

**MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE**  
*Midtown Public Safety Report – 3 /2007*

---

**CONTENTS**

- ACERT (Atlanta Citizens Emergency Response Team) p.1
- MNA Spaghetti Supper (1)
- Public Security Cameras (2)
- Magazine Guy Update (2)
- Dogwood Festival Traffic Plan (2)
- Atlanta Police Update (2-3)
- Mugging Victim (3)
- Security Tips (3)
- Court Watch - Status Report (3-4)
- MPSA Patrol Report (4)
- MARTA Police (4)
- MPSA Mailbag (4-5)
- February Crime Incidents (6)

**PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING ON March 2007**

- 22 were in attendance on March 12th, including:
- Peggy Denby – Moderator
- Elston Collins – President, MNA
- Sgt. Cooper – MPSA Patrol
- Officers S. Hale – APD Zone 5 & MPSA Patrol
- Sgt. Felder – MARTA Police
- Sharla Jackson – Community prosecutor for the DA's Office

**ACERT (Atlanta Citizens Emergency Response Team)**

The Atlanta Fire Department, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Georgia Emergency Management Agency want to teach us how to do all these things and more. The MPSA is coordinating a series for Midtown to be conducted by The Atlanta Fire Department

The program will run over several weeks with 20+ hours to teach:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Terrorism survival
- CERT Organization
- Fire Safety
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Medical (Part 1 and 2)
- Disaster Psychology
- CPR

This course is designed to train everyday citizens how to take care of themselves for up to 72 hours following a natural disaster or catastrophic event. If you are interested in taking part in this training please contact Michael Floyd at [ACERT@midtownponce.org](mailto:ACERT@midtownponce.org)

Training will begin in May, with a group of 15 to 25 people. We still need about 5 more people to make the first group! We will add more groups if demand permits.

For more information check out - <http://www.acertga.org>

**MNA SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

The MNA Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Supper will be held Tuesday, April 10, 2007 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. This will be held at Park Tavern (10th and Monroe).

They will feature information tables from various MNA committees where you can get an update on the many projects currently being sponsored by the MNA. You may renew your MNA membership at the annual meeting if you have not renewed online to become eligible to vote in the board elections.

There will be entertainment for the children.

Dinner prices for MNA members are: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 10.

Discounted tickets for the MNA 2007 Tour of Homes will be on sale and tour representatives will be available to sign you up if you wish to volunteer!

Detailed information is available at their website: [www.midtownatlanta.org](http://www.midtownatlanta.org)

### **PUBLIC SECURITY CAMERAS**

Piedmont Park is working on a plan to install public surveillance cameras in Piedmont Park, to be monitored by Midtown Blue. The first camera will be installed at the 12th Street entrance to the Park.

### **MAGAZINE GUY UPDATE**

We hear from only one resident who actually bought from this guy – he reports that he has actually received his subscription! Specifically this neighbor told us: Unfortunately, I did fall for this individual's story and did purchase a magazine subscription. I was told it was a tax-deductible donation and that the magazine would be sent to a youth center. I have been receiving the magazine at my home, and am hoping to cancel the subscription directly with the magazine.

As this report was being prepared MPSA Patrol locked up yet another individual with a Florida ID for selling without a permit. It has not yet been determined if this is the same magazine guy regularly reported to the MPSA.

### **DOGWOOD FESTIVAL TRAFFIC PLAN**

For the past many years, the coordination between the city, the Dogwood Festival and the neighborhood has not been up to par and the neighborhood has suffered as a result. Due to the huge number of visitors and automobiles descending upon Midtown in the three day span of the Dogwood Festival weekend, we have had to endure clogged streets, blocked driveways, litter, noise, etc, with no assistance. MPSA and MNA joined with our NPU E and Virginia Highland/Morningside NPU F and decided that something must be done. The Dogwood Folks joined with us in a united effort to appeal for city/police support and it was granted. We publish below an email received from Anne Fauver outlining the features of what the city/APD will provide for us this year, and we thank everyone involved in this worthy endeavor!

