

HOMICIDE IN PIEDMONT PARK

Local media have reported a homicide in Piedmont Park during curfew hours, and an apparent street robbery at or near 6th & Juniper. In response to our inquiry on the case, Major Williams responded as follows:

This morning's homicide, at Piedmont Park, is "likely" to be "male-hustling" related. A person found with blood stains and injuries this morning, in Midtown, is being interviewed by our Homicide Unit. This person has claimed to have been inside of the park but has not made any confessions. The investigation continues. Our personnel are tasked with park checks throughout the night, to address "anyone" being inside the park, after dark. We will continue the efforts and initiate arrests when there are violations.

APD ZONE 5's HOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Major Williams recently implemented the Home Assistance Program to enhance the safety of residents in Midtown. The initiative is intended to assist residents arriving home late at night. If you come home late at night, you can call the precinct (number below) to have an officer make sure you get into your home safely. Major Williams wants to closely monitor this pilot program, and if it turns out to be successful he plans to implement this throughout Zone 5, so please let us know if you use this service and how it worked for you.

- **Zone 5 Mobile Precinct phone number: 404-658-7830**

BUST AND GRAB GANG

A resident in Virginia Highland reported that, after multiple smash and grabs over the last month, he has more closely monitored suspicious behavior. This resident went on to describe how two suspicious vehicles have appeared on his street in the last month. He described them as driving together, one in front of the other, and further describes the drivers as being two black males in their late teens. The subjects cruise up and down the street, as if looking for something. They "get out of their cars and walk up and down the street, looking into car windows for items to steal," he wrote, and after one of their recent visits on Sunday 5/3, one of the cars that they had looked into had its back window smashed in."

The resident described the suspicious vehicles as follows:

- Maroon Buick with huge chrome rims, GA license #BVJ 2541
- Beige Lincoln, old and beat up, GA license # BWI 4760

Major E. R. Propes, commander of APD Zone 6, responded to this gentleman's observations as follows (excerpt): *What he has seen is the "BGO" (Bust and Grab Organization) at work. This is the group I spoke about at the NPU meeting. I am hopeful that he got a good enough look at them so he could identify them and help us prosecute. You're right the key to this is **keeping our cars clean of any items** thus reducing the likelihood of being a victim and eliminating the target rich environment that these bad guys keep coming back to. **The other part is encouraging people to alert us to what they have seen then take that next important step and be willing to be a witness.***

That's the really hard part. People really don't want to take their involvement to that next level and come to court.

GEORGIA DOT TRAFFIC SHIFT FOR 14TH STREET

The Georgia Department of Transportation issued the following bulletin (excerpt):

The Georgia Department of Transportation will shift traffic on 14th Street in Midtown Atlanta this weekend. This shift is the next phase in the ongoing work to rebuild 14th Street in preparation for opening the new bridge in December. Fourteenth Street traffic will remain a single westbound lane between Crescent Avenue and Williams Street. Motorists traveling north on Williams or West Peachtree streets will still not be able to turn right onto 14th Street. All traffic control will remain in place until this reconstruction work is completed, most likely by end of summer. The shift is expected to go into effect Saturday morning, but may be delayed until Sunday due to weather.

The 14th Street traffic shift and lane closure is part of an ongoing project to replace the 14th Street Bridge over the Downtown Connector to relieve congestion at the 14th Street interchange. The improved bridge will feature two new exit ramps from the interstate: southbound to 10th Street and northbound to 17th Street. The estimated cost of the project is \$88.5 million. Traffic delays throughout Downtown, especially in Midtown are to be expected. Motorists should allow additional travel time and/or choose alternate routes during this construction projects.

MPSA MAILBAG

Car theft - *My car, a 2001 gold dodge neon, was stolen Friday night (5/8) or early Saturday (5/9) morning. It was parked directly in front of our unit [in the 900 block of Myrtle Street]. There was nothing valuable in the car to tempt any sort of theft of the vehicle and the car itself isn't really worth much. The car was recovered late Sunday (5/10) evening on Windsor St (downtown area). The police discovered the car abandoned in a parking lot without any gas. There was damage to the bumper, side mirror, ignition (steering column), tail light, and lock which cost ~\$2200 to repair. Considering the damage to the lock of the door on the driver's side, it looks like the perpetrator managed to some how jimmy the lock.*

Parcel theft #1 - *Yesterday we had a package taken from our front step in broad daylight. Our nanny saw a black male in blue jeans and burgundy shirt come up to the door and then leave. She thought it was a solicitor placing a menu on the door handle or something, and thought nothing of it because UPS did not ring the doorbell when dropping off our package. One of our neighbors found the opened box in an alley nearby. In any event, thought I would send out the APB so you could warn Midtown. We are now going to have everything delivered to our offices.*

Parcel theft #2 - *I wanted to let you know that we are having a problem here on St. Charles Ave NE with theft from porches. Yesterday, someone(s) followed the UPS truck and grabbed the boxes from porches. I found the empty boxes (1 cell phone, 1 cookbook) from two separate homes on Lakeview Dr. between St. Charles and Lakeview. I contacted the owners of these two homes and called our MPSA (Sgt. Cooper). It seems like this has become a recurring incident. Are there any solutions in the works? The obvious short term solution is to get packages sent to the UPS office, but that adds another trip to pick it up. Has APD thought about trailing the big Brown Truck in order to catch the thieves? I know there are more pressing issues like armed robbery and muggings, but thought I would let you know about our problems too.*

MPSA Response: This problem all around Midtown comes and goes, from street to street. We have had long conversations with UPS, so they are aware. They track all of these losses as it costs them money. From what they tell us, they include the problem in their training, etc. I do not believe the problem is large enough in their world for them to come up with a real solution, *especially ones that work well elsewhere*. That leaves it where it is, on our porches! We recommend that people use alternative drop off sites, such as offices or renting mailboxes at a UPS Store. We can't set up a third party drop off location due to the liability involved. Unfortunately, neither MPSA nor APD has the personnel to devote to the issue. And, if we happened to catch one of them, there would be many others to take their place. If enough people divert their deliveries, then there won't be as much to offer the criminals, and they will move to more lucrative locations.

BE SAFE AND STAY VIGILANT! And remember, your car + your valuables = loot for a thief! If you don't get those things out of your car, a thief will do it for you...

- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance

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