

Good afternoon, my name is Laurie Weishorn. I have lived in Baltimore City for over 35 years. I own a home in Morrell Park and pay my taxes. I can talk for hours about the decline of a once very nice solid blue class neighborhood. Most of the decline has taken place in the last 10 years to the point where the neighborhood is now just known as a place to get your drugs. The main drug being sold on the Blvd is heroine. When the Methadone clinic was built it put Morrell Park on the map for the drug dealers to set up shop. The influx of prostitution, Johns and drug dealers going unchecked by police over the years has now put the community into a state where honestly, I do not believe it will recover from. The focus from City leadership in this neighborhood has been woefully neglectful. Our community begged from city leadership over the years to arrest prostitution. We asked for the Methadone clinic to be moved out of our neighborhood. It does not belong in a community and sends the wrong message about our neighborhood. We have continually asked for help from the police to have the open drug selling stopped on the Blvd. The 2500 block of Washington Blvd and Harman Ave is an open drug market. The trash and blight from all the homeless activity in the neighborhood has created DPW issues. We continually request trash and garbage clean up on our streets. The bulk of the trash on the main streets is not from the residents but the people coming into our neighborhood for the drugs and prostitution. Our once nice Desoto Road Park is now used for the Johns to get serviced and now the drug dealers are sitting in the parking lot selling and using drugs. Our Morrell Park community park adjacent to the Firehouse had to be torn down because we could not get the police to address the open drug use and selling of drugs.

So, when does this end? I ask myself if this would be allowed in other affluent neighborhoods. When did it become OK not to arrest people for selling drugs and using drugs openly on streets? Will the police ever arrest the prostitution and Johns? When does the residence that is trying to live a decent life become the focus of City in Morrell Park?

Our community is being asked to allow services to those on drugs with addiction problems. The city provides needles and wipes that end up strewn all over the streets and parks. The city provides needle boxes in the community. What is the plan after that? When do the people that do not do drugs, sell drugs, and seek prostitutes become first! Does the Opiod plan include what our neighborhood has been asking for. Stop the open drug markets, stop the open drug use, stop prostitution, move the methadone clinic.