



Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor

October 4, 2004

Jack B. Johnson, County Executive
County Administration Building
741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



Anthony A. Williams, Mayor
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

**Connected Communities
Press Conference
October 4, 2004, 2 p.m.**

Program

Speakers

1. Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson – Welcome and overview
2. District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams – Comments and overview
3. U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia George B. Walsh – Comments
4. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey – Comments
5. Prince George's County Police Chief Melvin C. High – Comments

Immediately following a memorandum of understanding to create Partners on Patrol will be signed.

Jack B. Johnson, County Executive
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



Anthony A. Williams, Mayor
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Press Release

For immediate release:

October 4, 2004

For more information:

John E. Erzen
Press Information Officer
Prince George's County
Office of the County Executive
301-952-4131

Sharon Gang
Interim Director of Communications
Executive Office of the Mayor
202-727-9811

Barbara Hamm
Communications Director
Prince George's County Police
301-772-4748

PRINCE GEORGE'S/D.C. CONNECT FOR COMMUNITIES ON THE BORDER

OXON HILL, MD – District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Prince George's County Executive Jack B. Johnson announced today three initiatives that will improve the quality of life for residents who live on the borders of the two jurisdictions.

The initiatives, called Connected Communities, are designed to improve healthcare, beautification efforts and reduce crime.

“The county line is an invisible barrier. We share issues with our neighbors, but many times because of laws and political boundaries, we as governments are limited to staying on our side of the line,” Johnson said. “What Mayor Williams and I have done is forged partnerships so we can better serve the people who live here and make this community a model for the region.”

-more-

“Our presence today is a continuation of a cross-border partnership that will allow us to work together to address specific community issues,” said Mayor Williams.

They were joined by Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey, Prince George’s County Police Chief Melvin High and U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia George Walsh in signing a memorandum of understanding that will allow select officers from the two jurisdictions to be deputized to take effective police actions in the District of Columbia and Prince George’s County.

Officers who are selected to participate in the program will receive special training so they may conduct effective cross-jurisdictional enforcement and meaningful community policing.

“These initiatives will strengthen our efforts to meet the expectations and the expressed needs of the community to improve public safety along the border areas” said Mayor Williams. “We also want to recognize the integral role being played by the U.S. Marshal’s office in this important effort.”

“This is a true partnership that will expand upon our already very positive working relationship with the Metropolitan Police,” Johnson said. “This program should result in noticeable quality of life improvements along the border areas, especially as it relates to loitering, gambling, drinking, drug sales and usage.”

Williams and Johnson also announced that a regional task force will be formed to study healthcare issues relating to the Connected Communities. Specifically, the task force will look for ways that the four hospitals on the border, Fort Washington Hospital, Prince George’s Hospital Center, Greater Southeast Hospital and Providence Hospital, can better care for the residents of the District of Columbia and Prince George’s County.

“People need access to health care and it is our job as a government to make sure they get it,” Johnson said.

“The District and the County are working together to tackle the issue of delivering primary care to residents, this is another shared problem,” Williams said.

To date, Prince George’s County has spent approximately \$1.2 million in the connected communities on roadway rehabilitation projects in the vicinity of Eastern and Southern Avenues. The District of Columbia spent approximately \$15 million in fiscal year 2004 on roadway improvements in that area.

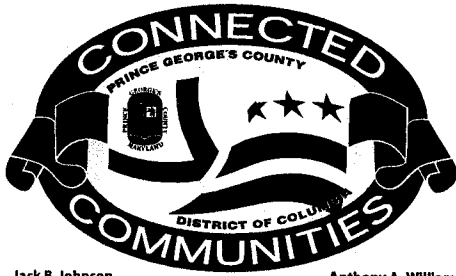
These efforts will continue as the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation partners with the Maryland State Highway Administration to conduct a planning study to improve the streetscape along Indian Head Highway and various local streets between the District of Columbia line and the Capital Beltway.

-more-

“When we clean up our neighborhoods we promote economic development and harmony in our communities,” said Williams.

“This is just another example of the positive and proactive steps that both governments are taking to keep our citizens safe and our communities livable,” Johnson said.

###



Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor

Summary

PARTNER'S ON PATROL

- Officers from the Prince George's County Police and the Metropolitan Police will be deputized by the U.S. Marshals to respond to crime in both counties.
- Officers from both jurisdictions will partner together and patrol along the Southern and Eastern Avenue corridors and immediate adjacent areas in both jurisdictions.
- Officers will be hand selected and specially trained to conduct effective cross-jurisdictional enforcement and meaningful community policing.

PUBLIC WORKS AND BEAUTIFICATION

- Seven gateway monuments have been constructed along Eastern and Southern Avenues
- Approximately \$1.2 million has been spent on roadway rehabilitation projects in the vicinity of Eastern and Southern Avenues. An additional \$500,000 will be invested this fiscal year.
- Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation will partner with the Maryland State Highway Administration to conduct a planning study to improve the streetscape along Indian Head Highway and various local streets between the District of Columbia line and the Capital Beltway.
- The District of Columbia spent approximately \$15 million on roadway improvements along Eastern and Southern Avenues in fiscal year 2004.

HEALTH CARE

- Health Departments from both jurisdictions will form a regional health care task force to study the impacts of the four major hospitals serving residents who live in the border communities – Fort Washington Hospital, Prince George's Hospital Center, Greater Southeast Hospital and Providence Hospital.
- The task force will look at collaborative services the hospitals provide and recommend ways they can combine their efforts to best serve the residents of the two jurisdictions.