

Barrio de Langley Park

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HITE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

It is, he said, a "tremendous opportunity." And so, in three months, School Superintendent Bill Hite will leave Prince George's County for that opportunity a hundred or so miles north.

Dr. Hite a few days earlier: "The School Reform Commission for the School District of Philadelphia announced that I have been named a finalist for superintendent. This announcement comes after weeks of discussions with the SRC. While I have not sought out other professional opportunities, I have been approached on numerous occasions and have turned them down. However, my wife Deirdre and I believe this is an opportunity that we must explore."

"Despite significant fiscal challenges, our school system has made significant progress and I am extremely proud of what we have accomplished over the last three years with the support of our school board members. ... As always, thank you for your support."

Obviously, some people in Philly think that Dr. Hite did well here, and so away he goes. But that leaves the PGCPs without the top man and the second in command. In just over a decade, there have been five PGCPs Superintendents. That reveals a churning that surely is not good for the schools. Is the system so challenging to lead that people run away? If so, we'd better make some changes.

SUPREME COURT TO ARIZONA "NO!"

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the 5-3 majority in *Arizona et al. v. United States*, asserts that the federal government's "power to determine immigration policy is well settled." Thus "Arizona may have understandable frustrations with the problems caused by illegal immigration while that process continues, but the State may not pursue policies that undermine federal law." Except that the so-called "show me your papers" provision is temporarily upheld—to see how it's implemented, and so the police immigration checks are allowed if there is some reason (at the officer's discretion) to stop, arrest, or detail the person—who "by chance" might be an undocumented immigrant. The person then would be taken in and checked to determine if the person (based upon imperfect data) is an undocumented immigrant. The issue of racial profiling was not part of the case, and so that may go to court later.

"Hey you over there. Yes you, you brown skin ugly kid across the street. You sure look like an illegal to me. I'm taking you in right now. And I'll bet when we check that you're one of those damn wetback illegals. So off you'll go to some scum country. And that will be good riddens."

The *New York Times* (25 June 2012) editorializes: "The one section the court did uphold requires officers to check the immigration status of anyone they stop, arrest or detain on some other legitimate basis—if the officer has a 'reasonable suspicion' the person is in the country illegally. Justice Kennedy wrote that until that provision is put into operation, the court could not assume that it would be applied in ways that conflict with federal law.

"But the intent of the law is to harass Hispanics and to drive out immigrants by 'attrition through enforcement.' That section of the law, as it goes into effect, will promote racial profiling of all Hispanics, including American citizens and legal residents. By mandating verification of immigration status even when it is unlikely the federal government will deport the individual, the provision sows fear that any contact with law enforcement—even for a jaywalking ticket—could result in detention."

One immigration lawyer thinks that the days of the one provision which the Court left standing are numbered; it will not be long, he thinks, before the lower courts begin to uphold challenges to this "Hand over your papers!" law on racial profiling and civil rights grounds.

Scalia: The right-right wing Justice Antonin Scalia: "The president has said that the new program is 'the right thing to do' in light of Congress's failure to pass the administration's proposed revision of the immigration laws. Perhaps it is, though Arizona may not think so. But

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to say ... that Arizona contradicts federal law by enforcing applications of federal immigration law that the president declines to enforce boggles the mind." And: There is a "specter that Arizona and the States that support it predicted: A federal government that does not want to enforce the immigration laws as written, and leaves the States' borders unprotected against immigrants whom those laws exclude. ... Are the sovereign States at the mercy of the federal Executive's refusal to enforce the Nation's immigration laws?" And: Arizona's "citizens feel themselves under siege by large numbers of illegal immigrants who invade their property, strain their social services, and even place their lives in jeopardy."

Comment by President Obama: "I remain concerned about the practical impact of the remaining provision of the Arizona law that requires local law enforcement officials to check the immigration status of anyone they even suspect to be here illegally. No American should ever live under a cloud of suspicion just because of what they look like."

Comment by Candidate Romney: "I believe that each state has the duty—and the right—to secure our borders and preserve the rule of law, particularly when the federal government has failed to meet its responsibilities."

Comment by America's Voice Education Fund: "With a 5-3 majority vote, the Supreme Court sent a strong signal to the nation that Arizona's anti-immigrant law is NOT a model for our country. The ruling was a warning to other states not to follow in Arizona's footsteps. However, we still have work to do. While the Justices ruled that most provisions of the law were unconstitutional, they let the dangerous "show me your papers" provision stand. The Justices warned Arizona officials that they could only enforce the provision very narrowly, and the Court left the door open to striking the law down later on. But for now, with Sheriff Joe Arpaio still in power and with flawed programs like 'Secure Communities' still in place, we know that the Court's decision will lead to racial profiling and harassment of people based on what they look like and how they speak—even if they are born in the US."

