

Baltimore County Police Briefing to the Association Board on April 15, 2024

On Monday, April 15, Captain Schroeder, commander of the Towson Precinct of the Baltimore County Police (BCPD), Major Deanna Chemelli, commander of the BCPD Eastern Patrol Division, and Joy Stewart, Director of BCPD Public Affairs, joined our monthly board meeting via Zoom to update the Board on recent criminal incidents in our community.

Captain Schroeder provided a recap of the recent robbery of several young children in our community on March 29th at Thornton and Jeffers Roads by seven juveniles in a stolen car. As has been previously reported, the actions of a Good Samaritan who was driving by and witnessed the incident taking place helped lead to the perpetrators being quickly arrested by BCPD. They were charged with numerous crimes, including two felonies relating to the involvement of a handgun, and were turned over to the Department of Juvenile Services. The stolen cell phones and backpacks were returned to the victims. As horrific as this crime is, it is also an anomaly within our community, and as the assailants were quickly caught, they pose no further imminent threat. Our Baltimore County police officers are to be congratulated and thanked for their swift response and the quick capture of these seven perpetrators.

Captain Schroeder and Major Chemelli also updated the Board on the disturbance in Towson in and around the Mall this past weekend. Early last week, there was a social media post about a potential gathering of juveniles that was supposed to meet up around the Towson Mall area. BCPD monitored social media and began to prepare for a possible gathering. They worked with the Mall Security staff to coordinate a response. They had several additional officers assigned to Towson as a precaution and the Mall also took measures to increase staffing and maintain security and order within the Mall. The Police Department's social media accounts communicated the Mall's Parental Guidance Required policy as well. Police supervisors also coordinated with MTA in advance; there were buses staged to provide transportation to those who wanted to leave the area.

Saturday evening did see a large group of juveniles gathered in and around the Mall. Additional police resources were brought in to monitor the group and address any illegal actions. Due to the size of the group, the BCPD helicopter was on site for an extended period, and allowed the police to monitor several locations and direct police resources as needed.

During this gathering, three juveniles were observed by police committing crimes including destruction of property (1 juvenile) who damaged product displays in Macy's; and disorderly conduct (2 juveniles). Those juveniles were quickly arrested and transported to Towson Precinct to be charged and processed. The officers continued to monitor the group and address any illegal behavior they observed until the crowd dispersed and left the area.

The Board thanked the officers for taking the time to speak with the Board on these important matters and for their service to our community.