



## MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE

*Eye on Midtown 11/25/2008*

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#### "MIDTOWN MUGGER"

Southern Voice wrote about him in their latest issue. We have not heard of any more street robberies attributed to this dangerous criminal. He is still out in the community somewhere...

#### NOVEMBER SAFETY MEETING

##### ***Focus topic: Action plan during overnight hours***

Sgt. Moorman, the overnight shift supervisor of the mobile unit patrolling our area, outlined his plan to target street crime and disorder during the overnight hours. Specifically, his plan targets a mix of both violent and nonviolent crimes - car break-ins, street robberies and assaults, drug activity, and nuisance activity in and around Piedmont Park.

Street criminals routinely prowl neighborhoods like ours and shopping areas in search of valuables to steal, usually in support of a profound addiction to street drugs. Hot items right now are laptop computers, flat screen televisions, purses, cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, GPS systems, and purses. These street criminals also scout for easy victims to rob – the "Midtown Mugger" is only the tip of the iceberg.

APD has implemented a special patrol strategy in response to a recent uptick in burglaries, car break-ins, and street robberies in our area. Sgt. Moorman especially wants to target the area

near Piedmont Park, as many of these street criminals disappear into the park after committing these crimes. He specifically listed strategy points along 10<sup>th</sup> Street from Myrtle Street eastward, and the streets around Grady High School.

Policing can only take us so far – Sgt. Moorman also outlined ways we can enhance personal safety as we go about living in Midtown.

- Good security systems
- Flood lights and motion sensors
- Locking doors and windows (check windows regularly – many people forget about an unlocked door or window)
- Closed drapes
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle!
- Park in well-lit areas
- Make yourself a hard target
- Call 911 immediately to report suspicious and criminal activity – note clothing (including shoes) and direction of flight
- Visible house numbers – your house number should be in large numbers on contrasting background easily visible from the street

Sgt. Moorman also stressed that pedestrians should never cut through the park during curfew hours (between 11pm and 6am). Not only do street criminals lurk in the park especially during those hours, but anyone found in the park during curfew hours will be arrested with no questions asked. Sgt. Moorman has also incorporated quality-of-life issues into his plan – such as cruising for sex during the overnight hours. Residents along 10<sup>th</sup> Street regularly observe sex in cars and sporadic drug transactions during the night hours, so this extra attention will come in handy. Typically, a car will appear and park, and then another car will park behind it. One party goes to the other car for a few minutes, and then both cars leave again.

Sgt. Moorman will soon transfer to the Criminal Investigations Division, but another Sergeant will take over the project.

#### **BEING STREET-SMART ABOUT CAR BREAK-INS**

Having said all of the foregoing, we cannot stress enough to refrain from leaving valuables in plain sight when you park your car. Car break-ins are our most chronic public security problem, and also among the most preventable. Leaving valuables in your car – even just for a few minutes – is always asking for trouble. Street criminals often strike within minutes after parking – they know that you will be distracted and not paying attention to outside your home (listening to answering machine messages, feeding the dogs, etc).

We often hear stories where someone swooped in after work to change clothes or grab items for the next activity, only to find the car window smashed and the laptop and purse gone. It is best to place these items in the trunk in case you need to make quick stops along the way. Snatchers love convenience stores and shopping center parking lots.

A most dramatic illustration of this phenomenon: a woman parked on 10<sup>th</sup> Street during the 3pm hour to pick up a child at the Children's School. She drove a high-clearance SUV with tinted windows. It was no more than 5 minutes that she went into the school to pick up the child and return to the car. During that time, a Sheriff's Deputy was directing traffic in front of the school, 50 yards away, and a motorcycle cop was writing a ticket about 50 yards in the other direction. Across the street in the park people were lying in the sun on that spring day, and there were plenty of people walking along the street. She came back to her car to find the passenger side front window broken and her purse snatched from the floorboard. Whoever did that was quick to notice that she left her car without her purse, and instantly knew that there must be a purse in the car.

