

Mayor takes a walk through Lincoln Park

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Chronic Staff Writer

Rockville Mayor Steve Van Grack, accompanied by two police officers, took a walking tour through Lincoln Park on Friday night to speak with residents of the predominantly black community.

"I think I've had a great education today," Van Grack said during the walk. "They have a lot to say. They like their community and they want our

help."

Van Grack received a full range of responses from people in the neighborhood, from residents who asked for more foot patrols, to one youth near the Lincoln Park Community Center who told the mayor to "drop dead and die."

Overall, people were friendly to Van Grack, smiling and nodding "Hello" as they walked by.

Van Grack said the response to adding foot patrolmen to the area has been positive.

"Residents have told me that

many of the problems are created by outsiders," he said. "They told me they want more police protection."

Van Grack said he would support adding more patrols to the area.

Van Grack seemed to have educated some of the residents as well.

"You're the mayor?" asked one of the youths in genuine surprise. "I thought she was a woman."



Mayor Steve Van Grack talks to Cubby Addison in front of the Teen Center on a walk through Lincoln Park.

Staff photo by Annette Linn