected cost of \$180 mil. Suitland High School’s Annabelle E. Ferguson Auditorium which is a big part of the school’s Center for Visual and Performing Arts is structurally sound. It will cost close to \$2 mill to gut the building and renovate the structure. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

*Surplus funds given for projects:*

Training: \$200 -350 thousand – Job training for women, computer, reading/math, high school equivalents diploma, etc.

Lake Arbor: \$350 thousand

United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP): \$500,000.00

Mission of Love: \$500,000.00

Senator Benson asked about the Suitland Civic Association (SCA) Club House at 4927 Silver Hill Road and stated, “SCA should take advantage a bond bill valued at half a million. She also encouraged members to speak with Maryland State Senator Melody Griffin, District 25, Prince George’s County.”

Grocery Stores: There a currently no grocery store in the Capital Heights areas or doctor’s offices. This is something to be addressed.

Restaurants: We do not need any more fast-food restaurants in the 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

Speeding: Speeding bills are on the legislative agenda

Trash: Trash is a huge problem – the County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks is looking at putting messages on billboards as a deterrent to let county residents know how much of their taxes (\$7 mil) monies go toward cleaning up trash/litter.

Donated funding (\$2,000.00) was raised to provide socks and underwear to children. Donated funds were also raised to give 840 coats to children in the district.

Food Banks: St Martha and St Margaret mentioned

Lastly, Senator Benson acknowledged Christopher Stevenson, who was in attendance and is running for Maryland State Delegate for the 24<sup>th</sup> legislative District.

### **Open for Questions and /or Concerns:**

How can we get the State Highways cleaned up? Ans: Prince George’s County Executive has a plan to work in conjunction with the State to have street sweepers to help pick up the trash.

What about the KFC on Silver Hill Road? Ans: Call Councilman Rodney Streeter, dial 301 and contact Property Standards.

What is the United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP)? Ans: It is a shelter for women on Addison Road. Assist women and girls by providing HS Education, job skills. The county is getting ready to expand with the purchase of the old Fairmount Heights Elementary School.

Fast foods stores in the county which represent 52% of businesses are so abundant and are a main stay in the county because they bring the county good tax revenue.

The new regional medical center, University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, is being built behind the new Prince George’s County hospital will promote high quality, clinically advanced medical care to the region.

Park and Planning Bill – Recreation Centers: They want to separate sports from recreation. It will have an impact on those retiring. The bill was proposed by the County Executive’s team. They are looking at separating services. Ans: Senator Benson – advised to call her office for

copies of the House Bill - HB1057 from Betty Hewlett and Patricia Fenn. The county council sets the budget for Parks & Recreation, and then sent to the County Executive for approval.

You can drop off your used clothing at the Pilgrimage Christian Church located directly across from Suitland High School. You can reach Rev. Brenda at 301-366-7672.

Christopher Stevenson will host a Mental Health Event on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Oakcrest Community Center, located at 1300 Capitol Heights Blvd, Capitol Heights, MD. Topics will focus on the following issues:

Sixty percent of teacher are ready to retire and leave the school system.

Target how student, parents, and teachers are dealing with COVID-19

**Recommendations:**

1. Virtual Campaign Forum:

Charlotte Williams made a motion to approve having a Virtual Campaign Forum. Mary Allen 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed. Volunteers for campaign forum can contact SCA by Friday. Members must be in good standing.

2. Get quotes from companies for yard maintenance services at Suitland Civic Association (SCA) club house:

LinDonna Griffin made a motion was to approve obtaining quotes from companies to cut grass and shrubbery at the SCA club house. Eleanor Andrews 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed.

3. SCA Website Upgrade to include “Inc” in logo, estimate cost \$75.00:

Judy Bowie-Robinson made a motion to approve updating SCA Website to include “Inc” in logo at estimated of cost \$75.00. LinDonna Griffin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor, and none opposed

**Guest speaker, Walter James, Community Liaison with the Office of Community Relations**

Two (2) bulk trash items included with regular trash pickup – calling for feedback from community on how it is working

New smart phone app on 311 reporting of community concern and issues in real time kick-off meeting March 10<sup>th</sup>. Look out for Flyer coming soon. What can be done for sidewalks in the community with sub-pumps not working? Ans: The app provides constant communication on issues. Major road work can take sometime. They need to go out and get bids. It is not a DPIE issue. It is probably Public Works & Transportation.

SCA Clean up Committee – starting up for April through November.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:47PM

*Kenneth Waddell*  
Recording Secretary