

MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE - *Eye on Midtown 12/05/2008*

DECEMBER SAFETY MEETING

At this month's public safety meeting we will have Lt. Rasmussen of the APD Vice Unit to discuss the latest trends in Midtown street prostitution. We are always reviewing strategies to more effectively move the prostitutes from our neighborhood. With time we are becoming more effective with identifying and reporting problematic individuals (including prostitutes) to police and prosecutors, but street prostitution remains an issue for Midtown. We will discuss all three strains of street prostitution - transvestite prostitutes, male hustlers on Cypress Street, and the "others" near Ponce & Boulevard (among the latter group, serious drug use stands out more than prostitution).

Sgt. Cooper of MPSA Patrol, an officer from Midtown Blue, and representatives from APD will give their respective updates. We still have whistles, and will hand them out at the next safety meeting. Thanks to a whistle, a resident thwarted a mugger. You should have one too.

- **Monday December 8th, 7pm, at Mary Mac's**

Last year we released a special report on street prostitution in Midtown

- <http://midtownponce.org/news/info/MidtownStreetProstitution.pdf>

MIDTOWN MUGGER

- He's still out there somewhere...

PEACHTREE PINE UPDATE

Creative Loafing ran a very good article on the situation at Peachtree Pine. In response to some inquiries we have received, we certainly do not object to Midtowners writing a fresh perspective on any issue affecting Midtown safety and security. We encourage you to copy us at info@midtownponce.org.

- **Creative Loafing article:** <http://blogs.creativeloafing.com/freshloaf/2008/12/03/could-shelter-showdown-spell-end-for-peachtree-pine/>
- **AJC article:**
http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/12/02/water_homeless_shelter.html?cxntlid=homepage_tab_newstab
- **11Alive Report (includes video)**
: http://www.11alive.com/rss/rss_story.aspx?storyid=124268

RECENT DRUG CONVICTION

The Fulton County Superior Court recently convicted a major drug dealer and sentenced him to 15 years in prison. He was one of the main dealers in Midtown area, and he lived just south of Old Fourth Ward. Undercover APD officers made a controlled purchase with \$8000 in cash. The subject was found to have over 1000 MDMA pills (ecstasy). GBI assisted in the operation. On behalf of the Midtown community, we appreciate the diligent work of both the Atlanta Police Department and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

PROBLEMATIC VAGRANT: WALTER REID

In our last Eye on Midtown, we noted that a regular vagrant in the area noted for frequent trespassing warnings, arrests, and urban camping was arrested again by the patrol when he walked into a restaurant, snatched a plate of food from a patron while dining, and ate it. We found out that he is even more problematic than we imagined.

His incarceration history in Georgia consists of five prison sentences ranging from 1 to 5 years each, for offenses including aggravated assault, burglary, and criminal damage. Now we are hearing reports of him exposing himself – the information below would have taken place not too long after his latest release from prison in 2004.

Several years ago we had a problem with him trying to come into my store and talk to me. We checked on him with [an APD officer] who gave him a criminal trespass warning and us a picture of him to put in the window of my store. We had several customers tell us that he had exposed himself to them. One couple who lived near Monroe told us that while they were unloading groceries and he stood across the street and exposed himself to them. We had other people tell us of similar acts. We do not have their names or anyway of contacting them. Perhaps [same APD officer] can give you more information. He was staying at the Pine Street Shelter. We have not witnessed of these acts. He seems to be drunk most of the time. We have witnessed him attempt to engage in conversation (unwanted) with women who are walking on Ponce and follow them. It seems to relate to his alcohol consumption. Sometimes he wears a security company cap. This is all I can think of at the moment. Mostly we just see him walking up and down Ponce.

We have posted a profile sheet with pictures:

- <http://www.midtownponce.org/news/profile133.pdf>

MPSA MAILBAG - These do not necessarily represent the MPSA viewpoint

Burglary - Yesterday (Oct. 6th) between the hours of 4-8pm the house across the street was broken into. The perpetrator cut the exterior phones lines thinking that he had turned off the alarm (the alarm still went off). The man in question entered through the back kitchen window using a crowbar that broke a small latch. He stole a laptop and some jewelry. The safe in the house was left open and an undetermined amount of cash was taken. The police responded immediately but not in time to catch the thief. The neighbor next door saw the man climb over the fence and run away. He was I.D. by the neighbor, fingerprints were taken, and the officers have a good idea of who it was.

It is very important to pass this message along to your neighbors and alert them that all precautions must be taken. Have your home inspected for additional security if needed, break glass & motion sensors, wireless outdoor sensors, motion lights, etc. As always never leave anything in your vehicle and most importantly when leaving your home vacant always set the alarm even if your just going around the corner. Always be cognizant of anyone who looks suspicious and never leave your house without first checking the perimeter of your property for persons watching you leave, if you see anyone or anything like this dial 911. It's only going to get worse before it gets better, so please be safe.

Car break-in - I woke up last night to discover a man breaking into a car in front of my bedroom window at about 3am this morning. Unfortunately, he had already gotten my neighbor's car, so he managed to hit two cars on the block in a matter of minutes. I called 911, gave them a description of the man, and they came relatively quickly, but I also wanted to pass along a description to you.

The thief was a young, black man, maybe a little under 6 feet tall, wearing khaki pants and a dark top (sweatshirt, sweater, or jacket). The two real identifying features were that he was wearing a baseball cap that was dark (navy, I think) all over, but had a white front panel, and that he was carrying a package of huggies! When he finished with the second car and emerged from the passenger side window he had broken (his top half was leaning inside the car), he had a package of huggies in his arms and walked up 3rd Street towards Piedmont. I can only imagine he had this package with him from the beginning and did not steal this from the car. I am guessing this is his m.o.-- both a reason for being on the street (near the gas station to pick up diapers for a baby at home) at 3am and also a way to transport anything he steals out of cars. Very odd, but I can't think of anything else. Anyway, if you'd pass this along to the patrol, that'd be great-- look out for guys carrying packages of diapers in the middle of the night.

BE SAFE AND BE OBSERVANT!

- Your Neighbors at the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance

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