

MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE
EYE ON MIDTOWN - Week 01 / 2009

Midtown, 12/30/2008

PAY CUTS FOR POLICE PUT PRESSURE ON NEIGHBORHOODS AND COULD ENDANGER CITIZENS

Because of the City's continuing financial woes, Atlanta's Finest have to make do with 10% less pay. According to the AJC article linked below, officers will take an extra day off every two weeks, leaving citizens of Atlanta even more vulnerable to crime. The city's budget cuts for police services could send the wrong message to street criminals...

It has become even more critical for us to maintain a high membership level so that we can cover at least some of the loss of already inadequate police coverage, however, our funds typically run low at this time of year because the bulk of our membership renewals do not start coming in until April. Until then, we have to reduce our patrol hours when we should be increasing them to cover the APD deficit. Please encourage your neighbors to join or donate money to help us increase the number of patrol hours during these challenging times.

- **AJC:** *Atlanta police deal with 10 percent pay cut*
http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/12/29/atlanta_police_pay_cut.html

RICKY LOVE UPDATE

SGt. Norman of the Zone 5 HOPE Team (Homeless Outreach and Panhandling Enforcement) alerted us on 12/23 that they arrested Ricky Love for disorderly conduct. According to Sgt. Norman, the arrest came after an officer observed him approaching vehicles at a red light aggressively begging and beating on car windows. The officer, who was familiar with Ricky Love's background, arrested him promptly for a city ordinance violation.

Two MPSA board members along with Sgt Cooper attended the hearing on Christmas Eve and reported that the court date for the city charge had to be postponed because the defendant behaved combatively and irrationally in the holding area. His emotional state precluded bringing him into the court room at that time. As a result of the disruption, jail authorities transferred Ricky Love to Grady Hospital for psychiatric medication, and the Municipal Court will reschedule the hearing once his mental condition permits.

The HOPE Team immediately contacted Sharla Jackson, our community prosecutor, who then began preparing for a revocation hearing tentatively scheduled for January 9th in the Fulton County Superior Court. We anticipate that Superior Court Judge Craig Schwall will revoke his suspended sentence for the 2006 brutal assault, and remand him to the Department of Corrections for the remaining eight years of his sentence.

SUSPECTED BURGLAR RELEASED FROM JAIL

Marquis Ellis, who was charged with a burglary on Myrtle Street, was released from jail. His case "dead-docketed," meaning that his case was suspended. Sgt. Schierbaum, our burglary investigator, told us that he remains a suspect in the Myrtle St burglary, but was released at this time due to concerns over how a certain piece of evidence was processed. According to Schierbaum, Ellis' release was necessary as his trial was imminent. Had Ellis gone to trial and found non-guilty they could never have re-charged him. At this time APD is pursuing a different route in an attempt to link him to the burglary

PATROL COVERAGE / VACATION NOTICES

We sent members a new patrol schedule effective 1/01/2009. We also have a new procedure for vacation requests – members can now simply send us an e-mail to info@midtownponce.org. Please include address, date range of absence, if anyone should be on your property (petsitters, yardmen, etc), if anyone locally has a key to your home, and an emergency contact number. In the age of iPhones and Blackberries, we find it more efficient to handle these requests by e-mail. These should be sent about two days before leaving home in case our patrol coordinator has additional questions. When leaving home please check all doors and windows, suspend mail & newspaper delivery, and leave a front porch light on.

BE SAFE AND STAY VIGILANT! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance

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