

Barrio de Langley Park

A Neighborhood Planning Newsletter Published by Action Langley Park
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Does the Supreme Court Majority Love Arizona?

This past Wednesday, the Supreme Court took on one of the most important legal cases of this year when it heard arguments over Arizona's law, SB 1070. If the Court rules in favor of Arizona's anti-immigrant law, it will effectively legalize the harassment and discrimination of an entire population—just because of the color of their skin or the accent with which they speak.

From the ACLU brief: "The issue in this case is whether Arizona's S.B. 1070, a comprehensive state immigration law designed to effectuate Arizona's preferred immigration policy of 'attrition through enforcement [is constitutional].' This brief responds specifically to Petitioners' assertion that state law enforcement officers may enforce the federal immigration laws—both civil and criminal—as provided for in S.B. 1070's stop and arrest provisions, because states have 'inherent authority' to enforce federal law as a general matter. *Amici* agree with the United States that S.B. 1070's stop and arrest provisions are preempted, but we take a more restrictive view of the authority of the states to enforce federal immigration law and provide additional grounds in this brief for finding preemption."

From Arizona: "The State of Arizona bears a disproportionate share of the costs of illegal immigration. In addressing those costs, Arizona borrowed the Federal standards as its own, and attempted to enlist State resources in the enforcement of the uniform Federal immigration laws." So began the argument of the lawyer representing the state.

The response by the lawyer representing the Federal government that is challenging Arizona law: "The very first provision of the statute declares that Arizona is pursuing its own policy of attrition through enforcement, and that the provisions of this law are designed to

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The Takoma-Langley Sector Plan? Skeptical but Hopeful

Readers of this publication know that there has been great concern among in-the-know residents and businesspeople as well as participants in Action Langley Park about the implementation of the Sector Plan that enables the gentrification of many affordable apartment houses and small family businesses, which in turn inexorably leads to displacement.

Last week, members of a county work group on affordable housing met with the county's planning staff for an update. Planner Robert J. Duffy led the session. It seems that the tone—and hopefully the substance—has been softened. Phrases often heard were "preserve and improve," "business retention strategies," and "retention and improvement."

Everyone wants to improve, but the question is: at what cost? Will tenants be forced out of their apartments or business spaces? Maybe not? Not now?

The plan for implementation appears to make changes in stages. Stage one will be the commercial areas around the two planned area Purple Line stops. Then the changes will probably, slowly, seep out into the current residential areas. Slowly=Better!

Of course, the changes and their timing will depend on at least two factors: First, what is happening to the plans for the Purple Line? Will it be funded? The sooner the funding, the sooner the "improvements." The second is the condition of the economy; when will funds be available to developers to make the "improvements"?

Change does come to many neighborhoods, and often there is a slow process of gentrification and displacement. If there is a Purple Line, at the least some gentrification will take place. The hope is that nearby affordable apartments will be available so that the vital immigrant neighborhood called Langley Park will survive. With luck, there will be a bilingual Langley Park Day in future years and decades! ■

What's Taking Place on Sunday, May 6? Langley Park Day 2012!

From noon to 4 p.m. in and around the Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merrimac Drive, Langley Park

Site information: 301 4454508; Activity information: 301 4054005

For more information about the festival, go to page 3 below.

FOOD TRUCKS

Once upon a time, there was a lively street life in Langley Park; a dozen or more people would gather around some of the food trucks to talk and sometimes to eat. But in an attempt to make the neighborhood less attractive as an ethnic enclave, officials forced all of the vendors out. Maybe that was a calculated first step towards envisioned gentrification and displacement?

But food trucks are alive and well in Washington DC, perhaps due to greater sophistication on the part of the decisionmakers. From livingsocial.com, a food truck



tour:

"You know they're out there; those lunch-time vigilantes who can turn any street corner or traffic circle into a five-star dining spot. ... Pick a day from Monday to Thursday and bring your appetite to 17th and I,

where you'll meet other adventurous foodies for a walking tour. Dine on samples from a rotating selection of three DC food trucks for an eclectic mix that adds up to a full meal. Past tours have featured everything from pork belly sandwiches and tamales to jerk chicken, crêpes, and Korean barbecue." For a list of trucks, go to <http://foodtruckfiesta.com/dc-food-trucks/>. ■

ET CETERA

Factoid: Gender

Three counties in Maryland have more males than females: Allegany, Somerset, and Washington. What does that indicate? Women run away?

