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The Ashmont Hill Association

was established in 1970. A non-profit 501(c)3 organization, its mission is to provide a forum to enhance the quality of life in and around Dorchester's historic Ashmont Hill neighborhood by fostering a strong sense of community among all residents.

We welcome news items of neighborhood interest, space permitting. Submissions (no longer than 250 words and including a contact name and phone number) should be sent to P.O. Box 240217, Dorchester, MA 02124, or left on the Message Line. We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.

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January Meeting Notes

C-11 CSO Mike Keaney noted that this New Year's Eve was the quietest in 27 years. A rash of delivery driver robberies included one on Walton Street in late December. Two women were robbed at night on Alban Street in early January; their cell phone was tracked along the Mattapan trolley route and the attackers were arrested at Mattapan Square.

Student behavior on Ashmont Street was discussed with Corey Allen (chair of the Community Engagement Board) and Jessica Descartes (Discipline & Student Support) from Tech Boston Academy. Corey noted that a student who smashed a pumpkin last fall was disciplined. Students are released at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, on other days at 2:30. Some 100-150 students come through neighborhood to the T. A neighbor was concerned that kids are unsupervised and sometimes destructive; is there a way to get them more connected with the neighborhood? They do talk to the kids about being in a community; they can explore whether students need community service hours. Officer Keaney noted that Captain Sexton assigns an officer to Ashmont Station during busy times and a street worker interacts regularly with the kids. BPD also monitors social media for potential fights and trouble spots. Neighbors should call 911 immediately to report fights or other serious matters. For other student issues, call Co-Headmaster Keith Love at TechBoston, 617-635-1615, x3118, or speak to the secretary. Provide a description if possible; they will speak to the student and discipline as appropriate.

Trash is an ongoing problem. Could TechBoston provide trash barrels? Not likely with budget cuts looming. It was noted that barrels need people to be responsible for emptying them. David Mooney will follow up with a further conversation with those who are inter-

ested. Codman Academy and the Henderson Inclusion School are also in this area. Representatives from both schools will be invited to future AHA meetings.

500 Talbot Avenue, the former Our Savior's Lutheran Church, is for sale, with development proposals due February 14. Several entities are known to be submitting proposals. Two parties asked to meet informally with the AHA board: VietAID, a neighborhood development corporation, which proposes to demolish the building and build multi-family housing, and neighbor Matt Malloy, who proposes to preserve the building to accommodate business incubator/artist space, with rental units built on the open land. A neighbor has observed drug activity and solicitation at the property. The church's selection committee said they would probably have a community meeting to review short-listed proposals.

St. Mark's Area Main Street executive director Meaghan Overton gave an overview of the organization, which works to strengthen the Dorchester Avenue business district from Melville to Mercier avenues. Oscar Night on February 22 is their biggest fundraiser. SMAMS committees include: *Beautification*: Working with landscape architects through COGDesign to identify opportunities for public art, temporary movable seating, and other improvements; *Development*: Will weigh in on 500 Talbot, also focusing on vacant properties and how their development will affect the neighborhood; *Local Business Development*: teaching a social media in business class for 12 business owners, helping to reach out to new customers; *Community Events and Public Space*: working with Beautification and also on rebranding for SMAMS itself; *Fundraising and Promotion*: currently working on the Oscars event. Volunteers and feedback are always welcome: www.smams.org.

— Lianne Ames, *notetaker*

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