Comment by BLP: Hey Scalia: "Refuse to enforce"? With a record of about 400,000 deportations annually? So

immigrants "invade"? That alas is the word often used by the paranoid right wing.

So the court has de facto allowed racial profiling to be used in Arizona's search for undocumented immigrants. (Note: Profiling was not at issue in this case. Perhaps it should have been.) And the same court has upheld again the Citizens United decision that substitutes dollar democracy for people democracy. The court also decided to favor Bush over Gore, defying candidate choice by voters. What a sad and dangerous recent record is being set by the Supreme Court.

But to the surprise of many, the Supreme Court decided in favor of the affordable health care act that makes it possible for more people to afford insurance, less so-called administrative costs by the insurance companies, more preventative care to be offered, and other positive steps.

So the just-issued Supreme Court decisions should help to protect our residents and keep them healthier.

Concerns about Dreamers

Skeptic Urges Do It Now

Greg Siskind is a lawyer specializing in immigration law practicing in Tennessee and active at the national level. He often contributes to ILW's Immigration Daily and other web publications.

USCIS apparently wants DREAMers to wait till mid-August to apply affirmatively for employment authorization cards. We don't agree. Our reasoning is straight forward. USCIS has a long record of ignoring directives to deliver benefits - consider, for example, the many years the agency let U visa applications gather dust without adjudicating them. Given the record of tardy processing, capped off by excessive bureaucratic nit-picking even in the face of clear orders to deliver benefits, USCIS's mid-August date could easily slip into mid-November, and then to never-ever, should Mr. Romney win the election. While some organizations are concerned with DREAMers possibly facing returned applications, and perhaps being targeted for future enforcement action, we are much more concerned about DREAMers not getting any benefits at all, ever. In other words, we view Mr. Obama's announcement as more MIRAGE than DREAM, UNLESS DREAMers continue to put relentless pressure on the White House, Congress, the Courts, and above all, through public opinion, to ensure that the President actually delivers on his promise. Since Mr. Obama's motivations are transparently political, a convincing political case made now will have an effect of delivering benefits before the election, whereas complacency now will only ensure that no DREAMer gets anything more than words from this administration. We believe DREAMers are a lot smarter than listening to USCIS's exhortation to wait till mid-August, and we encourage DREAMers to put their creative caps on to keep the pressure on.

Unintended Consequences

The Center for Immigration Studies is generally viewed to be an anti-immigrant organization that is very active in the media and otherwise. Most of the views its staff expresses are the opposite of the views printed in Barrio de Langley Park. But that doesn't mean all of its staff members are crazy. Below is a large segment of a CIS blog written by W. D. Reasoner.

"The Obama administration [has] announced that, by executive order, it would direct Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agencies to halt the deportation, for at least two years, of a group of young illegal aliens meeting certain criteria, and in addition grant these youths employment authorization. According to media reports, those affected by the new no-removal rules must have been brought to the United States before the age of 16; have been in the country at least five years; be under the age of 30; have a high school diploma or GED or, alternatively, have served in the military; and, lack a criminal history.

"As with most things, though, the devil is in the details. For instance, how long must an alien have served in the military? How about the nature of the discharge: honorable only? Or is discharge "under other than honorable conditions" also acceptable? And exactly what does it mean to lack a criminal history? Is a misdemeanor conviction okay? Are certain third-degree felonies acceptable? Which ones? How about DUI/DWI convictions? ...

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**It's an
"Invasion"!**

NEWS AND NOTES

OPPORTUNITY: A CAREER ACADEMY

The LAYC Career Academy is an innovative model that provides youth ages 16 to 24 with college credits, AP-style classes; a rigorous and flexible GED, college preparatory curriculum; and career preparation in the healthcare and information technology fields. The Career Academy is a school for youths who want to succeed on the GED and become a *Medical Assistant* or an *A+ Certified Computer Hardware Technician* or start a college education. Does this sound like you? If yes, apply at <http://www.laycca.org/enrollment-application/>.

MOVING AROUND

TRAIL: The Federal Government has awarded \$10 million to build the Anacostia Bicycle and Pedestrian Project in DC and PG. The funds will complete four missing miles of bicycle and pedestrian paths on the Kenilworth Gardens Trail, connecting hundreds of miles of existing trail networks in Maryland and DC. This path will create new options for bicycle commuters and bring economic and health benefits to communities along the trail. The overall project includes the construction of five bridges, raised pathways, and multi-use paths. It will connect 16 waterfront neighborhoods to the Anacostia River, as well as the Southwest Waterfront, the Nationals baseball stadium, the Navy Yard, RFK Stadium, the National Arboretum, and other popular destinations. Hurray!

PURPLE LINE: The plan is for light rail, but it's expensive and will also have to travel in a few areas without a dedicated lane. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is less expensive but also has the dedicated lane problem.



