



Wilmington Neighborhood Council

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Gina Martinez, Chair
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Christina Dake, Secretary
Samantha Martinez, Treasurer
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October 27, 2020

Councilmember Joe Buscaino
Recreation and Park Commissioners
Chief Park Ranger Joe Losorelli

Re: East Wilmington Green Belt Park

This past month, 2 cousins were shot at the Green Belt park located in East Wilmington. These two young men are not known to be gang members. They were simply sitting in their car on a hot summer night when someone pulled up and shot them. This incident is just one of the many travesties that have taken place at this park. The park does not have cameras but is equipped with lights that are never used.

Stakeholders who live in this area have asked for some time for these lights to be utilized but have repeatedly been told it is not in the budget.

Crimes do not take place as often in well-lit environments. Our police have previously requested to have lighting in East Wilmington in areas such as Green Belt not just for the safety of our stakeholders but for the safety of our law enforcement. Our Neighborhood Council has asked as part of their requests for the Mayor's Budget to include proper lighting in East Wilmington. These requests have been made several years on end and have never been properly addressed. The Wilmington Neighborhood Council takes issue that although taxes are paid by our stakeholders, although we provide input, our requests have been continually ignored. This last time came at the expense of two young lives.

The lights at Green Belt park are already installed. Many stakeholders have requested that they be utilized. We support our stakeholders request in this endeavor and ask that the lights at Green Belt start to be used from dusk to dawn. We further request that cameras be installed with signage indicating that recording is in progress. It is well established that fewer crimes occur in areas that are well lit and monitored with cameras.

There is something inherently wrong if the cost of turning on lights outweighs the value of human life.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gina Martinez,
Wilmington Neighborhood Council, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council