

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
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"Secure Communities" Is Awful !!!

The taskforce charged with assessing the so-called "Secure Communities" program sharply criticizes it for being confusing and having a significant "unintended negative impact" on public safety. It sure is confusing, and it sure is harmful to those with and without documents. Its implementation is too often cruel and thoughtless.

**It's
About
Time!**

Isn't implementation supposed to change, to focus on dangerous immigrants? But what about events such as these? "This Jennifer Lopez isn't an ultrarich superstar. She's a modest 21-year-old who lives in Florida, where she takes care of her critically ill mom and younger

siblings, whom she loves. But on August 31st, immigration officials detained Jennifer after she and her mother were pulled over for a routine traffic stop. Now she's in danger of being deported, leaving members of her family with no one to care for them. Jennifer came to the U.S. as a young child, and under President Obama's new guidelines for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), she should be an extremely low priority for deportation. Her lawyer says Jennifer "was in tears" when she was told she might have to leave her family and home." (Change.org)

Here are some comments on the task force and the program by *The New York Times* (15 September 2011): "The task force said that the program had eroded public trust by leading to the detention of many immigrants who had not committed serious crimes, after officials said its aim was to remove 'the worst of the worst' immigrant criminals from the United States. ... The report also said that immigration officials had created tensions with local authorities by making inconsistent statements on whether states and cities were required to participate.

"In the most significant of its recommendations, the task force said that fingerprint identifications through the program should no longer lead federal agents to deport immigrants arrested by local police officers for minor traffic violations. The task force urged [ICE] ... to start over to 'reintroduce' it in many places where local opposition had swelled...

"Chuck Wexler, the executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, who was the task force chairman, said there was a 'strong consensus' in the group that Secure Communities should focus on deporting serious and violent felons. ... Many local police officials told the task force that the program had eroded trust between them and immigrant communities by leaving the impression that they were engaged in enforcing federal immigration laws. Some communities had become reluctant to report crimes. 'You can't mix in low-level

"Awful" continued on Page 3

IS LANGLEY PARK SAFE?

The news about safety is both positive and negative. The positive is the decline in reported crimes in the neighborhood. During the summer focus on five so-called "hot spot" areas, one of which was Langley Park, our neighborhood's crime dropped 22.2%—a greater decline than in Police District 1 overall, and greater than in the County. Clearly, Major Velez and his team did a good job—and continue to do so.

But in the shadows—and sometimes in very broad daylight—there is significant gang activity that is beyond the reach of the police. It can be seen in the schools, the community center, the streets, and in empty apartments. Many too many teenagers (or younger) are being pulled into gangs, voluntarily or otherwise, and too many families are horrified by the direction their children have taken.

We don't want a lost generation. And certainly, parents didn't raise their children to be gang-bangers. Somehow, the residents of Langley Park and their allies will have to devise programs that change the teenagers' directions into more constructive paths. That's not easy, as many officials of the country know. But we must try.



What Is To Be Done?

There is no easy answer to this question. And budget limitations rule out such possibilities as building a real community center in Langley Park—one without administrators occupying a significant part of the building (unless they are on the fourth floor!). A major mentoring and tutoring program also takes money, at the least for a manager.

There are quite a few organizations with a current or potential interest in the youth of Langley Park, but rich cooperative relationships have not fully been achieved. There's CASA, MMYC, ALP, the public and private schools (hopefully with very active PTSAs), the University of Maryland and Washington Adventist University, the religious institutions, and others. Perhaps with richer relationships, more could be done.

A first start might be to find out what other jurisdictions near or far have done. Take Monterey County, California. Its approach is below. And a key statement below is worth repeating: Gangs are a threat to the entire community and each of us can and must contribute to a collective response.

We should note that the experienced leaders of our police District 1 surely know what follows. Maybe drawing from the Monterey work will be helpful to the rest of us.

Monterey

Prevention: "Prevention is the key to affecting gang activity. Parents can do a lot to prevent their children's involvement in gangs. We recom-

"Safe" continued on Page 3

NEWS AND NOTES

DEVELOPMENT

So DHCD is moving to New Carrollton, the University of Maryland will be a key partner in developing a first-rate hospital in the county, and Whole Foods is moving to Riverdale. These are three positives for the county. Maybe with the soon-to-be \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund, there will be more positives. The fund will be available for mixed-use development, transit-oriented development (TOD), and more. These positives should probably be credited to Rushern Baker, who presents to developers and others a clean image rather than the dirty one that prevailed for eight years. Let's hope we're seeing a development trend—in the face of a de facto recession—and that it continues.

CHILD POVERTY

The spread of poverty across the United States that began at the onset of the 2007-09 recession and accelerated last year hit Latino/a children very hard. It's not a pretty picture. There are by far more Latino and Latina children living in poverty than any other category. And the total of all children is horrifying: 15.5 million poverty. In Maryland alone, there are 151,778 children in poverty; that includes 22,474 Latino/a children (16%). Awful! Poor children have greater challenges in their lifetime, so we'd better figure out what corrective action to take.

