



MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

Eye on Midtown 11/15/2008

MUGGING REPORTS - Police need your help!

In recent weeks, we have heard about several muggings mostly in the 10th & Piedmont area. We have heard about incidents in other parts of Midtown too. In one such incident, the assailant approached the victim on Piedmont near 8th Street with a gun. The victim was made to go to the cashpoint at 10th & Piedmont to withdraw money. Another mugging occurred at 7:30pm at or near Outwrite bookstore - as we were told, the victim refused to cooperate with the assailant. Over on Peachtree Street, a victim was told not to call the police, as the assailant had been casing him and knew where he lived.

Channel 2 ran a story about the Midtown mugger. . The assailant was caught on camera - police are asking the community to take note of the subject in the video. Please watch the video at:

- <http://www.wsbtv.com/video/17975266/?taf=atl>

MAJOR BURGLAR APPREHENDED

In recent weeks, we have had a frightening rash of burglaries especially in the Durant Place/7th/Mentelle area. Several of the victims came to the safety meeting this week. Just as we were exploring additional counter-measures, we received great news from Atlanta's Finest.

At approximately 3:30pm on 11/12, Officer S. Bowers was conducting a directed patrol in Midtown in response to area burglaries. At that time, a citizen called 911 to report a male in Piedmont Park wearing a jacket taken from his residence during a recent burglary. Officer Bowers was in plainclothes and was able to quickly locate and keep the subject in sight until a marked unit arrived. The subject was detained and identified as Scott Smith M/B DOB: 10/13/1969.

A routine warrant check revealed that Smith had escaped from a Georgia Department of Corrections facility in Clayton County, where he had been serving the last part of a DeKalb County sentence for burglary. He also had an additional warrant for a burglary in Clayton County. A search of the subject yielded a large screwdriver and a significant amount of jewelry in his immediate possession.

A successful de-brief was conducted at the CNN Center Precinct in which Smith admitted to committing other burglaries. At this time he was placed in a squad car with two officers and driven around the Midtown neighborhood. During that time Smith indicated the following locations as being residences he had burglarized (note that the police have linked each of these locations with an existing police report):

- (Report# 08 293 1609) 800's Myrtle Street
- (Report# 08 294 1970) 200's 9th Street
- (Report# 08 300 1296) 300's 9th Street
- (Report# 08 300 1619) 900's Myrtle Street
- (Report# 08 301 0775) 800's Durant Place
- (Report# 08 305 2156) 800's Durant Place
- (Report# 08 310 2125) 300's 7th Street
- (Report# 08 311 1999) 400's 7th Street

- (Report# 08 316 1617) 200's 10th Street

Smith also directed the chauffeuring officers to two locations in Zone 6 (covers Virginia Highland, Morningside, Inman Park et al.) where he had burglarized homes. He had taken the jewelry from one of those homes. The Zone 6 Burglary Officer responded and assisted in a debriefing for those two locations, one of which was already under active investigation and the other had yet to be discovered as the family was on vacation. The suspect stated that he sold all the stolen property on the street - primarily around the gas stations on Ponce De Leon. With the exception of the jewelry, it does not appear that APD will be successful in recovering any other property. The subject was questioned regarding auto break-ins in the area but admitted to none.

The Atlanta Police and the Fulton County DA's Office have laid charges accordingly. The investigation will continue, and the Atlanta Police will brief the community on the progress of the case. Smith was booked into the Fulton County jail, but quickly turned over to either the Georgia Department of Corrections or Clayton County (each has a hold on him). [NOTE: much of the foregoing is essentially an edited version of the police report on this case].

- *Dossier on this burglar:* <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile161.pdf>

BEDFORD PINE

Last week we advised to avoid Boulevard and Parkway Drive for personal safety reasons. Our advisory generated a number of complaints to City Hall and the Atlanta Police Department. We were pleased to hear that Major Williams has been taking proactive measures since he returned to our precinct this past June.

