

Original Highlands

The Original Highlands Neighborhood Association - Since 1975 Newsletter

"By Neighbors For Neighbors"

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**GENERAL OHNA
MEETING MONDAY
AUGUST 16
7:00 PM**

Metropolitan Community
Church (corner of Highland and
Rubel)

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Neighborhood Association expresses concern over newly formed association, confusion among neighbors

As representatives of the Original Highlands Neighborhood Association (OHNA), the one that has been serving the neighborhood since 1975, we feel obliged to comment on some of the recent events in our neighborhood and some of the recent Courier-Journal articles.

The dedicated group of neighbors who have raised their voices in opposition to the misuse of our neighborhood by rowdy bar patrons have done a good job of helping to focus the attention of the city leaders and the media on our plight. Additionally we empathize with their concern and love for our neighborhood. However, this group of neighbors has now formed a "new" neighborhood association also calling themselves the Original Highlands Neighborhood Association. While initial efforts by these neighbors was instrumental in focusing on the bar issue, the creation of another neighborhood association is unneeded and confusing for the neighborhood. It has only divided us and distracted us from the issues facing our neighborhood.

Additionally we feel that the most recent articles published in the Courier Journal do a terrible disservice to those who have worked for

months and years on these issues. These articles also significantly distort our quality of life in the Original Highlands. Every community has problems, but despite our neighborhood's problems, it is still a great neighborhood. It is an insult to those neighbors, city leaders, and business owners to insinuate that the only reason for any of the recent changes is because of a threat of a wet/dry vote. The OHNA since 1975 has served as a voice for the neighborhood. The OHNA has been instrumental in working to improve living conditions in our neighborhood. We have a wonderful community here and our goal is to maintain our quality of life through an open dialogue with ALL our neighbors, including the bars.

The recent actions towards resolution of our problems were built on a foundation laid by dedicated neighbors over the last several years. The OHNA (1975) has worked hard towards addressing issues of parking, litter, noise, and crime by organizing neighborhood clean ups, participating in parking studies, holding informational meetings, attending relevant planning hearings, learning state and local liquor laws. We also initiated the development of a neighborhood

(See neighborhood Association page 2)

Neighborhood Association from page 1

plan, which has finally been funded by the Metro government after years of requests.

The OHNA manages day-to-day issues of the neighborhood, such as up keep of community property and quarterly newsletters to keep neighbors informed. We also are focused on strengthening and building community by organizing social and fund-raising events, such as garden tours, movie nights, and holiday dinners. We work to maintain

a neighborhood we can all be proud of and we certainly have many people to thank for working with us.

Councilman Tom Owen has worked with us in a multitude of ways, including: 1) helping us to understand local and state liquor laws 2) bringing this issue to the attention of the Mayor's office and other community leaders 3) securing funding for the neighborhood to help develop our neighborhood plan 4) helping secure the feasibility study for a potential parking garage on Baxter Ave, and 5) beginning a process for us to install a residential parking permit plan, if we so choose. We must also credit Mayor Jerry Abramson and his office for recognizing these issues. All of these initiatives were well underway before the media attention focused on the bar issue.

We also appreciate the efforts of the business owners who have formed a new business association and have employed new efforts in security and trash cleanup. These owners have been actively involved for the past six months monitoring their initiatives and willingly listening to neighbors needs and trying to adjust as necessary. It has been a rough and slow process to develop a working plan for these issues, but the most recent security and trash

plans have been met with significant amounts of appreciation.

Most importantly, all of the residents who are currently involved and have been involved behind the scenes for the past several years by meeting and discussing the issues with local officials, developing relationships with business owners, learning ABC laws, helping organize the bars into an association, and collecting signatures for petitions.

We have an incredible community, one where people can walk to local businesses and know all of their neighbors. Therefore, our neighborhood association is committed to NOT ONLY homeowners, BUT ALSO renters, property owners, and business owners as well. Undoubtedly, we still have many issues to resolve and will always strive to improve our neighborhood, but we must be committed to resolving issues and achieving improvements through cooperative efforts with neighbors, business owners, and city officials. While this approach may sometimes seem slow and frustrating, it achieves a result that goes much further in building a strong community over the long run.

Thank you, The Original Highlands Neighborhood Association - Since 1975

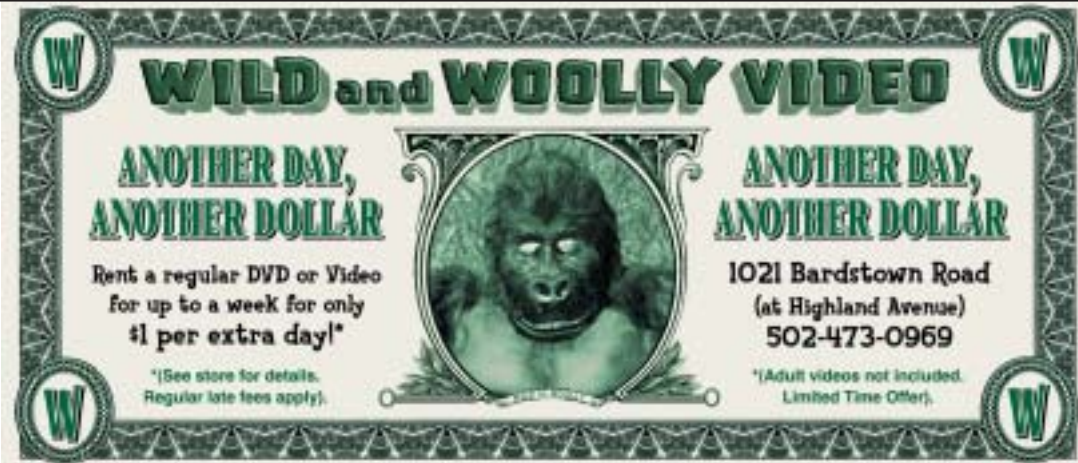


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