POVERTY	Euro	Black	Latino/a
1976	4.8	3.8	1.4
2010	5	4.4	6.1

THE GOP DEBATES OUR FUTURE

According to a Politico item, this is what happened at the first debate regarding immigration: "Rick Perry talks border security, suggesting he would like to see, among other remedies, more boots on the ground. Mitt Romney says he's against giving amnesty to illegal immigrants, but doesn't take a direct shot at Perry over his tuition for illegal immigrants bill. Newt Gingrich called for English as the official U.S. language. And Michele Bachmann repeats her support for a border fence, saying without it we would be 'in effect (yielding) United States sovereignty.'

"Michele Bachmann didn't say what she thought should be done with the millions of illegal immigrants in the country already, but added, 'Our immigration law worked beautifully back in the 1950s and 1960s. ... They would not become a burden' to American taxpayers.* Herman Cain added that he believed in securing the border, but also in promoting 'a path to citizenship that's already there.' Jon Huntsman framed the situation in personal terms—his two adopted daughters, 'one from China, one from India. I see this issue through their eyes ... If President Reagan was here he would speak to the American people and he would lay out in hopeful optimistic terms how he can get there. ... Our illegal immigration system is broken.'" So if one of these candidates becomes president, will the lives of immigrants be improved?

*Most immigrants in those days were from Europe and they had comparatively whiter skin. Might this be a consideration for some people?

BECOMING A CITIZEN

According to a 2010 study, it is estimated that 8.16 million lawful permanent residents across the country are eligible to naturalize as U.S. citizens, and many more become eligible each year. As immigrants' rights organizations continue to promote the economic and social benefits of U.S. citizenship, they have also assessed the reasons why eligible applicants

do not naturalize, including filing fees, English and civics requirements, and other barriers. Many organizations are focusing their efforts on increasing access to naturalization by creating applicant-friendly resources, promoting the fee waiver application process, and calling attention to special exceptions and exemptions for seniors and long term permanent residents, individuals with disabilities, military applicants, and other special groups. (Source: Immigration Advocates Network)

A comprehensive library on naturalization, which includes folders on special applicant groups can be found at <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/link.cfm?16389>.

MONEY

Home Prices: From January through March, comparing 2010 with 2011, single-family houses and townhouses (excluding condos), there was a countywide drop in value of 14%. That's hard on owners, more of whom became "underwater" (the amount of the mortgage is greater than the value of the house); and it is hard on the county, because real estate taxes are a core of public financing. The drop in value in zip code 20783, which includes Langley Park and many other places, was 10%. Let's hope the dismal economic situation (dismal except for the very high earners) soon improves—thus there are more jobs for the un- and under-employed.

Bond Rating: Deserving recognition (and praise) is the AAA bond rating that was again awarded to Prince George's County. That rating means borrowing money will remain at a low interest rate. Of course, money borrowed has to be repaid, which will continue to be a challenge so long as property taxes collected are comparatively low.

CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRANTS IN MEXICO

"Every year, 500,000 Central Americans pass through Mexico on an invariably dangerous journey to the United States in search of better opportunities, but it is unknown how many reach their intended destination. Migrants are regularly treated as second-class citizens during their journey; many fall victim to the violence of criminal gangs, resulting in assaults, sexual slavery, kidnapping, or murder. Civil society organizations often advocate the protection of migrant rights; however, in response to a wave of migrant-associated murders, the Mexican government [in its present broken state has taken little action]. (From www.coha.org.)

CRUELTY IN MICHIGAN

Michigan's Republican Governor, Rick Snyder, has signed into law a four-year lifetime limit on cash welfare benefits. That will cut thousands off starting October 1. Gilda Jacobs of the Michigan League for Human Services said she expects about 41,000 people to lose their cash assistance payments; that includes 29,700 children. The question arises: in a state with about an 11% unemployment rate, how will these thousands of families pay their rent? Many won't, and so they will be homeless. And with winter approaching? Perhaps Michigan will save a lot of money by cutting off these payments and perhaps that will reduce the state's population because at least some of the homeless will become ill or die. Will the state pay for the burials?

There are, of course, some homeless people in many jurisdictions—including Prince George's County. Information about



offenders and not lose credibility in the communities,' Mr. Wexler said. ... The task force said the immigration agency should make broader and far more systematic use of prosecutorial discretion to concentrate its resources on deporting convicted criminals. ... Arturo Venegas, the former police chief of Sacramento and director of the Law Enforcement Engagement Initiative, a police organization, said in a resignation letter that the recommendations did not go far enough to ensure that immigrants detained for minor offenses would not be deported. A representative of the National Immigration Forum, an advocacy group, also resigned."

Now that more people know how awful the program is as implemented, it will be important for key officials in the Obama administration to issue clear orders that the goal is to find and deport or jail dangerous criminals, and the goal is not to break up families. Many task force reports are put on some shelf. Let's hope this one leads to needed action.

"Safe" continued from Page 1

mend parents look for changes in their children's behavior patterns for indications of gang involvement. Examples of these changes include truancy, a decline in grades, friends and attitude, late hours, graffiti in bedrooms or on school notebooks, and especially dress (wearing of one specific color). Remember, staying positively involved in your child's life can make a tremendous difference when it comes to their possible involvement in gangs. When incidents occur, get involved and cooperate with authorities. Information concerning gang crimes or activity should be referred to the local Police or Sheriffs Department in your community.