Factoid: Asians

The Asian population (self-identified) in the USA increased more than 50% from the 2000 to the 2010 Census; in the latter year, there were 17.3 million Asians in the country—5.6% of USA's population. Maryland's Asian per cent in 2010 was 6.4%—370,044 people.

Corruption!

So Wal-Mart officers apparently bribed Mexican officials to win market domination. The dollars involved are reportedly more than \$24,000,000. So we're teaching he world how to play the game! (Source: ImmigrationPolicy.org)



Sex Workers?

When Mitt Romney was governor, he helped to put in place a state-wide health insurance plan. Good. When Marco Rubio was a state senator, he worked to give undocumented immigrants in-state college fees. Needless to say, they reversed positions to win the support of the radical right. Does that mean they have prostituted themselves to satisfy the radical right customers?

Northwest Branch

Bordering Langley Park and many other neighborhoods is the Northwest Branch, a beautiful creek surrounded by lovely trees and shrubs. Along the creek is a hiker-biker trail more than twenty miles long. Alas, in the Hyattsville area, there have been three rapes along the trail. Perhaps with such a threat, having a companion would be a good safety measure. Sad.

RUBIO'S GOT A "PLAN"

Daniela Pelaez is an 18-year-old valedictorian and aspiring molecular biologist who, because she is undocumented, is vulnerable to deportation. She was born in Columbia and arrived in the USA when she was four years old. The family overstayed their visa and therefore became undocumented.

An honors student, Ms. Pelaez is heading to Dartmouth on a scholarship. Well, she'll be in Dartmouth unless Rubio and the rest of the anti-DREAM gang force her out of the USA.

Ms. Pelaez is the type of person whom Senator Marco Rubio says might be eligible to stay in the USA but never become a citizen. Ah, a cast system! Superior and inferior people in the USA! Could it be that Cuban-Americans (quite different than Cubans) don't understand people whose roots are in Mexico, Columbia, and Central America? Some people think so. (Not all Latinos think the same way!) Ms. Pelaez has been quoted about the Rubio plan:

"I'm not happy with Senator Rubio's position, that it doesn't lead to citizenship. I feel that would create a whole alternative inferior type of class of Americans. It's bittersweet because it's a stepping stone in the right direction but it's going about it the wrong way. It's heart-breaking not just for myself but for everybody else who would have been applicable under it because we deserve so much better than that, but what can I do? I guess the only thing I could do is continue to tell my story and continue to raise awareness for it."

If Rubio gave a darn about Pelaez and others like her, he would be a champion of the DREAM Act. But he apparently doesn't care; rather, he's trying to come up with some plan that might trick some people to think he cares about those in the USA from Columbia, Mexico, et cetera. His international position may well be limited to harming contemporary Cuba. (Is he consistent: Does he want us to stop all trade with China because they're "comi" too?) ■

ET CETERA

PG Council Favors Walking, Biking

Good for the County Council. The members have just passed a bill that gives walking and biking in new developments greater importance. That's a piece of "new urbanism," the current planning fashion. Mixed use should also be part of plans to be.

Here's an idea: Put more walking and biking paths in Langley Park but don't bulldoze all or even most of the affordable apartments. It's a good neighborhood!

School Needs Help

At Hyattsville Elementary School there's a need to purchase five classroom air purifiers. (The school system can't supply them? Things really are falling apart!) Does anyone know of who or what organization might be willing to donate some help? The PTA was originally purchasing them, but the expense exceed their funds. If you know of anyone willing to do this, please contact Ms. Penate at cecilia.penate@pgcps.org.

Community Resource Fair

On June 1 at Robert Frost Elementary School (6419 85th Avenue, New Carrollton, from noon to 2 p.m., there will be a Community Resource Fair with about ten vendors. For details about the event, contact Patricia Benavides at 301 852.1900.

EL 12° DÍA DE LANGLEY PARK

El primer Día de Langley Park tuvo lugar en abril del año 2000, por lo que el evento del 2012 será la 13ª celebración de las diversas culturas del barrio de Langley Park y sus alrededores.



Doctor & Politician

Muchos de nuestros residentes o sus ancestros provienen de El Salvador y Guatemala, los países que envían la mayor cantidad de inmigrantes a nuestra área; pero también de Camboya, Colombia, Costa de Marfil, Alemania, Haití, Honduras, Italia, Jamaica, Líbano, Nicaragua, México, Nigeria, Sierra Leona, Viet-

nam y otros países.