Crooks breaking into cars tend to be very slick, and can strike quickly without making much noise. They typically use a spark plug inside a stocking which they can quickly draw from their pocket and put back – they do not have to find or conspicuously carry a rock or brick. The physical properties of the porcelain on the spark plug effectively minimize the effort needed to shatter the glass.

#### **OFFICER RECOGNITION: DAVID STERNER**

Sgt. Cooper, the MPSA Patrol Coordinator, likes to have one of our patrol officers attend the safety meeting from time to time. This month he had Officer Sterner come to the safety meeting. Officer Sterner works in APD Zone 5 during the evening watch (3pm to 11pm), and then comes to work for us one or two days a week during the overnight hours. In the last several months, Zone 5 has designated him "officer of the month" three times for his outstanding work in making our community safer.

Over the summer, Park Tavern was having serious problems with car break-ins in their parking lot. Officer Sterner caught perpetrators on two different occasions. He also caught a burglar in the act while working the Midtown beat. Officer Sterner spends a lot of time patrolling the alleys (both when working for us and during his regular APD shift).

### **MPSA PATROL UPDATE**

During the month between the October and November safety meetings, the MPSA Patrol handled 23 calls for service via 911, and fielded an additional 8 calls directly from members to the patrol hotline.

#### **Highlights from the MPSA patrol log**

**10/13** – Walter Reed, a chronic vagrant in the neighborhood, walks into a restaurant and starts eating someone's food. The patrol was able to intercept him and arrest him. This individual has posed a very serious problem for the neighborhood for quite some time. A Midtown resident has been allowing him to use her address as a way to receive social security checks. This bad practice creates a nuisance for the community, and can even endanger you or your neighbors.

**10/24** – a subject arrested under the pedestrian in the roadway ordinance.

**10/26** – officer assisted with a call for service at a neighborhood bar.

**11/07** – patrol arrested a prostitute at 4<sup>th</sup> & Myrtle.

**11/09** – Robbery suspect arrested (see report below)

**11/08** – two 17-year-olds arrested at an area shopping center for criminal trespassing, obstruction, and urinating in public.

Sgt Cooper also reported that Home Depot and Sembler trimmed up the bushes along Lakeview Avenue to eliminate concealment of urban camping and nuisance activity. They also repaired and enhanced the fencing to stop the fence-jumping to and from the residential area.

We previously reported about Bedford Pine tenants throwing garbage onto an adjacent commercial property. For several months, we have been perplexed as to why they would throw garbage over the fence instead of taking it just 20 more feet to their dumpster. Sgt. Cooper undertook the nasty job of looking for a name in the garbage bag, and identified the offender. When the tenant was located and confronted, it turns out that her 11-year-old child was throwing the garbage over the fence. We believe this problem to be solved at long last.

Narcotics and Vice units conducted several details in the area. Several more Poncetown prostitutes appeared on the Vice Arrests page at the APD website. Most of them were already catalogued by the MPSA. Generally, the white street-worn, sickly-looking females classified as "prostitutes" and the black transvestite males listed as "hustlers" (we catalog them as "transvestite prostitutes") are from our area.

### **CLARIFICATION ON RECENT ROBBERY ARREST**

We recently reported that a robbery suspect, Malcolm Johnson, was arrested for an incident near 7<sup>th</sup> & Charles Allen Drive. The incident did not occur at that location – the victims contacted the police from that location and were picked up by the police there to confirm identification of the subject.

In the early morning hours of 11/09, two APD officers responded to a pedestrian robbery call at the Texaco station (689 Boulevard). After the incident, the victims left the location and called the police from a residence near 7th & Charles Allen. Police met them there, and took them back to the Texaco station where the incident happened.

The three victims reported that the suspect approached them in the parking lot of the Texaco station as they were leaving. The suspect mumbled something, pulled up his shirt to show what appeared to be a handgun, and demanded money from the victims. APD then put out a description of the suspect over police radio. At some point, the MPSA Patrol officer noticed someone of matching description loitering at the bus stop at the Wachovia property. The MPSA officer engaged the subject in conversation until help arrived. The subject was taken to the location of robbery, where the victims confirmed that he was the suspect of the robbery.

