

How did the HACA/City Safety Plan evolve and what was Trudy's role?

In 2003, members of the Clay Street Public Safety Team took it upon themselves to conduct nightly patrols in rented vehicles due to the continued lack of police presence in the Clay Street area. Later that year, a brick was thrown through the vehicle's back window during one of these patrols. This prompted Dennis Conti and the other co-coordinator of the Team to meet with Ms. McFall and suggest that there be a joint agreement between the City and HACA regarding increased foot patrols and a full-time Director of Safety at HACA. Ms. McFall was fully supported of this idea and asked Mr. Conti to develop such an agreement. Shortly thereafter, the agreement authored by Mr. Conti was agreed to by Mayor Moyer, Chief Joseph Johnson, and HACA. On January 12, 2004 this agreement was announced (*Capital*, "Public housing to see more off-duty police," January 12, 2004). The agreement called for HACA and the City to each budget \$150,000 toward the use of secondary police officers on HACA property. As reported at the time: "The reworked partnership could breathe new life into the authority's off-duty patrols program, which waned with federal aid cuts in recent years."

Upon ratification of this HACA-City agreement, HACA immediately began a search process and hired its first Director of Safety, who is still with the Housing Authority. HACA also began to hire Annapolis police officers to work in a secondary employment capacity on HACA property. However, because use of police officers for secondary duty is voluntary by the officers and there are competing choices for such duty (e.g., the annual boat show), HACA found it difficult to hire its fully budgeted complement of officers. On October 17, 2006, Trudy arranged a meeting with Chief Johnson and Mayor Moyer to describe this challenge and to suggest that there be a separate detachment within the police department dedicated to public housing. Although this was met with mild agreement, HACA ran into logistical obstacles with the police department trying to make this happen.