"Teamwork between community based organizations, schools, concerned citizens, service groups, and law enforcement can keep Monterey County an enjoyable place in which to work and live.

Community Approach: "An intelligent response to gang problems demands input and commitment from all segments of the community. Organized gangs are not established spontaneously. In most cases, a group of juveniles create a loose association and then begin to mimic the culture of an established hard-core gang. Communities sometimes ignore the activities of these so-called "wannabes" because they are not considered the activities of a bona fide gang. However, this is the traditional evolutionary pattern of gangs and must not be ignored. It is imperative to vigorously address those issues that signal the emergence of a gang.

"Gang symbols drawn on notebooks or other school materials should be banned and removed. Any display or representation of gang membership should not be acceptable in a school setting or sponsored event. Student dress codes should also be considered. Graffiti should be brought to the attention of the local police and, where appropriate, school authorities. Prior to removal, it should be photographed or otherwise documented.

"Community task forces should be appointed and mandated to explore the full spectrum of issues related to the emergence of gangs such as housing, counseling, recreational alternatives, employment opportunities, parental responsibility, prosecution and law enforcement capability. When necessary, a community should enact ordinances to deal with graffiti, curfew violations, loitering and other activities associated with gangs.

"Law enforcement can provide leadership in identifying gang crimes but should not be held solely responsible for the necessary response. A prevention approach through social services and related agencies is as critical as a police suppression approach. Gangs are a threat to the entire community and each of us can and must contribute to a collective response."

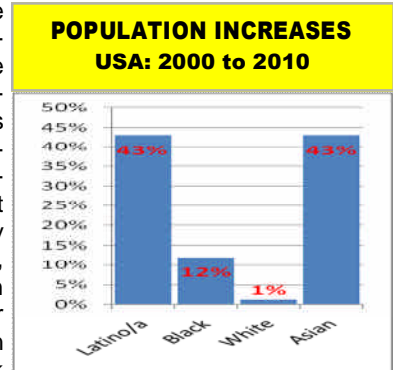
KUDOS

Kudos for the changes made by Police Chief Mark Magaw in response to the police attack on an apparently non-combative university student who was beaten by two police officers.

organizations helping the homeless are at <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/homelessness>.

LATINO/A POPULATION 2000-2010

In a period of only ten years, the Latino/a population in the USA has increased from 35 million to 50 million. That's a 43% increase; the nationwide increase of all except Latino/as was 4.9%. The other fast-increasing ethnic/racial category was Asians; they also increased 43%. Interestingly, the Euro (white not Hispanic) population only increased 1.2%. Clearly, those folks have forgotten how to make babies—or perhaps think it's more fun to shuffle papers at a desk rather than engage in baby-starting behavior.



Who are these Latinos. Nationally, those with Mexican heritage predominate. But locally, the leading heritage is El Salvador. There are more than twice as many Salvadoreños as the second sending group, Mexicanos.

WASHINGTON METRO AREA	
Latino/a Population	712,000
Foreign Born %	54.70%
Salvadoran	240,000
Mexican	95,000
Puerto Rican	55,000

And in Jail: The US Sentencing Commission reports that Latino/as now comprise over 50% of the people being sentenced in Federal Courts, though they comprise of only 16% of the population. The reason for this high percentage is that immigration-related prosecutions now top the list for federal prosecutions overall. (What about putting more gangsters away? What about the Wall Street cheaters?)

EDUCATION: THE SAT SCORES

The reports are that the SAT scores in Maryland were down slightly but the participation rate was up slightly. That should not be surprising; the more marginal students who take the test, the lower the scores are likely to be. The mean Maryland year 2011 SAT total score placed the state 37th among the 50 states plus DC—the same rank as last year. Not all agree on the score/participation relationship; from the *Gazette* (16 September 2011): "The declining scores aren't just due to a bigger pool of test takers, but to the 'dumbing down' effects of the federal No Child Left Behind law, argued Robert Schaeffer, public education director of Massachusetts-based FairTest. The focus on higher scores for federally mandated tests, like the Maryland School Assessment, has weakened students in other knowledge and skills areas that colleges are interested in." Of course, the real triumph is for both the participation and the scores to increase with the tests becoming more rigorous. Let's have that result next time around!

TRANSPORTATION

Our Purple Line: No one knows if or when the Purple Line will be built and operational. Early thoughts were that construction would start during 2013 and be completed during 2017. Some optimism emerged when the new President of the University of Maryland approved an interior route through the campus—a route that was opposed by the former campus head. But money is the key. Maryland's Blue Ribbon Commis-

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

Teaching Math

We now have an almost-national core of educational content and tools that Maryland and most other states have bought into. Probably, this is an improvement overall. But teaching to the tests and the deep budget cut-backs remain challenges. What about the national approach to math? It remains controversial. Here's one view: "Today, American high schools offer a sequence of algebra, geometry, more algebra, pre-calculus and calculus (or a 'reform' version in which these topics are interwoven). This has been codified by the Common Core State Standards, recently adopted by more than 40 states. This highly abstract curriculum is simply not the best way to prepare a vast majority of high school students for life. ... A math curriculum that focused on real-life problems would still expose students to the abstract tools of mathematics, especially the manipulation of unknown quantities." ("How to Fix Our Math Education," *NY Times* 25 August 2011)



Note: The full article is at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/25/opinion/how-to-fix-our-math-education.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=How%20to%20Fix%20Our%20Math%20Education&st=cse.