But hurray: The Chinese have an answer, and it is shown in the accompanying sketch: a bus on "stilts" so that traffic and the bus can share lanes without being in conflict. What's the

cost: don't know. But it's a third possibility.

At least now there may be funds for transportation: the Congress at last passed a bill to fund a range of transportation projects. Of course, everything upon the allocation of the money.

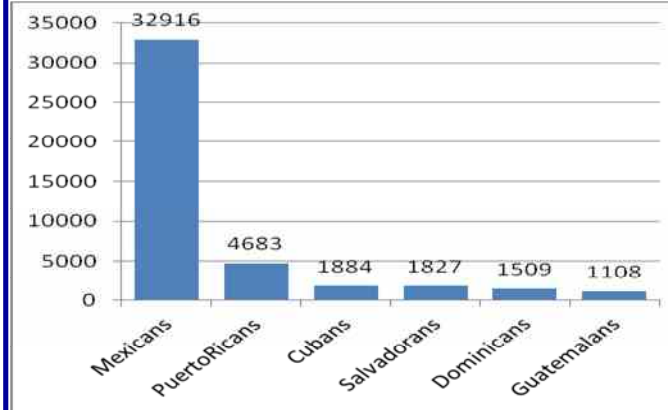
Here's a chilling item about construction around Purple Line stations: "Chevy Chase Lake could feature 90-foot tall buildings around a future Purple Line station, according to a proposed sector plan recommended by Montgomery County planning staff." Maybe the Langley Park Shopping Center (which includes Taco Bell) could be torn down to accommodate 90-foot tall buildings around the coming-soon transit center (which will be adjacent to a Purple Line stop). That would sure change the neighborhood—and make some gentry officials happy!

GAMBLING

Those favoring a sixth casino in Maryland, presumably at National Harbor, released the results of a poll indicating that Marylanders by a wide margin want to have a referendum item on the November ballot about the sixth casino and what is allowed at casinos. What's the holdup? There is some moral objection, but the main opponent is said to be the owner of the casino at Arundel Mills Mall who thinks some of his customers will drift away.

WHERE ARE USA'S LATINO/AS (HISPANICS) FROM? TOP SIX.

(Numbers are thousands. From Pew Hispanic.)



Which county? Los Angeles Co. includes the largest Mexican, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan populations; Miami-Dade Co. has the largest number of Cubans, Colombians, Hondurans, and Peruvians. Puerto Ricans and Dominicans have large concentrations in the Bronx. For Salvadorans, Montgomery Co. is 3rd (52,615) and Prince George's Co. is 5th (47,355).

THANKS FIRE/EMS!

On June 27, Firefighter/Medics from the county's Fire/EMS Department went door-to-door in Langley Park to promote fire safety, injury prevention and the do's and don'ts of 911. Just over 20 smoke alarms were found to be non-working and 12 homes were found with no smoke alarm at all. These alarms were provided a fresh battery or replaced with a new alarm. About 30 CO detectors were installed in homes that required one. Over 60 homes were found to have a working smoke alarm and/or CO detector already installed and working. Thanks!!!

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"Then there is the question of the limited duration of this effort. Administration officials say that the two-year halt is subject to renewal — but that, of course, would depend entirely on whether or not Mr. Obama is elected to the White House for a second term. ... But on a practical level, one of the things that most concerns me is how the program will be administered. How can illegal aliens substantively prove they came before they were 16, or that they have lived in the country five years, or even in some extreme cases that they are under 30, if they have no birth certificates, *cedulas* or other evidence of their age? The answer must necessarily be that the government will be liberal in accepting, at face value, secondary evidence — affidavits, rent receipts, and the like — all of which are an invitation to the unscrupulous, who will undoubtedly establish a thriving (and lucrative) market in fraudulent documents. This is not speculation. It has happened before and happens now: Fraud is routinely encountered by federal immigration authorities, especially those who grant benefits. Fraud was rampant during the legalization program mandated by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, in which millions of aliens were amnestied.

"It is important to note that even those illegal aliens who would, in fact, meet the requirements of the executive order may feel the need to resort to fraud and counterfeit documents if they have no other way to prove their case."

The full blog article is at <http://cis.org/reasoner/rule-unintended-consequences-administrations-executive-order-may-put-illegal-alien-youths-r>.

Police Warn: Loitering & Curfew Summer 2012

The Prince George's County Police Department will begin conducting its summer anti-crime initiative by enforcing local loitering and curfew laws in an effort to reduce crime and the number of opportunities for juveniles to be involved in crime. The County Code prohibits any person under the age of seventeen to be or remain in or upon a public place within the county during the following time periods: 11:59 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. on all other nights.

