

Fort Belvoir Facebook Virtual Town Hall Q&A Recap

June 18, 2020

This is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers may be edited for clarity.

Participants:

- COL Michael Greenberg, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir
- CAPT Cynthia Judy, Director, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital
- Mr. Frank Hentschel, Director, Emergency Services

Director of Emergency Services update on questions about housing safety concerns.

Mr. Frank Hentschel: Last week, we received several Facebook posts regarding the safety and security concerns in some of our villages. As part of that town hall meeting I provided my contact information if they needed to contact me regarding any specific concerns. I did receive a couple of contacts with information regarding some safety and security concerns and I even meet with one of the resident so far with more scheduled. We have already made some safety and security changes. For security reasons, I am unable to discuss all of the changes that have already taken place. However, I will keep village mayors involved and informed and he or she will share what he can with you. After receiving this information I reached out to two of the Villages mayors to discuss the identified concerns. Next week, I will be conducting walk thru with a couple of mayors to go over some of the issues and what improvements can be done.

Question: Is the youth curfew still in effect?

Mr. Frank Hentschel: The Fort Belvoir Temporary Policy Memorandum #2 On-Post curfew for minors remains in effect from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. for youth 17 and younger unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Director of Emergency Services update on reporting emergencies or suspicious or criminal activity.

Mr. Frank Hentschel: If there is an emergency immediately call 911. That call will be transferred to our Emergency Communication Center for dispatching. If you want to report a non-emergent situation such as suspicious activity, please call the Emergency Communication Center at 703-806-3104 or 703-806-3105. Or you can contact me and I will once again ask that our Facebook managers posts my contact information on the Facebook page.

Question: When does the new Garrison Commander arrive?

COL Michael Greenberg: We will be changing command on August 11.

Question: Can we have someone from the Villages be the special guest to speak to their residents?

COL Michael Greenberg: I will work with the Villages on scheduling them for one of the Facebook town halls.

Garrison Commander addresses safety concerns from housing residents.

COL Michael Greenberg: I want to tell you that we do take your comments very seriously. There was a comment that said we don't take it seriously. I would beg to differ with that point. We have gone out multiple times. We have looked at some of the security measures. We have taken a lot more precautionary measures and put some mechanisms in place to help. Our Director of Emergency Services has personally went out to the Woodlawn and River Villages, has driven around with some of the residents and with the mayors. The mayors are important in helping ensure that we are meeting requirements. There was also a comment last week about residents calling the Fairfax County Police Department because they could not get a response from us. We contacted the Fairfax County 911 call centers and our law enforcement partners outside the gates. They are not tracking any of those calls. If you did call, please let us know and pass that information on to Frank Hentschel, the Director of Emergency Services. It's important that we find out why calls are going out to county law enforcement.

Garrison Commander addresses question about bridge construction.

COL Michael Greenberg: I understand the concerns regarding the bridge construction. We anticipate that the new bridge will be up and running by the late fall.

Garrison Commander addresses question about sidewalk safety.

COL Michael Greenberg: The Department of Public Works is working with the Villages of Belvoir to repair sidewalks. As a plan is developed and executed we will continue to keep you updated.

Garrison Commander addresses question on playgrounds.

COL Michael Greenberg: The certified playground inspectors have done assessments on 42 or 43 playgrounds. Those results are being shared with the Villages of Belvoir. We will provide an update on the status of the playgrounds in the near future.

Garrison Commander addresses question on streetlights.

COL Michael Greenberg: In the last 30 to 60 days, the Villages of Belvoir replaced 73 streetlights across the installation. They will continue to monitor those streetlights and will continue to make repairs, as needed.

Question: Thank you for picking up loose yellow handicap ramps, do they need to be replaced?

COL Michael Greenberg: Replacements are being ordered. Some only require fresh epoxy and dry concrete to bond them.

Question: How is Belvoir Leadership ensuring the Tenant Bill of Rights, passed by Congress, with full implementation expected in May, is implemented at The Villages of Belvoir?

COL Michael Greenberg: The language in the NDAA regarding the Tenant Bill of Rights was not self-executing. In order to ensure a uniform approach for tenants, regardless of the branch of service and installation, the Department of Defense must develop the process and procedures need to implement the rights fully. And so once developed, it will be promulgated through the Department of the Army and the military chain of command to Fort Belvoir for execution. Notably the rights to access the homes maintenance history is still being worked through the Department of Defense and with MPHI companies. We look forward to receiving more guidance in the future. We'll provide that guidance as it comes out.

Question: Where do we stand with the decision to open the Child Development Centers to more families?

COL Michael Greenberg: As we transition to HPCON Bravo, child development centers will begin to reopen here on Fort Belvoir. We have received back all the mission essential request forms. We have started notifying families about their child development center and where they are on the list, and whether there'll be a spot for them.

Question: Why do residents need a mayor to be the go between, between the garrison and the PPV?

COL Michael Greenberg: Great question. This program is intended to put a more formalized process in place and add additional lines of communication for residents to share their concerns and ensure their needs are met. They are by no means a go between. We've been talking about levels of escalation and using those to work the system. The mayors are not in those levels of escalation. The mayors are representing the villages, they're taking in concerns, whether it's a security concern or a safety concern. It is their responsibility to gather feedback from the community. Then they help prioritize those concerns for the garrison. Some of our larger commands are sponsoring villages. It's important to remember that residents have many avenues of communication to include the chain of command and the levels of escalation.

Question: What is the max size of group gatherings on base?

COL Michael Greenberg: The maximum size of group gatherings on base right now is 10.

Question: Will the grills and picnic areas located throughout the installations be authorized for use for the Fourth of July weekend?

COL Michael Greenberg: We're still working through the process. For each one of our activities we have a Recovery Review Board process, which includes experts from the hospital, a public health emergency officer, safety officer, emergency managers and others. We will discuss the availability of grills put out more guidance next week at the town hall.

Question: When will we transition to HPCON Bravo?

COL Michael Greenberg: I understand you want a date out there. I will tell you we're very close to a date. We continue to work on our recovery plan and with the Military District of Washington senior commander on our transition to HPCON Bravo.