Treat Teachers with Respect

We sure do spend a lot of time and space criticizing teachers. They are, so the litany goes, uncaring, poorly prepared, and complaining. It seems that most of the complaining is misplaced because our society disrespects and underpays teachers—and therefore any shortfall may be our fault, not the fault of teachers. Sure, there are some bad teachers, and sure, only a minority of teachers are great educators.

Charles Blow in the *NY Times* (3 September 2011) points to two examples of our teachers' diminished status: "Since it's back-to-school season across the country, I wanted to celebrate a group that is often maligned: teachers. ... [A recent McGraw-Hill Research Foundation] report highlights two examples of this diminished status: According to a 2005 National Education Association report, nearly 50% of new teachers leave the profession within their first five years teaching; they cite poor working conditions and low pay as the chief reason. High school teachers in the U.S. work longer hours (approximately 50 hours, according to the N.E.A.), and yet the U.S. devotes a far lower proportion than the average O.E.C.D. country does to teacher salaries."



The USA does spend many dollars on schooling; we rank second in per capita expenditures; only Luxembourg is ahead of us. And these two countries do not rate highly in international assessments. So it's not only money. But what if we raised the prestige of teachers—who are professionals, and raised their salaries too so that teaching might rival being a lawyer or social workers or even engineer? And what if we gave more support to low-performing students and schools—which would only be possible, given our tax system, if states and the federal government contributed more? And what if we changed our grading practices so that the category "basic" was renamed "below standard"?

Obama Plan May Help Schools

In his September 8 speech to Congress, President Obama called for an allocation of \$35 billion to stop teacher layoffs

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UNEMPLOYMENT

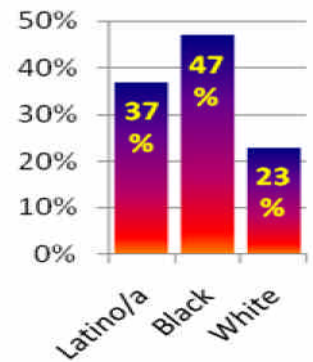
We know that the employment/unemployment situation is very worrisome; it has damaged many families, and there may well be lifetime negative effects. And among the very hardest hit are immigrants, especially Latinos who have worked in the construction industry. This tragedy is on display at day labor assembly areas every day; the job-seekers wait many hours, but few are given a job. In the Langley Park area, construction work is the most common job for Latinos. And they are no exception to the pains of the collapse of the construction industry.

Of course, the situation is much more than local—it is national. Fully 34% of male foreign-born Latino non-citizens worked in the construction industry right before the recession hit. And in Langley Park's apartment house areas (tracts 8056.01 and .02), the figure is even higher.

From an Economic Policy Institute report (11 August 2011): "The rise and dramatic collapse of the housing boom signaled the beginning of the Great Recession and displaced nearly three million construction workers, with foreign-born non-citizen males facing particularly steep job loss. ... From 2007 to 2010, construction employment among foreign-born non-citizen males fell 30.1%, compared with 21.6% among native-born males. While both groups experienced significant job losses, foreign-born non-citizen workers were more heavily concentrated in the lower-paying and harder-hit residential construction jobs than native-born workers were. The median wage for native-born male construction workers grew by 7.6% to \$19.24, while the median wage for foreign-born non-citizen males declined by 3.1% to \$12.04 from 2006 to 2010." Fewer jobs, fewer dollars for the remaining jobs. No wonder many people in the Langley Park area are in the midst of a tragic life.

For Latinos 20 and over, the August 2011 unemployment rate of 8.9% was a clear improvement over the previous August's 10.4%. The Latinas 20 and over, August figures are 11.4% (2011) and 11.6% (2010). Here's a horror figure: The Latino/a unemployment rate for those in the 16-19 age bracket was 37.4%, up from the year earlier's 33%. But there's an even more horrifying statistic: Black unemployment in the 16-19 age bracket in August 2011 was 46.5%. These young people are being damaged; we'd better act quickly to save a significant segment of our population.