Major Williams responded to these complaints by outlining a number of measures to significantly improve police coverage in the Bedford Pine area since taking the helm of our precinct in late June:

- They have assigned foot beat officers to the Boulevard and Parkway corridors as a regular, daily assignment, and Major Williams reports that they do a great job here.
- They prepare a monthly report and provide it to the Bedford Pine Apartments' manager in order to assist them in regulating their tenants and residency.
- Bedford Pine responded affirmatively to a request for a criminal trespass letter of agency. Also in response to Major Williams' request, APD also has a letter of agency for the 455 North Avenue (Family Dollar) to address the loitering on that property.
- APD conducts Road blocks every day in that area.
- Major Williams personally rides through the area at least once daily, and often more. He often provides instructions to individuals without a place of destination, during field observations.
- Several officers from all three shifts work Bedford Pine assignments tirelessly and efficiently, despite constant interruptions due to 911 calls for service. Our zone has the highest volume of 911 calls.
- Bedford Pine also has off-duty officers patrolling the apartment complex, who coordinate well with regular police operations, as is the case with Sgt. Cooper for our patrol area.

- Major Williams is getting assistance from the RED DOG unit. The supervisor for the overnight shift takes proactive measures to get loiterers to move on.
- Officers and supervisors have been instructed to provide directed patrols, with blue lights activated, at 605 Boulevard. These directed patrols take place every night. During one of these directed patrols, someone was shot on Parkway Drive last week. Because the officer was there to hear the gunshots, he was able to call the information over police radio immediately which enabled police to respond within seconds. The perpetrator was identified, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.
- The property manager for the Bedford Pine Apartments has made several positive comments, publically, on police initiatives for the area.
- This year alone, the Atlanta Police has arrest 255 individuals on Boulevard, and another 98 on Parkway Drive. These two streets truly keep Atlanta's Finest very busy.

We are extremely pleased to hear that these measures have been in place for the past few months. Major Williams has **always** been responsive to our needs and concerns. Major Williams, along with the supervisors and officers working under him, are also taking proactive measures in our service area too.

But one has to wonder why such intensive policing is necessary. The **ongoing** failure on the part of Wingate Management that owns Bedford Pine to manage their properties – giving rise to an extreme volume of drug activity and other (often violent) crime - is beyond belief. We do not see structural problems arising from other subsidized housing such as the Juniper-10th high-rise or the AHA apartments at Piedmont & Westminster Drive. As Wingate counts its money coming from federal dollars, they should be held accountable for the extreme volume of drug activity, prostitution, and petty crime surrounding Bedford Pine. Yes, we need as much police coverage as possible, but city officials also need to pressure Wingate to greater accountability for the impact their operations have on the community. It is simply not fair to the citizens of this city and especially the law-abiding tenants of Bedford Pine – especially since they are coping with hardships in raising their children – to have to contend with severe levels of crime because of Wingate's failure to manage their properties effectively.

Bedford Pine (federally funded) is one of the two major phenomena driving crime and disorder in our community - the other crime mill, of course, being Peachtree Pine shelter (an entity drawing generous corporate support). Several months ago, we put out a report with background notes on Bedford Pine.

- **Bedford Pine report:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/BedfordPine20080131.pdf>

CHRONIC TRANSVETITE PROSTITUTE BANISHED

While we are surrounded by all kinds of bad news, we are happy to tell you that another street criminal has been banished from Midtown, a violation of which will land him in prison where he belongs.

This past Wednesday, 6 Midtowners attended the hearing for Steven Green, one of our most problematic transvestite prostitutes. He was charged with assaulting an officer and drug offenses. Sharla Jackson, our community prosecutor, asked for 5 years probation

and banishment from Midtown. The defense attorney asked for 1 year probation. An MPSA Board member was given an opportunity to speak on Green's impact to the Midtown community. The judge ruled in favor of our community prosecutor. The judge defined Midtown as the geographic area between North Highland, Baker Street, 75/85, and 17th Street. The banishment takes effect 11/19/08. He will also be subject to intensive drug testing and random home visits.

Please familiarize yourself with our flyer with pictures (link below). Steven Green is very high on our unwanted list, and we want to take immediate measures if we even think he has been in our neighborhood. This community sees red with this street criminal. We want him and his fellow street criminals out of the Midtown experience...

- **Profile sheet:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile008.pdf>

STAY SAFE! Please encourage your fellow Midtowners to join the MPSA!
- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE FOR OUR COMMUNITY PATROL SPONSORS

Midtown Neighbors' Association

The Sembler Company | Post Parkside

Midtown Tire, Inc. | Ackerman & Company

AND OF COURSE THE MANY RESIDENT AND BUSINESS MEMBERS!!!