

MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE - *Eye on Midtown 5/13/2007*

CHANGES AT MPSA

Sgt. Cooper, our Patrol Coordinator, has retired from the Atlanta Police Department after many years of service. Effective June 1st he will spend most of his working time with MPSA. This will put him in a position to better assist us in dealing with long-term issues. This development is a major shot in the arm for us.

We brought Sgt. Cooper on board in 2005 to assist Sgt. Miller. Now Sgt Miller will step down as Co-Coordinator, but will still work for us one or two shifts per week. We wish to thank Sgt. Miller, who was instrumental in getting the MPSA Patrol off to a good start four years ago.

For now the patrol schedule will change little, other than Sgt. Cooper being around on most weekdays. We will continue to put emphasis on daytime hours, when burglaries occur, and night time when other problems such as car break-ins and prostitution mostly occur.

At our Public Safety Meeting on June 11th, we invite you to come talk with Sgt Cooper about problems on your street, and give input to his priorities as he takes the lead and begins spending time each weekday in the neighborhood. Also, we will implement a new telephone call-in plan so that nearly all daytime calls will be answered, even when the patrol is not on duty. We will go over this at the Safety Meeting as well.

As we launch our fifth year of patrol operations on June 1st we look forward to making greater strides toward a crime-free Midtown. We have had many major accomplishments and have always wanted to have "our own neighborhood cop". This arrangement is going to be very close to that concept and we are really excited to announce it. This will take MPSA to a new level.

CAR THEFTS EXTREMELY HIGH!

The crime mapping feature at the Atlanta Police shows severe numbers for car thefts in April. Last month's car thefts were more than twice the usual number. Old Midtown and the interior part of the neighborhood are most affected, probably because of all the dark areas. We are working to find out more from the Atlanta Police. At this point we only know that 17 car thefts (or attempts) were reported.

Also, car break-ins have been extremely high. We are hearing much about this problem, and are seeing lots of glass on the streets and taped-up windows around the neighborhood. Much of the problem is that people leave things like laptops and purses in their cars overnight – it is best to either remove things from your car or simply leave the car unlocked to spare yourself the expense of a broken window.

ACERT TRAINING RESCHEDULED

We are happy to announce that we have rescheduled our ACERT training with the Atlanta Fire Department. The new dates for the training are June 23, June 30, and July 7. The location remains to be announced.

Please be advised that this is a commitment of three Saturdays from 8:30 am thru 3:30 pm each of those days. If you have previously sent us your application and waiver forms you will need to re-submit them – the applications from the last attempt have been destroyed.

Thank you all for your continued interest in this program. We have worked hard to bring this to you, and are looking forward to finally realizing this project. Those interested should write to ACERT@midtownponce.org – we will reply with both the application form waiver forms, and put you on the ACERT update list.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

We need information for planning for Pride weekend. To aid us in revising our traffic plan for Pride Weekend, Peachtree Road Race, and other upcoming events, we need your input from Jazz Fest over Memorial Day weekend. We have heard numerous complaints even though the police were out in full force. To better understand how extensive the problems were during the Jazz Festival please email your input to info@midtownponce.org. Below is some of the specific information we need. However, please email anything else which may not fit under one of these specific questions:

1. Did you experience any traffic problems resulting from the Jazz Festival?
2. If so, which streets experience problems?
3. Briefly describe the problems.
4. Would the city's blue trash barrels be helpful on your street?
5. If yes, name the street.
6. If anyone took pictures of litter, illegal parking problems, etc please send those to us too.

UPDATE ON STABBING VICTIM

Recently we reported the story of a Midtownner who was viciously stabbed on Monroe Drive as he walked to the Exxon at Monroe and Ponce (Full story at <http://www.atlantaprogressivenews.com/news/0160.html>). Because of the way he claimed to have been treated at the Exxon, he organized a protest outside the Exxon. When he was stabbed several weeks ago he went first to the Exxon, where they allegedly refused to call 911 for him. He had to go further to the Shell station, where they did call 911 and tended to him until help arrived. Channel 11 News covered the story - you can read the article at http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=97826.

We have been in contact with the victim and are hoping to meet him in the near future. One of Sgt. Cooper's first assignments will be to work with businesses at Ponce and Boulevard about addressing remaining problems in that area.

The two assailants in this case were caught by Atlanta Police and will be high-priority on our court watch list. We are very interested in this case. MPSA President Peggy Denby was quoted in the linked article.

PAROLE WATCH: Mark Husbands

We have received notice that the State Parole Board is now considering recommending Mark Husbands for the prison system's work release program. This nine (9) month program provides a transitional environment prior to the inmate's release from prison. Should the inmate not complete the program, then he will return to prison. When he is released from prison he will likely live on Monroe Circle.

For background information Mark Husbands was arrested in 2003 and sentenced in 2004 for 21 counts of auto theft. Most of the cars were stolen in the neighborhood - he captured the VIN number, ordered keys, and sold his neighbors' cars via newspaper ads. He was sentenced to 10

years, was turned down for parole in 2005, and is now at the Atlanta Transitional Center on Ponce de Leon Avenue.

Concerns about his possible early release should be sent directly to Parole Board (address below) by June 18, 2007. To ensure that your comments receive priority and are processed immediately, please make sure you address any correspondence to the Office of Victim Services.

On or shortly after June 18th the Parole Board will decide whether to move forward with or reject his release in nine months, or set conditions to his parole (such as banishment from our area).

Also, please CC the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance.