UNEMPLOYMENT August 2011—Ages 16-19

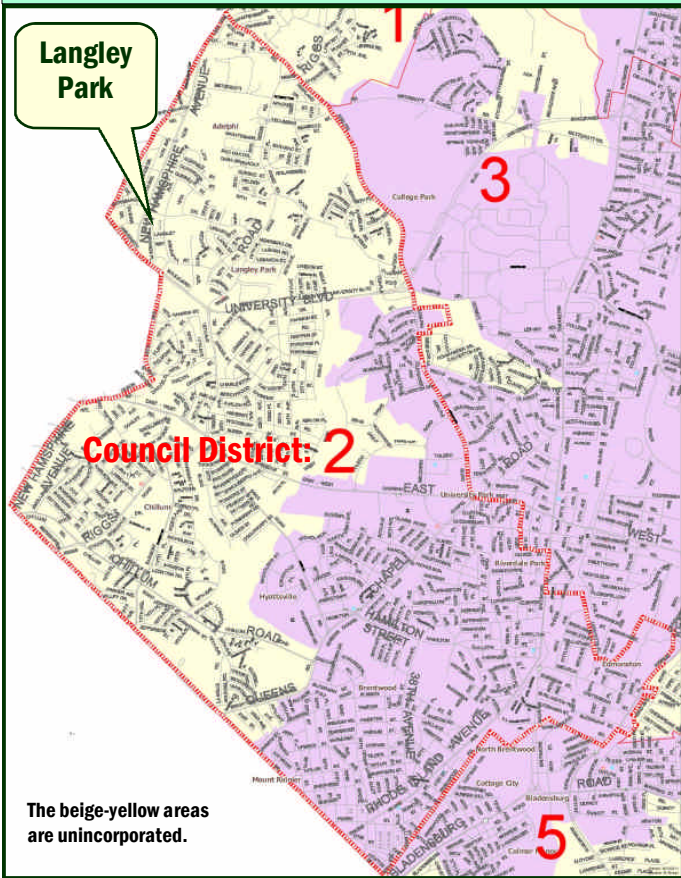


"Education" continued from last column

and to restore some positions (total, somewhat more than 280,000 teachers), and an additional \$35 billion to maintain and improve the facilities of K-12 schools and community colleges (an estimated 35,000 schools). Our country's educational system certainly needs these monies and more; many schools in Prince George's County (e.g., Langley Park McCormick ES) and elsewhere need fix-ups and/or new labs and/or other facilities. But will Congress consider education as seriously as the President and our county teachers do?

Prince George's County's Council Districts Are Being Redrawn

The redrawing process is taking place now. The map below shows the proposed boundaries for the district that includes Langley Park. The redrawing apparently won't impact Langley Park directly.



LET'S REALLY SCREW 'EM!*

A reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* (29 September 2011) writes about a Mexican without papers who tried to cross into Texas. He was caught by the Border Patrol. But he was not returned to the Mexican side of the Texas-Mexico border. Rather, he was put on an airplane and flown to Mexicali along the California-Mexico border—1,200 miles from where he had crossed. He had no familiarity with the area, no friends or contacts. "The once-confident immigrant was reduced to a bewildered traveler, a favorable outcome for U.S. border authorities under a rapidly expanding program that affects about one-fifth of all illegal immigrants arrested along the Southwest border. [His] deportation was handled through the Alien Transfer Exit Program. ... Critics view the expansion of the program with trepidation, saying it's costly, breaks up families and deports immigrants into lawless border cities where they are preyed on by criminal gangs." Perhaps they will be caught by the Zetas and massacred; wouldn't that be a great outcome of the program: one less person alive who wants to enter the USA.

*An imagined thought by the BP authorities.

THE CONFEDERACY RISES?

No, the Confederacy will not resume its attempt to separate, but many people want to remind us of the shortly-lived separation. The Confederate flag is flown in some parts of the South (not without controversy). And Maryland allows a specialty plate with a representation of that flag, thanks to efforts of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. So do most of the states in what was the Confederacy. Advocates argue that "the plates promote a positive image of the Confederate States of America," according to a SCV-Maryland official. An official of the NAACP opposes the specialty plate because it is "offensive to the public."

Maryland, a slave-holding state, was divided; there were people and places on both sides of the conflict—dying on both sides. Prince George's County had a plantation economy with many slaves—more in number than the Whites.

There's a history of Prince George's County on Wikipedia. Here's part of one paragraph: "More than 120 years after the war, it may be hard to understand why Prince Georgians, on the one hand, sympathized with the South, but on the other hand, voted for the Union for themselves. The entire issue hinged on the question of the preservation of slavery as an institution. As long as slavery was not threatened, Prince George's County would not move to secede. In the first critical year of the war, it must be remembered, the government in Washington made it clear that Maryland and other border states could keep their slaves if they would remain in the Union. The war against the South, in 1861, was a war against rebellion, not slavery.

Oden Bowie, after whom the city is named, lost seventy slaves to enlistment in the Union army. Later, he became governor of the state.

STORY OF A LITTLE GIRL

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who was born in Guatemala but has lived in USA's Alabama for six years and is now in the second grade getting good grades for her academics and her cooperative behavior.

But then the big bad wolves who live in the state of Alabama decided that because she spoke Spanish, she would have to prove that she was legally in the country.

She asked her mother about the papers, and she was told that she couldn't have them because there were none. And so the big bad wolves of Alabama stood at the school's front door barring the girl from entering.

The girl cried, and so should all of us. And then we should fight hard on behalf of the little girl and many others who are endangered by the cruelty of the big bad wolves.

DEPORTATION AND THE FRAGMENTATION OF FAMILIES

Many deportations are of undocumented adults who are members of families—parents and others. And a large portion of these deportees have not committed a serious crime ... or any crime. Given the revision of the Safe Communities legislation, it would seem that parents and perhaps some other undocumented adults should not be in the front of the line for deportation; maybe they should not be in the line at all. One of the lead organizations fighting indiscriminate deportation is CASA de Maryland. Recently, Gustavo Torres led a group to the White House area to demonstrate against the current practice. The photo (right) is from that protest activity. Needless to say, the view of CASA and others is for the Feds to focus on criminals, not dads.

