

Subject: An open letter to the President, Lake County Board RE: Resolution 11-1116

Date: Monday, November 7, 2011 1:14 PM

From: Al Barry, President | Deborah Barry, Secretary <info@deerparkneighbors.com>

To: <DStolman@lakecountyil.gov>, "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com"

<DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com>

Cc: Willard Helander <whelander@lakecountyil.gov>, <Ballen@lakecountyil.gov>, Eric Peterson <epeterson@dailyherald.com>, Laura Pavin <lpavin2@gmail.com>, Terry Pastika <tpastika@citizenadvocacycenter.org>, <ALawlor@lakecountyil.gov>, <AKyle@lakecountyil.gov>, <AMaine@lakecountyil.gov>, <ABassi@lakecountyil.gov>, <ANixon@lakecountyil.gov>, <bdurkin@lakecountyil.gov>, <BCarter@lakecountyil.gov>, <BPaxton@lakecountyil.gov>, <CCalabresa@lakecountyil.gov>, <CTaylor@lakecountyil.gov>, <DOKelly@lakecountyil.gov>, <DHewitt@lakecountyil.gov>, <JNewton@Lakecountyil.gov>, <LPedersen@lakecountyil.gov>, <MCunningham@lakecountyil.gov>, <MBush@lakecountyil.gov>, <MFeldman@lakecountyil.gov>, <PCarey@lakecountyil.gov>, <SCarlson@lakecountyil.gov>, <SMountsier@lakecountyil.gov>, <SGravenhorst@lakecountyil.gov>, <TWilke@lakecountyil.gov>, FOP Lodge 292 <fop292@yahoo.com>

Conversation: An open letter to the President, Lake County Board RE: Resolution 11-1116

Chairman and Board members,

Deer Park Neighbors thank you all for your cordial and caring response to the distress in our little corner of the suburbs. You know that we are struggling in both Kildeer and Deer Park with our anger and despair over the job losses of the Kildeer Nine, the most senior officers in that department. You also know time is very short. I met you only Tuesday of last week. Today, there's no time to vet these words in our customary.

So these are my own words, but after almost six years I think I reflect a consensus. For sure, I will hear about it if I do not.

Deer Park Neighbors could flood all your emails or pack the chamber tomorrow. How would that help? We are your constituents. We are being torn apart, without and within. And for what? It comes down to money; the more people say it's not the money, the more it looks like it is.

In Deer Park we think we've paid more than we should or that there's a surplus that could fund the additional high level officer the department must have. That would address the complaint of too little service. In Kildeer, residents wonder if our wonderful police service has come at the expense of theirs. More officers would solve that, too.

Whatever our villages' petty enmity, it's simple scandalous that Deer Park's action leaves Kildeer with too small a force to police its ever denser commercial district. Perhaps Deer Park is a bit jealous of Kildeer's biting at our heels?

And yes, I'm willing to let "bad guys" know there won't be enough cops—because it hasn't happened yet. That's why I'm writing to you. That's why some of us will be in the chamber—and I would like to see at least one official from village make that trip as well.

Join our request: ITEM 48, 11-1116 we'll be at tomorrow meeting. What the "bad guys know" is the

most persuasive argument for stopping this right now.

No one believed the unseemly performance by Deer Park Trustees on Wednesday. We know that the KDP is excellent. They document their successes, they push back on the young gangs, escort movie goers safely to their cars at midnight—it is very dark at night—and install our infant seats and calm the traffic down. Could they do better? Certainly. Could residents actually call the cops instead of their friends when something looks wrong? In time.

The Kildeer police already know the community, deep and wide. They know Spongie lives over by Concorde; they grieved with us when Carl the Goat was trampled by a startled deer. They know the left hand doesn't know what the right hand garage is doing.

I speak only for myself—because the sitting trustees have never taken a ride-along—but in a KDP car, there's no here or there, no Kildeer or Deer Park. Shared policing is a kind of dance; sometimes one leads, sometimes the other. It works, and it does more with less.

There's no here or there on the Kildeer Nine, either. We're paying attention now, and for as long as it takes. All the Kildeer cops have had our backs, and we ate and slept and walked our dogs in peace and safety. It's our turn to cover them.

TABLE ITEM 48, 11-1116. Ask President Kellermann to call a special to rescind the votes relative to the Sheriff's police contract. Ask Administrator Talbett to guarantee all Kildeer police officers stay on the payroll, on their present schedule and current pay grade. Bring in outside analysis of the numbers to ensure both villages stay safe. Maybe we can find the funds, to sharpen our pencils, to have many good options.

The termination of the KPD officers is dated 11/15; tomorrow is 11/8. God made the world in six days; surely all of us can accomplish something useful in eight.

Is there mentoring or leadership at the County or State level that can facilitate genuinely open forums. We need to heal our household. We need to demand better from our officials. If so much grief can come from too little attention to the meaning of "imminent instead of eminent," what might come from some well-guided micromanagement.

We know the Attorney General can handle its piece. Deer Park Neighbors can keep doing what its doing, too. Our Twitter feed, #KeepKildeerCops, is not yet three days old; our followers today include Crain's Chicago Business, reporters for Patch.com and North Shore Daily, even an ADT vendor—if nothing else, perhaps the social network will bring new opportunities to all of us.

Or in eight days we might find an ethical and legal way to put the relationships the Kildeer Nine already have on the Sheriff's desk.

Deer Park Neighbors—not elected, no on salary—have invested hundred of hours in due diligence and outreach. But is that DPN's job? We're pushed into a corner by a mistaken notion that a police contract should be, or even can be held in secret; in any case, we must know the general subject.

Our board doesn't agree. They have adamantly defended their actions. Where do we appeal? Deer

Park does not have an Ethics Officer, despite the requirement for one in our municipal code. Nor do we have, since we're speaking of home town security, either an Emergency Management Coordinator, must less any plan for man-made or natural disaster. Did the Sheriff know that when he made his proposal? Maybe his price is too low.

So we come to Lake County, and yes, we understand what you say. "Your problem is Deer Park, but we have a valid offer and acceptance. We have approve it."

And what exactly is item 11-1116? Look at your Legistar. How is this resolution different from all other resolutions? There is no dollar amount on this item; all the others above and below it are specified. Not even a "not to exceed" to be seen. Would a reasonable person scrub your documents as hard as we have this week?

Once the contract is ratified, there's isn't a do-over for Deer Park. Are you willing to assume that liability on behalf of the Sheriff?

Deer Park Neighbors is in the room for as long as it takes. Please join us at the table, not at the tally.

Remember, together we are stronger.

Respectfully, and I hope reflective of Deer Park, Kildeer and Lodge 292,
Deborah Barry

--

Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
847-867-1867 <http://deerparkneighbors.com>
Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

To add or remove an address from this email list, simply hit REPLY and put the word "ADD" or "REMOVE" in the subject line, then hit SEND. Should you choose to remain on our email distribution list, Deer Park Neighbors will use email addresses to transmit information of interest regarding Deer Park Neighbors and community issues. Deer Park Neighbors also will not sell email addresses to other organizations for commercial purposes.