Langley Park es un lugar que une a las culturas y las naciones. El Día de Langley Park será un espacio donde se hablará inglés, español, francés, criollo y otros idiomas.

MÚSICA, CANTO Y DANZA

Durante del evento se presentarán músicos, cantantes y bailarines. Estos artistas representarán las diferentes culturas del área, desde Asia y el Medio Oriente hasta el Caribe y América Central. Incluso habrá ritmos antiguos... ¡y mucho más!

¡Todas las presentaciones son gratis! Y gracias a la disponibilidad de espacio, las actuaciones tendrán lugar llueva o truene.

FERIA DE SALUD

Dos veces al año, Langley Park alberga un importante evento de salud. Este evento incluye pruebas, información y consultas. Muchos médicos, enfermeras, dentistas y otros profesionales del sector de salud, ofrecerán su experiencia a todos los que lleguen a revisarse durante el evento. Los profesionales de la salud pertenecen a las Escuelas de Odontología y Medicina de Maryland; Casa Rubén; NIH, El Departamento de Salud del Condado; Identidad, Suburban Hospital, Salud Adventista, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Holy Cross, CASA, Montgomery College, y mucho más. ¡Y todo es gratis!



Dancers

VENDEDORES

Habrà buena comida internacional, productos frescos de los granjeros locales y tal vez algo de artesanía. Los precios de los productos serán moderados. Si hay mal clima, la venta será mínima.

ACTIVIDADES PARA NIÑOS

Las actividades planificadas para los niños incluyen trampolines, pinturas de cara, juegos de ciencias, artes y artesanías. BEYOND THESE WALLS (Más allá de estas paredes) y otros estarán ayudando. ¡Todas estas actividades son gratis! ¡Será muy divertido! ¡Invite a sus amigos!

¡Y MUCHO MÁS!

Los asistentes al Día de Langley Park tendrán la oportunidad de hablar con abogados y asesores legales, representantes de universidades, y especialistas en otras áreas.

THE 12TH LANGLEY PARK DAY

The first Langley Park Day took place in April 2000, and so the 2012 event will be the 13th annual celebration of the many cultures in and near the Langley Park neighborhood.

The ancestries of our residents include El Salvador and Guatemala, the two countries that send the most immigrants to our area, and also Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, and a score of other countries. Langley Park is a place uniting cultures and nations. Clearly, the event will also be a place where many languages are spoken: English, Spanish, French, Creole, and more.



Dental Patient, Family, Dentist

MUSIC, SONG, DANCE

Throughout the event, there will be performances by musicians, singers, and dancers. These performers will represent many of the cultures of the area, from the Middle East and the Caribbean to Central America and Asia. There will even be "Ancient Rhythms"! And many more! All of the performances are free! And thanks to our outdoor and indoor spaces, the performances will take place rain or shine.

HEALTH FAIR

Twice a year, Langley Park hosts a major health event with health screenings, information, and consultations. Many doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals offer their expertise to all who come to the health section of the event. We may even have chair massages for those seeking bliss! Professionals come from Maryland's Schools of Dentistry and Medicine; Casa Rubén; NIH; the County Department of Health; Identity; Suburban Hospital; Adventist Health; Johns Hopkins Medicine, CASA de Maryland, Holy Cross Hospital, Montgomery College, and more. All free!

VENDORS

There will be good prepared international food, fresh produce from local farmers, and maybe some crafts too. Most of these vendors charge for their offerings, but the prices are moderate. Note: in bad weather, the vending will be minimal.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Planned activities for children include moon bouncing, face painting, science games, and arts and crafts. Beyond These Walls and others are helping. All of these activities are free! And fun!!



Chair Massage



Dancer

AND MORE!

Those at Langley Park Day will be able to talk with lawyers and legal counselors, college and university representatives, domestic violence advisors, and specialists in other fields. There will also be several government officials and staff members to help with any problem with government agencies.

"Arizona" continued from Page 1

work together to drive unlawfully present aliens out of the State. That is something Arizona cannot do."

What harm could there be? Two examples are offered by a *New York Times* (25 April 2012) editorial: A citizen

Bring 'em in, strip search 'em

Maybe we should put two and two together: The Supreme Court will probably let most or all of Arizona's SB1070 stand. And earlier this month, the Court approved strip searching everyone arrested no matter the provocation. Speeding! Take your clothes off!

