

GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2026-03-10 Representatives Meeting Minutes
APPROVED: APRIL 14, 2026

The 2026-03-10 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted in-person in the Oak Ballroom, Sandy Spring Vol Fire Dept, Sandy Spring, MD and online via Zoom Web Teleconference.

President Curtis Chappell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm [EST](#).

A quorum was present.. V= Attended virtually

Officers

- Curtis Chappell, President (Olney Oaks SF)
- Matt Quinn, Exec Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Thomas Canavan, 1st Vice President (Hallowell)
- Irina Norell, 2nd President (Norbeck Meadows)
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)
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- Maria Bender (Brookville Knolls) - V
- Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Ann Strain (Cherrywood)

Guests

- Anne Awni, SSVFD
- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, County Councilmember Dawn Luedtke, Dist 7
- Capt David Smith, Commander, MCPD, District 4
- Chief Marc Yamada, Chief, MCPD
- ???, Christie Estates

Members

Agenda/Minutes Approval

- March 10, 2026 agenda accepted with no additions
- February 10, 2026 minutes approved with no additions or corrections:

Guest Speakers

Montgomery County Police Department, District 4 Update - Capt. David Smith, Commander, MCPD, District 4; Chief Marc Yamada, MCPD

There have been a number of positive changes during the past year: Crime is down 25%, the biggest drop in his time with District 4. The sense of community in Olney helps keep crime low in the area with only 5000 calls for service which is low for the County. There were 87 crimes against people which is consistent with '24, 500 crimes against property down from 535 in '24, and 8 crimes against society down from 15.

Response times have improved, They are being proactive with the use of technology, including the use of drones and expanding their pilot program, and the new FUSUS program that forms a network that uses County and personal home cameras when the owners agree to participate in the network. They have improved their recruitment effort through a university program at Shady Grove in which cadets get 60 credits towards their degrees when they complete the police academy and through early hires before attending the academy to expose them to the procedures and environment in the Department. There are also other specialized staff like crime analysts available to assist with solving cases. They work with the Mont. Co. DOT and MD DOT on education programs. They ran a DUI enforcement effort during the summer in addition to the Holiday effort.

Chief Yamada noted he has lived in Olney since 1988 and agreed that the sense of community in Olney helps reduce crime.

During a Q & A period, Capt Smith noted other areas have reached out for information on our drone program, they are done 190 officers out of 1,200 positions and at 1,200 they will be behind the national average based on our population; they have good outreach with religious institutions in the County and are sharing information with State and Federal agencies. Thomas commended the County's participation in a recent program at the National Law Enforcement Museum. And, the Capt. noted people should call the non-emergency number or email him at 4Dcommander@montgomerycountymd.gov or david.smith@montgomerycountymd.gov if they see children riding bikes without helmets. They can send photos or the location. They begin with education about safety, but they can be cited, if necessary. There was some discussion of whether there is any flexibility in the threshold for getting speed camera on a residential street.

Committee Reports

- **Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee** - Thomas Canavan
 - He has begun sending out the legislative update newsletters and he has changed the format to focus on District 14 and 19 legislators.
 - The newsletter will contain instructions for how individuals can comment on proposed legislation.
 - Aaron Kraut explained that the County had received Federal funding for the N, Branch Trail, but still needs some County funding which GOCA supported,
- **Transportation Committee** - Thomas Canavan for Mindy Baden, Chair
 - There are 5 bills Mindy has or will be testifying on. Thomas will send an update on them in the next legislative newsletter.
 - Matt Quinn noted there were 900 bills in November and we ended up with 3,000 bills being voted on. We need to have a conversation with the District 14 & 19 delegations about how to look at and track that many bills. Aaron K. will let us know when the Council gets briefed on State bills that have local impact.

Announcements

- There will be a forum for School Board candidates on 3/11/26 at the Sandy Spring Vol Fire Dept firehouse.
- There will be a County Council Candidate Debate on 5/17/26 at 6:00 pm at the Olney Theatre.
- Olney Days will take place over 2 weekends and the week in between this year from 4/24 - 5/3.

Adjournment at 8:47 pm

Submitted by Helene Rosenheim Recording Secretary