An AP report: "Ruth Diaz is facing deportation after calling police for help She told [the] police she was being attacked. Both Diaz and her attacker were taken in to custody. But once Diaz was cleared, she was turned over to ICE for deportation...." Ugh.



DAY LABOR RIGHTS

A Victory for Day Labor Job-Seeking

An important decision was made in an Appeal from the United States District Court for the Central District of California, "COMITE DE JORNALEROS DE REDONDO BEACH; NATIONAL DAY LABORER ORGANIZING NETWORK, v CITY OF REDONDO BEACH." The ordinance, which Redondo Beach officials said was needed to regulate traffic safety at two major intersections, barred standing on a street or highway and soliciting "employment, business or contributions from an occupant of any motor vehicle." Circuit Judge M. Smith wrote:

A pair of day-laborer organizations challenged a City of Redondo Beach anti-solicitation ordinance that bars individuals from "stand[ing] on a street or highway and solicit[ing], or attempt[ing] to solicit, employment, business, or contributions from an occupant of any motor vehicle." Redondo Beach Municipal Code § 3-7.1601(a) (the Ordinance). We agree with the day laborers that the Ordinance is a facially unconstitutional restriction on speech.

"Our analysis is guided by certain well-established principles of First Amendment law. In public places such as streets and sidewalks, 'the State [may] enforce a content-based exclusion' on speech if the 'regulation is necessary to serve a compelling state interest and that it is narrowly drawn to achieve that end.' *Perry Educ. Ass'n v. Perry Local Educators' Ass'n*, 460 U.S. 37, 45 (1983). For content-neutral regulations, the State may limit 'the time, place, and manner of expression' if the regulations are 'narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest, and leave open ample alternative channels of communication.' *Id.*

"We conclude that the Ordinance fails to satisfy the narrow tailoring element of the Supreme Court's "time, place, and manner" test. The Ordinance is not narrowly tailored because it regulates significantly more speech than is necessary to achieve the City's purpose of improving traffic safety and traffic flow at two major Redondo Beach intersections, and the City could have achieved these goals through less restrictive measures, such as the enforcement of existing traffic laws and regulations. Because the Ordinance does not constitute a reasonable regulation of the time, place, or manner of speaking, it is facially unconstitutional."

The *Los Angeles Times* (20 September 2011) comments: "In a decision that could have a wide-ranging effect on other cities with similar laws, a federal appeals court ruled that a Redondo Beach ordinance aimed at cracking down on day laborers is an unconstitutional restriction on free speech. The anti-solicitation ordinance, which has been in place for more than two decades, drew attention in 2004 after police arrested nearly 60 day laborers over about four weeks. The National Day Laborer Organizing Network and the Comite de Jornaleros de Redondo Beach later sued the city."

One court dissenter offered this stereotype of the workers: "men who 'litter, vandalize, urinate, block the sidewalk, harass females and damage property.' Sure, a few do. And a few U.S. presidents have extra-marital affairs with movie stars.



"News and Notes" continued from Page 3

sion on Maryland Transportation Funding has just announced that it will try to raise \$800 million, including \$520 million from new taxes and fees. One proposal is to raise the gasoline tax and apply a sales tax to gasoline, increase fees for vehicle registration, raise property taxes, and more. (More taxes? But not on the working class, we hope!) If the money is in hand and the Federal government kicks in a portion, then the Purple Line may well move forward. If not, we may have to wait until the end of the de facto recession and the country is on stronger financial footing. Some skeptics say that an end to our current high unemployment rate and shortage of funds may not end for another decade or more.

The Purple Line has a strong link to redevelopment in the Langley Park area. If the line's construction is very uncertain, developers are unlikely to rush in with the bulldozers, throw out residents of affordable housing, and build the expensive apartments and condos that the county's sector plan proposes. Of course, there is a plan alternative; it was published in the last issue of BLP.

The Drive to and From Virginia: Lots of Prince George's residents work in Northern Virginia. And those who commute by automobile are usually faced with horrendous congestion into Virginia in the morning and out in the evening. Many days, the cars and trucks seem to be parked on I-495. Well, congratulations to the suburbs: our area ranks second in the USA in the number of people who live in one county and work in another. And the metro area is now Number 1 for congestion in the USA. What an honor! One friend of Action Langley Park lives in Langley Park and works in west-central Montgomery County. The three buses take the friend about 90 minutes each way. There has to be a better way—maybe extending the maybe-some-day Purple Line across the Potomac and northward?

Speed Cameras: Prince George's County will soon have 72 mobile speed cameras operating. Most will be near schools—e.g., Northwestern High School, but some will be scattered elsewhere. Maybe the 80 or 90 miles an hour speeders on the Beltway and elsewhere will be reigned in—and we'll all be safer.

HUMOR: LOL

Here's an item from a *Washington Post* politics blog (20 September 2011) that is funny—but also sad:

"Maryland Del. Patrick L. McDonough (R-Baltimore County) accused Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) on Tuesday of resorting to 'divisive, unfair and inaccurate hate speech' during an appearance in Washington last week. McDonough, one of the staunchest foes of illegal immigration in the General Assembly, was referring to O'Malley's praise of Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R) for his support of a 2001 Texas law that allows illegal immigrants to receive in-state rates on college tuition.



