

## NCC Report January 2025

The January meeting of the Northland Community Council took place at Westerwood on January 7, 2025. Our Columbus Police liaisons reported on the crime situation in the past year. There were 123 homicides in Columbus in 2024 (103 by firearms). 17 were in Zone 1, which includes Forest Park and 8 of those were in 18th Precinct, which is our police precinct (a subset of Zone 1). The most homicides took place in September. There have already been three in Columbus in 2025. Car thefts and especially break-ins are still a big concern. Many mall and hotel parking lots have been hit—mostly by juveniles. Don't leave anything of value or anything that might appear to be of value in your car.

Sarah Pomeroy, our Zone 1 Initiative city attorney reported on the issues in our area. The Northtowne Apartments have had complaints and are under a court order to resolve them. Tall Oaks Complex was working on compliance but ran out of money. Finally, the Tamarack Circle business operating as a car dealer, which was a zoning violation is in court and facing a contempt hearing. Also, it was noted that City Attorney Zach Klein will be holding a Community Safety Meeting meeting on January 23 at the Northern Lights Library at 6:00 pm. Sarah will be moving early this year to serve under newly elected Franklin County Prosecutor Shayla Favor doing much the same thing for the county as she has for the city. Prosecutor Favor is expanding the role of her department in dealing with public nuisances in the county. Sarah will introduce her likely replacement at the next meeting.

Many of the other reporting organizations were not present due to bad weather.

A roundtable discussion took place about Phase II of the new Zone In joining reform. This will encompass SR 161 from the Worthington border to past Cleveland Ave. (efforts are being made to move the eastern border to Ponderosa Dr.). For more information, see the Zone In website, <https://zone-in-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>.

In further summaries of the past year, 7 of the 24 member organizations in the Northland Community Council had perfect attendance, including Forest Park. Vice president Pat Hammel is continuing to send out Zone In meeting minutes to interested parties. See the NCC Website for more information. Current NCC Secretary Christine Otero has taken on the role of NCC Banquet Chair. The Parade Committee continues to work on the 2025 Northland Fourth of July Parade. The budget and accounts are in good order. The nomination committee notes that our Treasurer and Vice president, Roger Davidson and Pat Hammel respectively, have consented to run again.

In major news, President Alicia Ward, a resident of Forest Park, who represents Elevate Northland on the NCC, has decided to step down as president of the NCC after nine years due to a job change that requires her time to be spent in NE Ohio. The NCC is looking for nominations to fill this role.

Submitted by Ken Gilbert