Could it be that arresting many Latino/as and strip searching them will provide entertainment for Arizona officials? Maybe tapes of the strip searches will be made available to the five majority justices.

who took a walk after dark without identification could be stopped and locked up because the government couldn't verify his citizenship. And an illegal immigrant with an application pending for legal asylum status could be similarly locked up.

Some of what was said by the conservatives on the Supreme Court during the oral argument was hardly encouraging. Justice Scalia compared undocumented immi-

grants to bank robbers. The justices appear to have the word "illegal" as one of their favorites. "You can see [the Federal position] is not selling very well"; that's a comment coming from the liberal Latina on the Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor. It seems that a majority of the justices viewed the Arizona "profile 'em, catch 'em, throw 'em out" law (the words of the law are different) as constitutional. ■

SECURE COMMUNITIES

The Secure Communities program of the Federal government, which enlists local police officers in the quest for those without papers, has led to considerable fear within the immigrant population, with or without papers. That's clearly the case in Langley Park. The Coalition of Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles comments:

"Weeks after the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General released a timid review of the program, [ICE] announced minor modifications to the deeply flawed Secure Communities program (S-Comm). A DHS-sponsored Taskforce on Secure Communities released a stinging report of the program in November 2011. ... S-Comm catches anyone who happens to fit into ICE's amorphously defined 'priorities'. Deplorably, it is local and state police departments that have been relegated to the unenviable role of faux immigrant wardens undermining the trust of the community, a key element to fight crime, protect victims and witnesses, and protect the community's overall safety. ..."

Might the Coalition be too pessimistic? On 27 April 2012, this statement was issued by Homeland Security: "As part of our efforts to ensure that our immigration enforcement resources are focused on high priority cases, [ICE] has implemented policies and processes that ensure that those enforcing immigration laws make appropriate use of the discretion they already have in deciding the types of individuals prioritized for removal from the country. ICE prioritizes for removal individuals who have been convicted of a criminal offense, pose a threat to public safety, have repeatedly violated our immigration laws, or have recently entered the United States." But the statement continues: "In fiscal year 2011, nearly 55% of the people removed by ICE's Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations were convicted of felonies or misdemeanors." So 45% were not! That's several hundred thousand human beings. Ugly. ■



Fear

WHAT AND WHEN

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 actionlanguelpark@yahoo.com.

Now until May 5—A Thousand and One Faces of Mexico: Masks from the Collection of Ruth D. Lechuga. At the Mexican Cultural Institute, 2829 16 St., DC. Open Monday -Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

May 3, 4, 5—Physics is Phun, in the physics department, University of Maryland: Great Physics Demonstrations. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Information: 301 405.5994.

May 5—Arts on the Block open house, noon to 4 p.m. at 11501 Georgia Ave., Suite 104. Artwork and more.

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; food and craft vendors; children's art and game activities; face painting, and more. On Cinco de Mayo weekend!! Contacts: Site=301 4454508; Participants=301 4054005. ALP= actionlanguelpark@yahoo.com. (Photo: Maria George sings Selena style.)



May 24—Action Langley Park meeting, 7 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center. What should we all be doing about schools? Housing? Health? More! Open meeting!

ET CETERA

Reagan Had the Answer?!

The Report from Pew Hispanic is important but not a surprise: Net migration from Mexico is close to zero. From the report: "The largest wave of immigration in history from a single country to the United States has come to a standstill. After four decades that brought 12 million current immigrants—more than half of whom came illegally—the net migration flow from Mexico to the U.S. has stopped and may have reversed."

Eugene Robinson (*Washington Post*, 26 April 2012) reacts to the news: "There's no longer the slightest excuse for histrionics about the alleged threat to our way of life from invading hordes intent on ... working hard and raising their families. ... We don't need to build a giant wall along the Rio Grande; Obama has already 'hardened' the border. We need a Reagan-style amnesty that would allow the great majority of undocumented immigrants to stay"

Latino/as in Maryland

As of 2010, there were 474,000 Latino/as in our state, which is 8% of the state's population. The native-born are just under half of all of the Latino/as. In contrast with many parts of the country, Mexicans constitute only 17% of the foreign-born Latino/a population. The state's Latino/a residents' average age is 27. (From Pew Hispanic)

Budget Cuts from You Know Who

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's budget plan (applauded by most Republicans) would get at least 62% of its \$5.3 trillion in nondefense budget cut savings over ten years from programs that serve people of limited means. President Obama wants the opposite. That's in part what the coming election is about.