GEORGIA CORRECTIONS AND PAROLE BOARD
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES
2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, S.E.
Balcony Level, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4909
(404) 651-6668 or 1(800)593-9474
fax (404) 654-6377
www.dcor.state.ga.us
www.pap.state.ga.us

Our contact with the Parole Board: Yolanda Harrison Yolanda_Harrison@pap.state.ga.us

SIDEWALK ON TENTH STREET

We were informed that the Onyx building site on Tenth Street, near the Fire Station, is under a "Stop Work Order". We went right to work with the city's Public Works, Planning, Traffic, our City Council Representatives, and finally the mayor, to get the chain link fence moved back off the sidewalk so it could be put back into use for pedestrians. We were particularly anxious to get it open before the Jazz Festival this past week end and for Pride at the end of June. We were successful in getting the sidewalk back into use; however, we have been told it may have to be closed from time to time until the construction is completed. We will continue to monitor this situation.

ATLANTA POLICE ISSUES

There is a very informative video out about how vulnerable the citizens of Atlanta are because of inadequate police coverage. Police funding needs significantly more priority than it is currently receiving. Please check out the video entitled Atlanta Unprotected at: http://www.policeflix.com/view_video.php?viewkey=b633e50cdf1b20de6f46

PROSTITUTION UPDATE

We are now documenting prostitutes in our area with a numbering system. As we acquire photos of these prostitutes, we assign them a number. Over time this will help us target them individually for court watch and other purposes. We will have a label associated with the face. If anyone on Piedmont or Myrtle is in a position to take pictures of prostitutes we would love to have those. Also, if you drive through the prostitution area in the mornings and can take pictures we would appreciate them – we need them at the highest resolution possible. So far we have 13 numbered prostitutes, and expect to number another 20 or so in the next month.

There seem to be fewer prostitutes in the MPSA Patrol area this year but the remaining prostitutes out there are very aggressive. Most problematic time period right now is around sunrise – from about 5am to 7am. Three particular prostitutes persist on the Myrtle and Piedmont area. One is Jermaine Jordan, the other two are known to us as prostitutes #3 and #8. Overall the situation is much better this year than last.

The transvestite gang is still active in the Peachtree corridor, which is Midtown Blue's area. But they are getting better about not working our service area. They still come through our area to the Chevron station since they live primarily on things like Cheez Doodles and Twinkies. We would like to see them push far enough away where the most practical convenience store is not in our service area. Their johns still drop them off at Ponce and Parkway after their transactions, where they immediately get their next hit of crack.

Along the Ponce de Leon area two particular prostitutes persist most all around the clock, though there are still others coming and going. One is a transvestite whom we know as Prostitute #1: Bryan Kitts. (S)he was arrested last week for throwing a rock at a car, and is now our newest court watch case. The other is a "real" female known to us as prostitute #2. She is 40 years old and appears to be 80.

A transgender activist in Atlanta, in collaboration with the Atlanta Police Department, is now starting a program to steer these prostitutes into legitimate jobs. More details in the Southern Voice article at <http://www.sovo.com/2007/5-25/news/localnews/6970.cfm>.

While we applaud anything that will get these girls off the street, the article fails to acknowledge that drugs like crack and possibly crystal meth lie at the core of street prostitution. Any social service approach to street prostitution must have a strategy for drug addiction at its core. For this reason most street walkers are a very long way from becoming employable, simply because of the extensive history of drug use. The use of street drugs typically brings these girls into street prostitution to begin with. These street walkers are also associated with a hard core criminal element in Bedford Pine and the Peachtree Pine shelter.

We will certainly maintain our zero-tolerance approach to prostitution in our service area.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Though we have certain challenges that must be dealt with, this is still a wonderful neighborhood to call home. The one thing that makes a neighborhood is not the elimination of negative factors but the pursuit of the many wonderful things about living in Midtown – its people, places to shop and play, its trees and historic homes, and the exciting events. A great neighborhood is made by getting out and enjoying it.

CRIME INCIDENT ITEMIZATIONS FOR SELECTED CRIMES – APRIL 2007

ROBBERIES (2006 monthly average: 4.42).

- 4/04 | PONCE DE LEON AVE (near Kennesaw Ave) | ROB-STREET-STRONGARM
- 4/24 | 10TH ST. (near 10th) | ROB-STREET-GUN

BURGLARIES (2006 monthly average: 3.92)

- 04/10 | LAKEVIEW AVE (near St Chas) | BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC
- 04/17 | 9TH ST (300 block)| BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC
- 4/23 | SEAL PL | BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC
- 4/23 | SEAL PL | BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC | 04/23
- 4/24 | 4TH ST near Argonne| BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC
- 4/26 | ST CHARLES AVE | BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC

AUTO THEFT (2006 Average: 8.08) - these do not include car break-ins!

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4/10 Chas Allen near Greenwood• 4/14 Vedado Way near GW (attempted)• 4/14 Chas Allen near GW• 4/14 Greenwood near Vedado (attempted)• 4/14 Myrtle St near 8th(attempted)• 4/14 8th St near Argonne(attempted)• 4/14 Penn Avenue near 4th(attempted)• 4/15 Durant Pl near 5th (attempted)• 4/16 Charles Allen near 8th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4/16 Monroe Drive near Greenwood• 4/23 Myrtle St near 4th• 4/24 5th St near Argonne• 4/25 8th St near Argonne• 4/26 6th St near Glendale• 4/26 6th St near Chas A• 4/27 Myrtle St near 8th• 4/28 5th St near Argonne |
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A Safer Midtown... You are truly a part of it! www.midtownponce.org

The Midtown Public Safety Meeting is held at 7pm on the second Monday of the month, at Mary Mac's Tearoom.

A very special thanks to our Corporate and Community Sponsors who provide a major enhancement to your patrol's effectiveness:

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