

**Greater Wards Corner Area Business Association Minutes**  
**September 19, 2017**

GWCABA monthly business meeting held at the Farm Fresh Mariner Room was called to order at 0848 by Elyse Kalfus, President. Attendance as shown on attached list.

Business topics discussed:

1. Introductions by all attendees was made. Visitors and GWCABA members were permitted to introduce themselves and tell everyone their business name.
2. The minutes from the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved by voice acclamation without any amendments or changes.
3. Crime report was facilitated by Officer Old of the Norfolk Police Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Patrol Division. He stated the new police policy was not to dwell on the crime stats for the GWCABA area but to instead focus on community engagement concepts and that that was the priority going forward. Citizens Academy will be conducted on Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>. Clear the Tracks Program for railroad safety would be held next month. Program is for volunteers to assist police walk the RR right of ways in the area to inspect for homeless camps, etc. Specific date to be published later. Heart of Ghent race is this Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Drug Take Back initiative will include animal medicines as well as human ones. Date in November will be published later. Officer Old did state that shoplifting was the most common crime these days with 10 incidents in the past month of which 6 were cleared by arrest. He also stated that the vice squad was working prostitution issues in the area. The Police and Animal Shelter calendar is now available for sale. Proceeds assist the Norfolk Animal Shelter.
4. Officer Joe McCarthy, Community Safety Division made a very comprehensive presentation regarding business crime prevention and safety for the holidays. He provided several handouts for informational purposes and offered to visit businesses to do an inspection for safety survey. He would inspect for lighting, bushes, windows, etc and offer tips on how to improve the business situation. He said the biggest crime issue for the holidays is car larceny. Reminded everyone to keep valuables out of view in the car so that criminals are not attracted to the car. Discussed the differences between larceny, robbery, and burglary. Gave tips on suspect identification and provided a helpful sheet to use in case we needed to document an issue. Discussed economic crimes and provided awareness of certain internet and credit card scams. Seniors are especially at risk. Briefed everyone on the Norfolk Business Watch Program. Said it provided businesses with crime alerts. Encouraged businesses to join the program.
5. Discussed next meeting date. No meeting in October since Elyse will not be available. Agreed to set next meeting for 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. Day TBD for now.
6. Elyse discussed upcoming officer elections slated for January. She reminded everyone that President and VP positions were still available. Nominations are due by November.

The meeting was adjourned at 0948.