

Whittier Alliance Business Association Meeting
Bad Waitress, (2 E 26th St)
Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Attendees: Andy Cohen, Bad Waitress; Geri Burns, AAUW/Gale Mansion; Ekle; Bill Delmonico, Armor Security; Emanuel Tekle, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota; Paul Jablonsky, Nicollet Car Wash **Staff:** Ricardo McCurley, Lucy Lawson
Presenters: Melissa Wisniewski, Securonet; Lt. Anderson, 5th Precinct MPD

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by Andy Cohen, BA Chair.

Introductions: Introductions were made. The agenda and code of conduct were reviewed. A **Motion** to approve the agenda as written **Carried**. The May 2016 minutes were reviewed. A **Motion** to approve the May minutes, with a minor adjustment, **Carried**.

Spotlight on Business – Bad Waitress – Andy Cohen

Andy and his wife bought the Bad Waitress 2 years ago; it has been here 10 years. They have a great team. It was founded by Christian Johnson, of Spyhouse fame. They are opening a second Bad Waitress in the NE on 7th and Central.

Item 1: Securonet Virtual Safety Network – Melissa Wisniewski

Melissa briefed attendees on the Securonet Virtual Safety Network:

- Securonet allows businesses to log in, create a profile and geomap their security cameras. This means police are aware of the cameras and can request footage if there is an incident.
- The cameras are still owned by the property/business owner, and they don't have to turn over footage, although generally people who voluntarily sign up for the program are more than happy to share it.
- Melissa passed out some case studies to do with the [St Patrick's Day Riot](#).
- The Securonet service is completely free. Its [website](#) has three sections: 'Safelink' is where you go to voluntarily map out your cameras. 'Videolink', which is also voluntary, is where you can set up a live link to the MPD so the police can view the cameras any time they want to. This service is huge in Downtown right now, and has improved police response times a great deal.
- Video-linking your cameras has some technical requirements, but Securolink will do all the set-up and you can then view your own footage on the Securonet website.
- You can let the police link to public-facing cameras, not internal cameras, so they aren't violating anyone's privacy. An attendee asked about the definition of public access -- for public parking lots, for instance. The business owner usually gets to dictate what on their property they consider public access.
- Securonet also offers an optional 'panic button' feature, which will allow police to view all your internal cameras. There is a shut-off button for that, so you can rescind access to that footage if there is a false alarm. Securonet offers an app that can be downloaded to a smartphone, rather than needing a physical button.
- Securonet doesn't have a monitoring station; only the MPD looks at the footage. They also don't record footage because of chain of custody issues.
- The City has their own cameras in public places. Minneapolis public schools are adding their cameras to the Securonet system, and the housing authority's property management are planning to add their cameras. For the most part, these cameras are not live; they are just mapped. It's a phenomenal resource for investigators.
- The Super America on Lyndale is mapped on the program, for example.
- If you are on the site, but don't want it public you are on the site, you can make the choice with your profile. Law enforcement will know, but other businesses in the n'hood will not.
- Securonet started with the Downtown business council but then the MPD took it over the next year.

Item 2: Whittier Community Bike Patrol – Lt. Brian Anderson

The Whittier Bike Patrol started in May. Lt Anderson briefed attendees on what is involved:

- Two officers are patrolling the neighborhood on bike from Thursday to Sunday. They are doing 4 hours shifts, concentrating on community contact and community engagement.

- The bikes make the officers a lot more approachable, and they have been getting some useful tips from businesses and members of the public.
- They have come across a number of incidents. For example, Walgreens just had a forgery incident and the bike patrol ended up in pursuit of the perpetrator who was carrying a pile of counterfeit money.
- The bike patrol will be seasonal this year from May to September.
- They are currently choosing the route according to crime mapping of hotspots. These are mostly the Nicollet corridor. Nicollet and Franklin, Lake Street and 28th, Blaisdell and Pleasant and the Karmel square area, just because of the concentration of people. The patrol has also been visiting the school and the Washburn Fair Oaks Park, which has historically been a hotspot.
- 22nd and Nicollet, behind the dentist's office, also sees a lot of the activity, partly because of the liquor store and it being a high traffic area. It's not quite as bad as it used to be.
- There is an uptake in counterfeit money being passed. The money can be purchased online; it reads at the bottom 'for movie use only' but otherwise looks and feels quite realistic. The Walgreens incident was \$100s and other businesses have had \$20 notes being passed.

Old/New

Business Recycling Grants

Andy met with Matt Kazinka from Lake St Council about organics recycling and also got a free Energy Smart audit. The auditor made some good suggestions about different types of electricity billing that can save money. The Hennepin County recycling grants can pay for bins, signage, cladding of skips and they provide training to staff if, for example, you are introducing organics to a restaurant kitchen.

Adjourn: 5:15pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lucy Lawson