

Safety and Security Committee

June 27, 2017

We met with Lt. Reidy to discuss when the new Officer will be assigned to Oakland Mills Village. We have invited Lt. Reidy and Sgt. Zammillo with the new Oakland Mills Officer to be introduced at our July board meeting.

I met with Sgt. Zammillo, the new supervisor for the Neighborhood Outreach Officers.

The planning of Coffee with a Cop will be completed after our new Oakland Mills Officer has been assigned. This will be held at The Other Barn and coordinated with the Police Department.

Stopping for an Unmarked Police Car

After a woman reported that she was stopped on Route 108 in Columbia, and patted down by a man she believes may have been police impersonator, the police have offered these safety tips.

Unmarked police cars are commonly used for conducting traffic stops. They remind drivers that any car—not just those with obvious lights and sirens—may be driven by a police officer. Some citizens feel unsure about what to do if approached by an unmarked police car.

Howard County police offer the following tips to ensure your safety:

- Do not get out of your car.
- Activate your hazard lights to notify the officer you are complying with the request to pull over.
- Pull over in a safe location.
- If you are concerned, drive to a nearby public area that is well-lit with your hazard lights activated.
- If you are unsure that the person stopping you is law enforcement, you can call 911 and ask the dispatcher to verify that it is an officer attempting to pull you over. Stop immediately once it is verified through dispatch that the person stopping you is law enforcement. If it cannot be verified, an officer will be dispatched to you to assist, but you should continue driving normally with your hazards on. Remember that Howard County is serviced by different agencies, and has officers from other agencies that travel through it.
- If the unmarked car is being operated by a plainclothes officer, you may request that a uniformed officer respond to the scene.

Once the new Oakland Mills Officer has been assigned, we will continue to hold our neighborhood meetings, as needed.