
JUNE SAFETY MEETING

Many of you have expressed concerns about your personal safety in light of the uptick in street crime in our neighborhoods. Some of you have mentioned the possibility of purchasing your first firearm. Vanessa McLemore, retired with 25 years of service from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), will be our featured speaker this month and will talk to us about personal safety and will give us some pointers for consideration when we make the trip to the firearms dealer.

Vanessa, once the highest ranking African-American female in all of ATF, now lives in Midtown and is CEO of The McLemore Group, LLC, a public safety based consulting company with a focus on crime prevention and safety awareness. ***You don't want to miss her presentation!*** Other public officials, along with Sgt. Cooper, will give brief updates.

- ***Monday June 11th, 7pm, Mary Mac's (Ponce & Myrtle).***

UPDATE ON HOMICIDE IN THE PARK

Since last week's murder in Piedmont Park, APD has stepped up curfew enforcement, and will continue to monitor the park for those kinds of violations. On Tuesday night into Wednesday, they locked up 12 individuals, and found another 4 in the park the following night. As a matter of routine, these subjects are thoroughly interrogated for information on who might have committed last week's murder, but so far they have obtained no useful information. As Major Williams told us by e-mail, it is their "intent, via enforcements efforts, that all will govern themselves appropriately and not visit the park after hours, which then allows our personnel to proactively patrol throughout the remaining areas of Zone 5."

Major Williams wishes to stress that those found in the park during curfew hours (11pm to 6am) are liable to arrest, and city ordinance provides for 6 months jail time, fines, and community service upon conviction in Municipal Court. Piedmont Park is open from 6am until 11pm - for everybody's enjoyment - so please report criminal and nuisance activity to 911 or park security personnel immediately.

While overnight cruising in the park may seem minor, this kind of activity draws a host of other illegal activity including drug sales and muggings in the surrounding area. Street criminals case pedestrians along the sidewalks, and make their move on those most vulnerable. Proactive enforcement of the park curfew cuts down on street crime in the area.

Media reported that the victim lived in Old Fourth Ward, and was seen as a respectable upstanding neighbor. His vehicle was found parked at an undisclosed location, and taken in for forensic processing. In the meantime, whoever perpetrated this murder remains at large in the community...

SOLUTION TO THE PACKAGE THEFT PROBLEM

We borrowed an idea from our friends in Virginia Highland to solve our package theft issue. Richard Knowles, owner of the L and M Service Market, 785 Argonne Avenue, has graciously agreed to receive packages at the store for any Midtown resident who comes into the store and completes a "Package Pick Up Agreement". Having your packages delivered to the store will get them off the porches where the criminal element is trained to look for them. Finally, when the criminals realize there are no packages to steal, they will go elsewhere! This same theory applies

to keeping your car clean to prevent break-ins.

When you go to L and M Service Market to sign the agreement or to pick up your packages, be sure to buy items from the store. Purchasing from the store is your way of thanking Richard for his generosity to the neighborhood.

STREET PEOPLE TO WATCH FOR

An individual with previous convictions for burglary has been seen hanging around the neighborhood. Twenty three year-old Marquis Ellis was arrested in June 2008 for entering auto and felony obstruction of a law enforcement officer arising out of an incident on 11th Street. Ellis served a light 90 days in the Department of Corrections and was released in September. According to his probation officer, he is living in Union City with his mother. He is known to camp in abandoned houses, including one on Juniper Street immediately north of Joe's on Juniper.

While he is not currently wanted on charges, police consider him to be dangerous. He should be observed closely when present, and any suspicious activity should be reported to 911 immediately. Keep well clear of this individual.

- **Profile sheet with photos:** <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile159ellis.pdf>

THEFT OF AIR CONDITION UNITS

Several businesses in the area have reported air conditioning units stolen from the top of the buildings. Major Williams told us that this has become a rampant problem. They are stolen primarily for the copper parts that can be sold to scrap yards for drug money. Thieves sometimes sell entire units on E-bay. In many high-crime areas, people often install a metal cage around the AC unit.

MPSA NEWSWIRE

SUNDAY PAPER - *Disabled officer Ryan Phinney: "If I don't fight this, I will die"*

AJC: *18-year-old shot, killed near downtown shelter*

MPSA MAILBAG

Parcel theft story - *one afternoon a year or so ago I just happened to notice a young man on my front porch and initially thought he was with UPS. I went to the front porch to get whatever he was leaving and instead found him rifling through my mail and holding a stack of "menus" in the other hand (the type local restaurants leave on doors around here). When he saw me, he threw down my mail and several of the menus and ran. After calling APD with a full, detailed description of the guy, I then called the restaurant listed on the menu and of course they had no people giving out menus but were very interested in how this young man got a handful of their menus to use as his cover...MPSA Note holding a hand full of menus is a good ploy for getting onto your porch and into your mailbox without suspicion!*

Purse snatching - *At 6:45 [Sunday] morning, a women that lives across 6th street from our back porch [6th & Piedmont] was walking to her building from Juniper street. She was grabbed by a tall, older, black man who looked like a vagrant. He drug her down the street while wrestling her purse away and then ran off in the direction of Piedmont. [We] heard her scream, banged on our back door to scare him off, and called 911. It is entirely possible that he followed her all the way down the block from where Loco Luna used to be. She seemed to be unharmed but he did get away with her purse. MPSA NOTE: We relayed this, along with a detailed report on the criminogenic conditions on that block to Major Williams. He directed his lieutenants to visit and assess that location. They will research police reports, and Major Williams will*

seek a major property owner for a meeting. Always report suspicious and criminal activity to 911.

***And, another burglary** - Our garage [in the upper half of] Penn Ave was broken into sometime last week to have our lawnmower stolen as well as wine/alcoholic beverages from the refrigerator...unsure as to what else may have been taken at this time, but wanted to pass the info along – the garage now has a padlock.*

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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