According to the MPSA Patrol officer, the subject was changing shirts when the officer approached - discarding the shirts matching the lookout description and replacing it with another. This caught the officer's attention immediately. Upon arrest, the subject was found to have a fake pistol and some crack cocaine in his possession. He was charged with armed robbery and possession of cocaine, and remains in the Fulton County jail on these felony charges.

**Two things jump up at us about this case:**

1. He spends a lot of time the area – he gave the Ponce de Leon Hotel as his address, a place noted for where many of the area street criminals stay long-term.
2. He made no attempt to flee the area – he even loitered across the street in front of the Wachovia property shortly after the incident. This shows us that these street criminals are far too comfortable with Ponce & Boulevard. Businesses that permit street people activity – most notably the big check cashing place in the southwest corner of Ponce & Boulevard – pose a very serious problem for the community.

**JAIL AND PRISON WATCH**

**Tywong McCoy** was convicted of Aggravated Stalking and Financial Transaction Card Theft. Judge Arrington sentenced him to ten years in prison. He will serve five years, and the remainder will be probated. Judge Arrington has also banished him from Midtown for the probated portion of his sentence.

The Georgia Department of Corrections has taken custody of Tywong McCoy, and his current status shows him at the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Center in Jackson, GA. Upon conviction, prisoners are taken to the Diagnostic and Classification Center for assessment of appropriate prison security level. From there they are transferred to another correctional facility in the state, based on risk assessments and other factors. The Department of Corrections lists a release date of 12/2012 – he was obviously credited with time already served. The Department of Corrections has him listed under a misspelled first name of Twyong.

McCoy is the individual exposing himself to numerous women in the neighborhood during 2007. We wish to express appreciation for the police officials and prosecutors who worked diligently to get this menace off of the streets of Midtown.

**Malcolm Johnson** (MPSA catalog #162) is still in jail for armed robbery at 689 Boulevard (see above).

- **Profile sheet: Withheld in case photo line-ups are necessary.**

**Scott Smith** (#161) - likely in custody - State Department of Corrections records show him still in the Clayton transitional facility, meaning that he could walk away again (transitional centers, such as the one at Ponce & Durant, are minimum security work-release facilities). We seriously doubt that the Department of Corrections would place him in a facility for low-risk inmates. He was recently arrested when a Midtown resident spotted him wearing a jacket stolen in a recent burglary. Upon arrest the subject boasted of several additional burglaries.

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

**Timothy Kozak** (#163) and **Jonathan Wells** (#164) are still in jail for burglary. Wells is listed at the Fulton jail website under a false name of Jonathan Williams. These are the two surviving burglateers.

- **Profile sheet:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/3burglars.pdf>

**Kenneth Lamb** (#040), the dangerous individual with multiple rape convictions, remains in jail awaiting a probation violation hearing. He was charged with violating legal requirements to register as a sex offender.

- **Profile sheet:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile040.pdf>

**Marquis Ellis** (#159) remains in jail for a burglary on Myrtle Street. He may be charged with additional burglaries.

- **Dossier:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/dossier159.pdf>

**Donald Rayfield** (#096) aka Ray Ray – is in jail for Burglary. We do not yet know where the burglary occurred, but he is a noted drug pusher, street hustler (non-transvestite), and street criminal frequenting the Ponce & Boulevard area. He has numerous entries in the Fulton County jail.

- **Dossier:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/dossier096.pdf>

The third “burglaturee,” **Michael Jason McGuire**, was found shot to death in Bartow County. According to GBI information, McGuire was shot at some unidentified location and then dumped in a rural area near I-75 and Highway 20. This leaves a high probability that he was murdered over something relating to the drug scene around Ponce & Boulevard. This kind of situation highlights how Peachtree Pine, Bedford Pine, and problem-property owners (like the drug houses on Monroe near Greenwood) trigger a chain reaction of drug activity endangering the community.

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

*- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance*

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