Those juveniles who are found loitering and without adult supervision and in violation of the curfew law will be taken into custody and charged. "These ordinances are created for the safety of minors as well as to maintain the quality of life throughout the county."



Violation of the code will result in a written warning issued to the parent or guardian by the police. Any subsequent violation can result in a \$50 to \$250 fine in which the parent or guardian will be liable for. Anyone found loitering in places with posted "No Loitering" signs could be charged with trespassing. Any person found guilty of this violation could receive a fine or jail.

In a Federal case in Chicago, loitering laws were overturned because of the right of assembly. But perhaps the ruling does not apply here.

Exceptions : When a juvenile is....

- Legally employed
- Accompanied by a legal guardian or another adult who is authorized by the legal guardian to supervise the juvenile
- On an errand as directed by a legal guardian until 12:30a.m.
- Returning home by a direct route within one (1) hour of the end of a school or religious activity, or a place of public entertainment such as a movie or sporting event
- Exercising their First Amendment rights and a letter, signed by the juvenile and a legal guardian, has been received by the appropriate District Commander's designee, which includes the legal guardian's home address and telephone number, and the specific place, time, and purpose the juvenile will be in a public place during curfew hours
- Married or has been married
- Engaged in normal interstate travel with legal guardian consent

July 4th Celebrations

The county fire department reminds us that it is illegal for any person to manufacture, possess, store, offer for sale, sell, discharge, use, burn, or explode any fireworks in Prince George's County except that an authorized display may be conducted by a licensed pyrotechnic professional. **Selected Celebrations:**

- ◆ College Park and the University of Maryland are collaborating to offer a celebration with a free concert and fireworks display on the campus. Concessions include hot dogs, funnel cake, and snow cones can be purchased starting at 5 p.m. A concert by "The Fabulous Hubcaps" starts at 7 p.m., and the fireworks display starts at about 9 p.m. The campus location is the university's Parking Lot 1 at Campus Drive just east of Adelphi Road.
- ◆ In Greenbelt, everyone is invited to the lovely Buddy Attick Park, where there will be live music from the "Greenbelt Concert Band" starting at 5:45 p.m. There will also be a drum circle starting at 7:15 p.m. (people can bring their own percussion instruments or use ones provided and play together). Fireworks begin at about 9 p.m.
- ◆ The National Mall usually has the most dramatic fireworks in the region—beginning at about 9 p.m.
- ◆ Have to stay home? Check out the fireworks in the NY City area on TV.

WHAT AND WHEN



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

July 4—National Celebrations: See information bottom of left column re College Park, Greenbelt, the National Mall.

July 4, 11—Crossroads Farmers' Market, this and every other Wednesday afternoon, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the parking lot at the south end of the 7676 New Hampshire Avenue building. Lots of fruits and vegetables and live music and more.

July 15-20 or 22-27—Writing workshop. For students in grades 8 through 12. Information: <http://www.hurstonwright.org/ProgramsAwards/creativeWritingIntensive.html>. Note: there is a tuition charge of \$130 but scholarships are available.

July 15-27—Young Scholars Discovery at University of Maryland. For 8th and 9th grade students. There may be a few openings at this late date, but the fees are high. For information, go to Ysdiscovery.umd.edu.

July 21: Free Community Dinner & Food Distribution at 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 on the third Saturday of the month. For information, call 301 434-4646.

August 7: National Night Out. In Langley Park, the Community Center is planning an indoor afternoon [not quite "night"!] event, 3:30-5 p.m., with a focus on children—including a film and ice cream. Some good bilingual police officers are likely to join the fun.

September 20: Action Langley Park Open Meeting at the Langley Park Community Center, 7 to about 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome; ideas always welcome!

November 10: Health Check at the LP Community Center from noon to 3:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of health screenings plus information and counseling. Is your heart okay? Are you infected with HIV? How's your lung strength? Any problems with oral health? Et cetera!

Mark your calendar now for Health Check 2012, a bilingual health fair for those who need to be sure that they are healthy or who need to get healthy!

May 5—Langley Park Day 2013, a festival of music, dance, food, information, and especially health.

PG 'Minority' Counts Increase

Of course, Prince George's County is majority African-American and African—by about a 2 to 1 margin. But the latest Census data on changes between 2010 and 2011 indicate that Asians, Latino/as, and Euros all increased by a small amount while Blacks decreased, also by a small amount. (From 2000 to 2010, the biggest changes in the county were losses of thousands of Euros and gains for Latino/as.)

What has happened during 2010-2011? The *Washington Post* (25 June 2012), which broke this story, suggests that affordability and walkability/transit-convenience are among the factors. One new arrival: "Prince George's is one of those untapped resources, and it is now starting to get tapped." And now: Starbucks, Bread and Poets, lots of new condos, and more! But let's handle this change without displacement!!!