



## MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

*Eye on Midtown – 5/11/2008*

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### MAY SAFETY MEETING

The next safety meeting will be on May 12, 2008 (7pm at Mary Mac's as always). Sharon Latners, the Communications Officer for the Atlanta Police, has graciously accepted our invitation to speak to the Midtown community about the 911 system. She has been with the department for 18 years. The discussion will focus on making 911 calls effectively and efficiently.

APD and MPSA Patrol will be on hand with their respective updates.

### BURGLARS BECOMING MORE DARING

In the last month we have had two burglary cases where the suspect climbed up to the second floor window. This is becoming an alarming trend for us

On May 3rd, a suspect pulled off a death-defying act to enter the home by scaling the

wall onto a second floor balcony. First they climbed a window burglar bar directly above a ten foot drop to the basement door, then they reached almost 8 ft to the support arm of a window air conditioning unit to swing up another four feet over a railing. They made way into a sunroom, and then threw a ceramic ball through a French door to gain entry into the house.

Once inside the house, they spent quite some time - enough to drink a whole bottle of wine before making off with their loot. There had to have been two or more culprits because the loot included several cases of wine. It appears that they never went downstairs, as that part of the house is on the security system - they had to have climbed back out the way they came. They had to have lowered the loot from the second floor window - a very time-consuming endeavor.

According to the victims, the burglary was perpetrated in full view of the neighbor's front door and window above, as no foliage blocks that view. Crime scene investigators extracted partial finger prints from the glass shards.

We previously reported a burglary (Eye on Midtown 4/29/2008) where the intruder gained entry via the second floor while the residents were at home sleeping. At a mid-rise condo, burglars climbed to a second floor balcony and made entry.

### PONCE & BOULEVARD ISSUES

**Drug Activity** - Most notably, we are seeing sharply increased drug activity along Ponce near Boulevard. Based on reports from unofficial APD sources and our research of known criminals in the Ponce & Boulevard mess, we believe that heroin is becoming an increasing factor.

Day and night, crackheads and junkies loiter and camp in the three properties at the southwest corner of Ponce and Boulevard. One

vagrant even keeps a lawn chair to sleep on in front of Domino's Pizza. Both check cashing outlets, Domino's Pizza, and Chinese/Mexican take-out place are on the affected properties. We are researching who best to contact for collaboration on this growing scourge. We could also use their membership, since our patrol could sweep these properties on a regular basis.

An MPSA Board member videotaped several people doing drugs in front another building on Ponce. One of the subjects, the noted Candice H. featured in an episode of COPS, was among them. Several subjects from the Crackheads Gone Wild videos are also loitering and camping along Ponce.

Code enforcement recently cited 682 Boulevard for the extreme litter and junk accumulation brought on by these street criminals loitering - the worst of the violations have been cleaned up. Wachovia recently closed their branch at Ponce & Boulevard, and the parking lot is dark now. Because of this, the loitering and nuisance activity is slowly creeping back onto the northeast corner - something that has been fairly-well contained on the south curb on Ponce since we started.

**Jackie Sue H.**, a noted prostitute on Ponce for many years, has appeared in the area very soon after her release from prison. She is the red-headed woman best known by one of her street names "Joyce." She has been a fixture on the Ponce prostitution scene since the mid-1970s, whenever she was not in prison for something. In the last 30+ years, this woman has served several prison sentences and has scores of entries on her criminal record extending well beyond prostitution - things like armed robbery, illegal gun possession, assaults, and drug offenses. We will court-watch this career criminal very proactively any chance we get.

→ Dossier: [www.midtownponce.org/news/profile007.pdf](http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile007.pdf)

**New rent boys** are also becoming more visible near Ponce & Boulevard - something we have

seen little of since the Phoenix closed. In the last week we have catalogued a handful of them. Usually they are more subtle and less obvious to the casual observer than the other variants of street prostitutes, including the "poncetitudes ("real" females strung out on crack found on PDL)," "transvestitudes," or the hustlers over on Cypress Street. Rent boys also engage in other forms of criminal activity, as reflected by their typical criminal history.

They usually hang around closer to Cheshire Bridge Rd and the "Bermuda Triangle" (the confusing network of dead-end streets around the industrial area near I-85 and Monroe Drive, with its budget motels full of convicts and transients). These hustlers do not normally loiter in one place - they walk along Monroe making eye contact with passing cars (rather than wave them down).

***Most notable additions to our surveillance catalog:***

- A 30ish white street-worn male with prison tattoos, obviously strung out on drugs.
- Another white male may be staying in the 700 block of Charles Allen Drive, is regularly seen drugged out near Ponce & Boulevard, and tried to sell some jewelry to a local consignment shop.
- The suspect in the Greenwood Avenue burglary, who is still in the DeKalb County Jail for a burglary over there, was seen by several residents loitering near Ponce and Boulevard in the time leading up to his arrest in the Brookhaven area.
- An overweight white female loitering and trying to make eye contact with passing cars on Ponce. She has been seen camping at 461 Ponce with the drug crowd,, and loiters along all parts of Ponce but especially near Boulevard.

**TRANVESTITE PROSTITUTION**

Our "red list" strategy, court watch, and proactive documentation seem to be keeping these street criminals out of our area except

for a few stragglers. We have not seen any of the red listers in over a week.

The transvestition scene has definitely contracted to the area around Spring and 4th - an area out of reach for the MPSA Patrol and our "intel" files, but still of concern to the greater Midtown community. The prostitutes over there create quite a spectacle - we have not seen that level of blatancy in a very long time. One night during the last week, 28 prostitutes were making a production on that one block alone.

We have identified, catalogued, and researched the remaining few remaining prostitutes regularly appearing in the MPSA service area. In our research we find that many of them have long criminal records unrelated to prostitution - everything from shoplifting to armed robbery. Most of the criminal record entries not related to prostitution occurred in other places, though this fact sheds more light on the criminal character of these undesirables. If you can volunteer for court watch please let us know - we keep a separate list since these cases usually crop up at short notice.

#### **OTHER REPORTS**

*A "street regular" trying to sell two antique end tables as he makes his way across the neighborhood.* - We hope to identify this individual and catalog a photo in the near future. We have no reports of missing furniture at this time.

*Burglary and car theft* - Several weeks ago a burglar broke into a home on Mentelle Circle. Among the loot were the keys to one of their cars. The next day the culprit came back to steal the car.

#### **SGT COOPER'S CORNER**

Please continue to regularly check around your property for signs of vagrant and criminal activity, and deposits of stolen goods. Also check your second floor windows and security system.

Sgt. Cooper is in Washington to attend the 20th Annual Candlelight Vigil for fallen law enforcement officers. 2007 was one of the deadliest years in law enforcement - the 181 law enforcement fatalities last year will be added to the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

**STAY SAFE AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN! Please encourage your fellow Midtowners to join the MPSA!**

*- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance*

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