

## RICKY LOVE UPDATE

His case was not heard today for unknown reasons. A new court date will be set. Until then, Ricky Love is still out there somewhere...

- **Ricky Love profile sheet:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile006.pdf>

## RECENT MEDIA REPORTS ON PEACHTREE PINE

Creative Loafing ran a detailed story beautifully summing up many long-standing problems at the facility and how it affects the surrounding residential and business community. The reporter exhaustively interviewed numerous people who are knowledgeable about homelessness, public safety and order, the Peachtree Pine problem, and other aspects driving homeless issues in Atlanta. AJC also ran a detailed article focusing on Peachtree Pine's financial situation. We highly recommend reading these articles.

- **Creative Loafing:** *Atlanta's largest homeless shelter could soon be shuttered*  
<http://blogs.creativeloafing.com/freshloaf/2008/12/19/atlanta's-largest-homeless-shelter-could-soon-be-shuttered/>
- **Atlanta Journal-Constitution:** *Millions owed by Atlanta homeless shelter*  
[http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/12/22/shelter\\_owes\\_money.html](http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/12/22/shelter_owes_money.html)

## BURGLARY NEWS

APD caught a burglary crew that hit houses in various neighborhoods surrounding Midtown, but by sheer luck they spared Midtown. The gentleman who wrote the long testimonial was among the victims, and got one of his TV's back (though it was damaged). The ringleader remains at large, and anyone seeing him should report him to 911 immediately. APD warns not to approach him because they consider him to be dangerous.

- **Mugshot of suspect at large:** [http://www.midtownponce.org/bolo\\_adavis.jpg](http://www.midtownponce.org/bolo_adavis.jpg)

Sgt. Schierbaum, the burglary investigator for our area, told us that they matched the fingerprints from a recent Myrtle Street burglary to a known suspect. They immediately issued a warrant for 24 year old Lester Williams, who is currently in the Toombs County jail awaiting transfer to the Department of Corrections for a separate burglary conviction. Authorities will eventually return him to Fulton County to face the Myrtle Street burglary charge.

In our correspondence, Sgt. Schierbaum asked us to emphasize calling 911 to report suspicious people. If something does not look right, it warrants a second look from the police. The police would rather check someone out to dispel any cause for concern than come out later to write a crime report.

## RECIDIVISM

We keep hearing over and over from APD about the outrageous recidivism tendencies among the criminals they deal with. At a safety meeting earlier this year, Lt. McGee pointed out that many subjects have more than two dozen prior convictions. 45 subjects over a recent period had over

## **Eye on Midtown 12/22/2008**

900 previous convictions, according to Major Williams. Sgt. Schierbaum shared with us that one burglar arrested recently had 47 prior convictions.

This long list of recidivists includes the 40 year old Donald Rayfield, a chronic street criminal from the Ponce & Boulevard drug milieu. He was recently convicted for criminal trespassing and sentenced to 12 months incarceration. Police and prosecutors originally charged him with a burglary of a business on Ponce, but reduced the charges in exchange for a plea bargain.

Assistant District Attorney Blair Shores, who handled this case, told us that the State would have preferred a longer sentence considering Rayfield's extensive criminal background. In correspondence, he further wrote "due to the facts in our case especially the video which was not clear, I felt that 12 months was the best sentence we can hope for and he agreed to that sentence at the trial calendar. I wish we could have done better but will be incarcerated for some months."

- **Profile sheet on Rayfield:** [www.midtownponce.org/news/dossier096.pdf](http://www.midtownponce.org/news/dossier096.pdf)

### **WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE TOLD US LATELY**

A resident near Monroe Drive wrote to us in response to our Ricky Love bulletin about a vagrant regularly loitering in that area and foraging through garbage cans. On one occasion, this individual refused to move out of the street to let a car pass. On another occasion this individual made menacing gestures to another resident raking leaves in her front yard. A resident on Penn Avenue called 911 to report a man talking to himself loudly and wielding a large stick or bat as he walked up the street. A resident in the 1200 block of West Peachtree reported someone of similar description to their security desk, and forwarded our Ricky Love profile sheet.

At our [Yahoo Group](#), one Midtowner shared a story about his friend's violent mugging just south of our area. Another resident reported that a car was broken into in the same spot in a two-week period. A 14th Street resident wrote to our Yahoo group about being accosted as he left a 10th & Piedmont establishment at 11pm at night, and the subject followed him for a good distance along Piedmont. All of these and more were posted to our Yahoo Group, where you can share your experiences and observations.

- **MPSA Yahoo Group:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MidtownPonce>

### **MPSA MAILBAG: Call to Action for Atlanta Fire & Rescue**

MPSA Note: We converted the referenced PowerPoint presentation to a PDF document and made it available for your convenience at the link below. We share this to keep the community abreast on major issues affecting public safety.

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*Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Michael Wagoner and I am the newly elected President of the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association in NPU-D. I am writing you to ask for your assistance in our efforts to save the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department. As you have all heard, the latest round of City imposed budget cuts mandates the Blackout of Station 23 and Truck 12, as well as the Brownouts of many Stations throughout the City. Although my initial response was to fight for Station 23, which is within the Berkeley Park Neighborhood, it soon became clear to me that the real issue was bigger than Station 23.*

**THERE IS A MAJOR LACK OF FUNDING FOR THE ATLANTA FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT!**

## Eye on Midtown 12/22/2008

I respectfully request 4 things from each of you:

- Please take a few minutes to review the attached PowerPoint from Fire Chief Cochran. It will explain what cuts the AFRD have implemented with limited effect on Service, as well as how the current mandates of Furloughs will effect ongoing Services. Please realize that we are currently operating below the National Fire Protection Agency's minimum requirements for protection, and the furloughs take even lower. It will take only 2 structure fires and a couple car accidents to cripple Fire Protection Services to the entire City. The Chief said it himself, "We simply don't have enough Firefighters to put on all of our trucks."
- Forward this Presentation to everyone within your NPU to encourage Support.
- Contact me to arrange a personal Presentation by Chief Cochran. (Some of the language is cryptic, and the Chief does a great job explaining it.)
- Indicate to me your Support to save the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department for the citizens of Atlanta, and your willingness to meet with Mayor Franklin to demand the appropriate funding for AFRD.

I realize that times are tight, City revenue is down, and programs must be cut. The big question is should these cuts be at the expense of the Safety of the Taxpaying Citizens of Atlanta? I would say not...

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Michael Wagoner - President, Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association**

- **Furlough Impact presentation:** [http://www.midtownponce.org/news/furlough\\_impact.pdf](http://www.midtownponce.org/news/furlough_impact.pdf)
- **Related online petition:** <http://www.petitiononline.com/FS23/petition.html>
- **Share your perspective on how city budget cuts impact public safety:** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MidtownPonce/>

**BE SAFE, STAY OBSERVANT, AND ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!**

**- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance**

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**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS WHO PROVIDE A MAJOR ENHANCEMENT TO YOUR PATROL'S EFFECTIVENESS:**

**Midtown Neighbors Association**

**The Sembler Company | Post Parkside | Midtown Tire, Inc. | Ackerman & Company**

**AND THE MANY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS MEMBERS OF THE MPSA**

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