



VILLAGE OF NORTH BALTIMORE
Public Safety Committee Meeting - 7/28/2026

July 28, 2026
5:00 PM

Minutes

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call (If Quorum)

Mayor Aaron Patterson – HERE, Ms. Beaupry – HERE, Ms. Hefner – HERE, Mr. Richmond – ABSENT, Mr. Engard – HERE, Mr. Bosak – HERE, Mr. Sweat – HERE.

III. Drug Enforcement Program Contract - Wood County Sheriff's Office

Mayor Patterson asked members to clarify if they believed there was a drug problem in North Baltimore, what the program would achieve, and if any issues could be solved with the NBPD's current officers and [pending] K-9 unit.

Mr. Sweat replied that he has spoken with others about this topic. He believed that there was a drug problem in the community and that this issue is prevalent throughout Wood County. He stated that areas outside of NBPD's jurisdiction might produce/sell drugs that enter village limits.

Mayor Patterson shared that a resident had approached him in the past with concerns about their children playing outside due to a neighboring house that allegedly used drugs. Mayor Patterson stated that he had relayed this information to the former police chief [Mr. David Lafferty]. He stated that Mr. Lafferty informed him that proper evidence must be obtained, and that officers could not approach the alleged drug-offending home without proper cause. He stated that this home was later addressed after Mr. Lafferty's retirement. Mayor Patterson stated that Mr. Lafferty supported the development of a K-9 unit.

Mr. Engard questioned why North Baltimore was the only village requested to contribute to this program; Mayor Patterson shared this concern.

Ms. Hefner stated that drugs crossed between communities – she felt that enforcement in other communities, such as Toledo, could benefit North Baltimore.

Mayor Patterson questioned if the village should start with the K-9 unit first rather than signing the agreement; Ms. Hefner responded with concerns about how the K-9 unit would address homes [rather than just traffic stops].

Ms. Hefner requested Chief Bingham to attend a meeting to explain his position on the proposed agreement.

Mayor Patterson raised concerns about accountability – he was concerned about taxpayer funds being used for work outside of the village. He stated that the drug enforcement team would not be accountable to the village council.

Mr. Sweat replied that details on police operations would be reported to Chief Bingham, who would report to Council.

Mayor Patterson reiterated his concern about taxpayer funds being used to help external communities and stated that the police department had recently received an appropriation due to prior expenses for the year.

Ms. Beaupry agreed that the K-9 unit should operate first.

Ms. Hefner stated that two provisions need to be detailed on the contract: (1) how the funds from seized drugs would be split between the county and the village, and (2) the amount of time that the drug enforcement team would spend in the village.

Mr. Sweat stated that he would prefer one of the sheriff's detectives complete drug enforcement tasks in the village, as they are able to go undercover.

Mr. Sweat stated that a monthly update should be provided to Chief Bingham if the agreement is entered. He detailed that the update should include information about where the officer is spending time.

Mr. Sweat asked if personnel matters with the agreement could be discussed under an executive session; Administrator Bender and Mayor Patterson confirmed that it would be valid for an executive session, per ORC.

August 11th at 4:30 was discussed as a potential time to hold a special meeting with the Chief in attendance [The Special Meeting was held on 8/18/2026 at 4:30 PM].

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:48 PM.