



MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

Eye on Midtown 11/09/2008

NOVEMBER SAFETY MEETING

The monthly safety meeting will be at 7pm, this coming Monday (11/10), at Mary Mac's. We will have Sgt. Reginal Moorman, who supervises the overnight police coverage in our area. He will talk about his upcoming holiday plans for Midtown. Yes, it is that time of year again, and we need to be more attentive about things left in cars and who is lurking in the neighborhood. The prostitution issue will be held over until December. We encourage you to come early for a great dinner and to meet and socialize with fellow Midtowners.

BOULEVARD ADVISORY

For your personal safety we strongly advise to avoid Boulevard and Parkway Drive. Channel 2 reported a carjacking in the drive-thru at that Wendy's, and the streetside memorials should serve as an additional warning to avoid the areas dominated by the out-of-control Section 8 project south of Ponce. Boulevard and Parkway Drive are home to one of the largest open-air drug markets in the region, and crime is on the rise everywhere. Worldwide economic conditions necessitate heightened vigilance and precautions in our communities.

- News report: <http://www.wsbtv.com/video/17926486/index.html>
- Photo on our profile sheet: <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/3burglars.pdf>

AREA BURGLAR SHOT DEAD

Michael McGuire, one of the "Three Burglars," was recently found shot to death. His body was found dumped in Bartow County. He had given us insights on some street criminals from the Ponce & Boulevard drug scene before being arrested himself for burglary to support his crack habit. It is unknown to what degree the drug scene at Ponce & Boulevard plays a role, as the rule of thumb on the street goes "snitches get stitches." In all likelihood he either followed a criminal element similar to the one revolving around Bedford Pine, or it followed him there. We can only hope that law abiding Midtowners do not get caught in the crossfire of the drug culture – the very thing that drives much of the need for our community patrol.

- News report: <http://news.mywebpal.com/partners/680/public/news932058.html>

AGGRESSIVE SOLICITORS

Area shopping centers have had problems with teenagers aggressively soliciting and accosting patrons for donations. In one recent incident at Trader Joe's, Sgt. Cooper was called to assist with three teenagers causing trouble there. Upon Cooper's arrival, the trio attempted to flee. With the help of Officer McGhaw, two of the three were caught. Since they had been warned before, they were charged with criminal trespassing. One of them was also charged with urinating in public - he was blatantly doing so in full view of patrons in the parking lot. They initially gave false names, but were later identified correctly. They were also found to be 17 years old, and will be charged as adults.

HIGHLY-SOUGHT BURGLAR APPREHENDED

Marquis Ellis, the subject of a high-priority arrest warrant issued by the Atlanta Police Department (and the alert we put out this past Friday), was arrested without incident this weekend at the Peachtree Pine shelter. As of this writing, APD officials were in a de-briefing session with the subject. Sgt. Schierbaum, the burglary investigator for our area, wishes to commend Officers Bowers for diligently searching for and apprehending the subject. Officer Bowers has worked for your MPSA Patrol in the past.

The crook will be charged with a burglary occurring in the 700 block of Myrtle Street. They also suspect him in several other burglary incidents in Midtown and other intown neighborhoods. Sharla Jackson, our community prosecutor, pointed out that Marquis Ellis has been on her list for quite some time, and she will let us know about his upcoming court dates.

We also corrected the dossier we posted earlier. In that dossier, we included a jail entry of an individual with similar name and nearly identical set of charges. There was only one booking at the Fulton County jail in addition to the new booking that will appear as soon as the jail website is working correctly. As of shortly before this blast was sent out, his status was "in jail."

292 9TH STREET

Six months ago, Judge Jackson of the Atlanta Municipal Court gave the owners of the burned-out property languishing at 9th & Argonne six months to bring the building back into compliance. That deadline has come and gone, and the property continues to deteriorate. Several weeks ago, the patrol discovered the front door standing ajar, and an inspection of the interior revealed signs of fresh vagrant activity. Just last week, Sgt. Cooper and MPSA Board member Steve Gower securely boarded up the front door to halt the reviving vagrant activity at this condemned property. We are diligently working with city officials to address this problem property, and we expect a new round of court watch dates for this community nuisance - it is time for the owners to go to jail again...

STAY SAFE! Please encourage your fellow Midtowners to join the MPSA!

- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance

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