"I do admire [Perry's] willingness to stand up to the immigrant-bashers and the thinly veiled racism and scapegoating that's so rampant in their party and directed at new Americans," O'Malley said ... McDonough said in a statement that O'Malley was 'demonizing decent people for political gain,' adding: 'The governor should offer a public apology and demand that his allies in the illegal alien movement use more civil commentary when attacking their opponents.'"

HISPANIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to those who so successfully organized the 2011 Hispanic Festival in Lane Manor Park. The day was beautiful (did they arrange that?), the crowd was massive, and the informal reports are all positive! Dear reader, if you didn't get to the festival, you missed a wonderful afternoon.

The decision "could have a wide-ranging effect on other [jurisdictions]. ..."

Relevant Research for Our Families

The Health of Latino/a Children

Tooth Decay

There's new research on tooth decay and when it begins in childhood. And the answer: Even before teeth begin to appear! Here is an important report:



Infant saliva harbors bacteria associated with tooth decay and cavities—the most prevalent infectious disease in U.S. children.

“By the time a child reaches kindergarten, 40% have dental cavities,”

says Kelly Swanson, professor of animal science at the University of Illinois. “In addition, populations who are of low socioeconomic status, who consume a diet high in sugar, and whose mothers have low education levels are 32 times more likely to have this disease.

“We now recognize that the ‘window of infectivity,’ which was thought to occur between 19 and 33 months of age, really occurs at a much younger age,” he says. “Minimizing snacks and drinks with fermentable sugars and wiping the gums of babies without teeth, as suggested by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, are important practices for new parents to follow to help prevent future cavities.”

More Health Facts

The Children's Defense Fund has collected a range of data on Latino children. Below are some of the very disturbing findings—and the Prince George's County health officer should take remedial action. Sooner, not later.

- ◆ More than 3 million Latino children (one out of every six) are uninsured. A larger percentage of Latino children are uninsured than in any other racial/ethnic group. Almost 40% (3.1 million children) of all uninsured children in America are Latino, and almost one out of five Latino children is uninsured.

- ◆ Latino children with disabilities are more than twice as likely as Euro (i.e., White not Hispanic) children with disabilities to lack health coverage.

- ◆ Roughly two-thirds of all uninsured Latino children are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid according to their family income qualifications, yet are not insured.

- ◆ Latino children are 60% more likely than Euro children to have gone more than two years without seeing a health care professional and are two thirds more likely to have no regular place for health care. (ALP research echoes this.)

- ◆ Latino children are 50% more likely than Euro children to have an unmet medical need, 50% more likely to have an unmet dental need, and 30% more likely to have gone more than two years without seeing a dentist.

- ◆ Latino children are almost twice as likely as Euro children to have an unmet medical need because of cost. While only a small percentage of all children in America are in fair or poor health, Latino children are 50% more likely than White children

PARENTS UNEMPLOYED?

The Children Might Be Struggling in School

It's hard enough on the individual to be unemployed or perhaps underemployed. But recent research indicates that the negative impact involves one's family. For that reason, the family should be buffered from an adult's difficulties in the job market. Being unemployed, and perhaps also poor, are terrible stressors for most adults. But an effort must be made not to have the stress infect the family. A faculty member at the University of Chicago has studied this spread effect.

“There is growing evidence that parental job loss has adverse consequences on children's behavior, academic achievement and later employment outcomes, particularly in economically disadvantaged families,” says Heather Hill

The material hardship and stress associated with unemployment appears to reduce the quality of the home environment and adversely affect children, Hill and colleagues have found.

The families that Hill studied were largely low-income. She found that, among young children, a maternal job loss is associated with increasing children's problem behavior in the classroom by more than 40%. ... Many of the mothers in the study found work relatively quickly, but subsequently experienced one or more job losses followed by extended periods of unemployment.

Psychological and sociological theories suggest that besides reducing money available to provide for the needs of children, frequent and sustained joblessness could disrupt children's lives by leading to volatile child care arrangements and additional stress at home.

Prior studies suggest that disruptions in child care lead to lower cognitive development and increased behavior problems. Parental stress and depression “can lead to less nurturing and harsher parenting,” Hill says.

Parental unemployment can lead to problems for children regardless

of the family's income status, however, says another Chicago faculty member, Ariel Kalil. She studies the impact of parental job loss and unemployment on children and is undertaking new studies focused on the current recession. She found in previous studies of two-parent families that a paternal job loss impacted the welfare of children more significantly than a maternal loss.

Children were 1.6 times more likely to repeat a grade if their father lost a job. Among older children, a father's job loss was associated with more suspensions and disruptions.

“It was not a matter of income only,” she said. “Even in families in which the mother earned more money than the father, children were not affected as greatly when she lost a job than were the children in families in which the father lost a job.”

The impact of job loss is different for men: “Men's identity is more closely linked to their jobs, and they are less accustomed to performing the household and child care tasks that women are,” Kalil explains. Women may be more effective being at home with their children during a period of unemployment.

Being unemployed, and perhaps also poor, are terrible stressors for most adults. But an effort must be made not to have the stress infect the family. The children are in potential danger.



