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09/12/09 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Combined Circulation: 80,000 monthly • Volume II, No. 83

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## Mayor Gray urges metropolitan police force

In addition to the proposals offered by the City to continue police service for Lancaster Township, on Wednesday Mayor Rick Gray strongly recommended that the City and all of its surrounding townships consider forming a unified, “*metropolitan police force.*” Gray contended that such a system, also referred to as a “*regional*” force, was the surest route to coordinating optimal police service within the area:

*“If you took these three municipalities, you’d have over 100,000 people. Tack on a couple of the other ones right around it that expressed interest here, and you could have an incredible police department. And it wouldn’t be the city’s police department. It would be a metropolitan police department run by an authority....It’s the way things are going, and it gets around lines that were drawn in the 1700s as to jurisdiction.”*

Although a regional department will not likely

**NEW ERA:** Its editorial “**City school board overly generous**” objects to the recently announced 2.4 percent increase for administrators and goes on to say “*Last year pay raises for administrators averaged 3.66 percent (base plus merit pay). The year before that, the average hike was 3.11 percent....The school board should roll back the latest pay raises they awarded administrators, and replace them with*

be pursued as an immediate solution to Lancaster Township’s police coverage dilemma, Gray told a *NewsLanc* reporter that the evening’s meeting was an ideal opportunity to promote the concept of larger-scale cooperation.

At one point during the meeting, Lancaster Township Public Safety Committee chair Michael Pickard said that he is not opposed to the idea of a metropolitan police department, but noted that, presently, the proposal is “*not on the table—unfortunately.*”

Gray and City Administrator Patrick Hopkins as well as representatives from the Manheim Township Police Department presented the committee with their respective proposals for service.

At the end of a September 9 evening meeting, the committee recommended that the township accept an offer from Manheim Township to provide police services to this Lancaster City suburb.

*a new figure - zero.”*

**WATCHDOG:** A wag of the tail. Moreover, the *New Era* overlooks what *NewsLanc* has previously pointed out: The Consumer Price Index has dropped by 2.2% over the past twelve months. **So in “real terms” (inflation / deflation corrected), the administrators’ increase is a whopping 4.6% in a year of economic devastation for the country.**

## LETTER: No privacy on city porches

*“Lancaster City’s 165 street cameras installed by the LCSC (plus 16 installed by F&M College) aren’t just video-taping people walking on public sidewalks. These same cameras are video-taping citizens sitting on the front porches of their houses! Lancaster is a city of row homes, most having front porches that are next to the sidewalk and the street...”*

*“For someone to stand and watch for hours someone who is sitting on a porch would be illegal and the homeowner would call the police. These cameras should not be installed on residential streets.”*

## EDITORIAL: Despair

In response to the *NewsLanc* article “**Streetcar plan would have to pass PennDOT**”, comments opposing streetcars and expressing frustration came in rapid succession and stirred us to reflect on the sense of despair that, no matter what the public wills, those few who are the puppet masters in Lancaster will do as they so please.

We too at times lose hope, especially when we struggle to ward off what one long-term observer from out of town refers to as the local establishment’s “*inexperience and self-destructiveness*”.

A poll by a highly reputable national service used by, among many others, the *Fox News Network*, determined that almost four out of five Lancasterians agreed with the then County Commissioners that taxpayers should not guarantee Convention Center debt. **It didn’t matter.**

A grand jury investigation of those commissioners dragged on for almost a year, dismissing allegation after allegation by an increasingly desperate district attorney. **It didn’t matter.**

An entire neighborhood begged that an independent study be commissioned to determine whether there was a viable alternative location for the Norfolk Southern freight yard. **It didn’t matter.**

The proposal to re-establish streetcar lines downtown has evoked reaction in most part ranging from incredulity to anger. **Will it matter?**

We, with others, are currently struggling to prevent another self-inflicted public debacle. We hope we never have to report on the matter. But if it occurs, we too will despair.

## Negative coverage of the Convention Center

### READER’S COMMENT:

*“Please... Please... Stop writing unfavorable articles about the convention center. We find your news reports quite interesting and*

*informative. Yet, optimized negative blogs and random postings serve as an additional hurdle for the convention center to become successful in an unprecedented economy. We need to minimize our risk! Not add to it!”*

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