9/11

Two terrible events took place on September 11. Let us never forget their lessons.

► **In the USA in 2001, the World Trade Center and other buildings were attacked and destroyed, and**

an airplane crashed, in total killing thousands of people and leaving perhaps thousands more with an enhanced likelihood of cancer and other deadly diseases. Also, civil liberties issues have emerged to raise safety-freedom issues.

► **In Chile in 1973, a democratic president, Salvador Allende, was overthrown and replaced by a man who ruled as a cruel dictator for several decades. Allende died September 11th.**

WHO LIVES IN LANGLEY PARK?

Where Are They From? And More!

Data from the 2010 Census are slowly being made available. One data set focuses on Latinos, and especially what their home country was before coming to the USA. Not surprisingly, Guatemalans and Salvadorans rank one-two. Information about gender, age, household size, and education are among the data available. Below are some of the data.

	Number	%	
HISPANIC OR LATINO			
Total population: 18,755			
Hispanic or Latino (of any race):	14,359	76.6	MD L 8.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,396	23.4	
HISPANIC OR LATINO BY HERITAGE			
Mexican	1,101	5.9	
Puerto Rican	152	0.8	
Cuban	45	0.2	
Dominican (Dominican Republic)	212	1.1	
Central American : 10,197	54.4%		
Costa Rican	4	0.0	
Guatemalan	5,029	26.8	
Honduran	706	3.8	
Nicaraguan	204	1.1	
Panamanian	20	0.1	
Salvadoran	4,217	22.5	
Other Central American	17	0.1	
South American	197	1.1	
Argentinean	4	0.0	
Bolivian	39	0.2	
Chilean	4	0.0	
Colombian	40	0.2	
Ecuadorian	24	0.1	
Paraguayan	5	0.0	
Peruvian	65	0.3	
Venezuelan	5	0.0	
Other South American	11	0.1	
Other Hispanic or Latino 2,455	13.1		
Spaniard, Spanish, Spanish-American, other Hispanic			
GENDER			
Males	9,141	64%	MD F 51.5%
Females	5,218	36%	
AGE			
Males over 65	100	1.7% of males	MD 65+ 12.2%
Females over 65	117	2.2% of females	
Median age	29.4		
HOUSEHOLDS			
Average household size	4.36		MD 2.63
Renting	74%		
EDUCATION			
Educational attainment for 25 years old and above			
Male, less than high school diploma: 81%			
Female, less than high school diploma: 71%			

Clearly, young working-age males from Central America with a poor education predominate in the neighborhood. These are challenges that must be addressed. How about literacy programs before and/or after futbol matches? Or immediately after Sunday Mass? Why so little education? Many residents came from a small town or village with poor schools or none.

WHAT AND WHEN

BARRIO DE LANGLEY PARK

This neighborhood planning newsletter is edited and published by Action Langley Park, with a supportive link to the Langley Park Project of the University of Maryland. The Editor is Bill Hanna. It appears irregularly, but approximately every two weeks. Submissions and suggestions are welcome at actionlangleypark@yahoo.com. Back issues of BLP will soon be available on the web.

BLP is read in the United States, Canada, and Mexico! Maybe elsewhere too! If you have friends or associates elsewhere in Maryland or the USA or elsewhere who are interested in immigration issues, please pass BLP along or let us add the person to one of our email lists.

For information about Action Langley Park, a nonprofit 501c3 organization, email actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

CALENDAR

Here we list upcoming ALP activities and other events that come to our attention. Have an event to list? If so, send information well in advance to actionlangleypark@yahoo.com.

Wednesdays—the Farmers' Market on the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue space operates from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and more—even music!

September 30—Training on Mental Health offered by MMYC and PG Dept. of Family Services, for professionals as well as local residents. From 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For information, email Cheryl Aguilar at cheryl@layc-dc.org.

October 4—The DREAM Act for Maryland, a discussion from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Prince George's Room in the Stamp Student Union of the University of Maryland. Features State Senator Victor Ramirez, Gustavo Andrade of CASA, and others. Meeting room information at 301.314.3375.

October 15—Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at the St. Michael and All Angels Church, 8501 New Hampshire Ave. in upper Langley Park. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. This is a regular event; it takes place every third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

October 19—Transit-oriented development, 6:30-8:30 p.m., a discussion led by Will Campos and others. At the CSC Building, 7900 Harkins Rd., Lanham (by the New Carrollton Metro).

November 6—Health Check 2011 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. This annual event provides free screenings for many potentially harmful health conditions; high blood pressure, rotting teeth, HIV, diabetes, and more. Yes, it's free!

December 8—Action Langley Park meets at the Langley Park Community Center from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome!

May 6—Langley Park Day 2012 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. There will be music and dance performances; a major health fair checking vision, HIV status, blood pressure, and more; food and craft vendors; children's art and games; and more.



BAD APARTMENTS AND A FIGHT FOR HEALTH & SAFETY

The BVN Coalition, composed of the tenants in the Bedford Station, Victoria Station and Newbury Square apartment houses, have joined with others to go to court in order to make their spaces more livable, e.g., by eliminating the bed bugs and cockroaches, fixing leaking ceilings, keeping the outdoor lights on at night, and more. CASA's Richard Renner is representing the tenants.