- Off-duty festival police will cover 9 major intersections surrounding the festival (a possible 83 police officers at peak time-depending on the size of the festival). They will be in the park and surrounding area. Several streets on the east side of the park will be closed to all but resident traffic.
- The intersection of 10th & Juniper will be monitored. If there is a problem, traffic patrol will be added.
- Lt Whitmore is in charge of the festival security and he is assigned to Zone 5 (so he is familiar with the area).
- Public Works will send several parking enforcement officers to monitor the neighborhood
- The two towing companies that cover this area have been notified and put on alert.
- All of the "no parking" signs will be placed by police only and not residents. These signs will be placed where appropriate for safety reasons.
- The Mounted Patrol will be in the park.
- Police helicopter will periodically observe traffic and be on call to identify troubled traffic areas.
- A few off-duty police will randomly patrol areas closest to the park.

### **UPDATE FROM ATLANTA POLICE**

#### ***Rash of burglaries***

There have been several burglaries. Those are listed in the crime incident tally below. Police are on the lookout for a suspect in the burglaries. A transvestite, likely with some links to the

transvestite prostitution scene, is being sought for questioning in these incidents. (S)he is described as approximately 5'10" in height, thin to average weight, likely wearing an earring on one or both ears. If you see someone of similar description who appears to be loitering the neighborhood, knocking on doors or (especially) peering into homes please notify 911 immediately.

An E-mail about this guy received earlier: a guy rang my doorbell yesterday. I caught him leering into my living room through the window as I approached the door. I told him I wasn't opening the door and he walked off. Since I didn't see him going to any other house and though he might be scoping out homes to see if owners are home, I called 91 and gave a description to the police

Below we have itemized reported crime incidents in our service area. It is interesting to note that there were no reported burglaries in our area through the 15th. Then things went crazy – four counts in a span of one week (enough for a typical month). The incident on 10th Street occurred at 4pm on a Sunday – with abundance of potential witnesses just across the street in and around the park! The police think it is all attributable to the guy above.

### **Roadblocks**

APD is stepping up roadblocks in the neighborhood during the daytime in order to show their presence more. Please be prepared to show license, insurance, and registration. Most of all, please thank the officers for their presence in the neighborhood. As we see it, the value of these checkpoints are not in enforcement of driver license and tag issues but the overall police visibility in the neighborhood. This has some value in deterring crime.

### **Miscellaneous**

Officer Hale noted that people in the neighborhood are doing great on calling suspicious people.

### **MUGGING VICTIM**

A victim of a recent mugging attended the meeting to tell about her experience. She described how quickly it can happen. She was only two blocks from home. The victim had been out with friends and was walking along 6th Street toward home. She stopped at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup>/Juniper waiting to cross when she saw three young black men walking toward her. One came up to her and asked for money, she told him to get away from her and a second one attacked her from behind. She fought him off while the other two ran away.

Valet parkers heard her screams and called police, who arrive in several minutes. All three muggers got away – but with nothing. The victim was shaken up but not seriously injured.

### **SECURITY TIPS**

If your car has a panic button feature keep your car keys near you and beside your bed when you go to sleep. If you see or hear something outside you can set off the panic alarm to draw attention.

If you park your car in an enclosed garage cover any windows – some burglars might not take the chance if they are unsure whether someone is home (this came from the TV show *It Takes a Thief* on the Discovery Channel).

### **COURT WATCH – STATUS REPORT**

**Norman Smith**, a.k.a. "Solja," was charged with shooting at a group of young women at Boulevard and Boulevard Place after an argument on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005. He was **convicted** and given a 10-year sentence. Because he is a repeat offender he will not be eligible for parole – he will have to serve the entire sentence.

**Jermaine Moss** is charged with several car break-ins in the Midtown area in late August 2006. This is the "striped car" guy. He was convicted and sentenced to 10 years. He will serve at least

18 months and the remainder on probation. A condition of his probation includes banishment from Zone 5 for the duration of his probation (this is a slight correction from our last report).

**Ricky Love** is accused of assaulting a female on Peachtree Street on August 23, 2006. He remains in jail. Judge Schwall issued an order that the neighborhood have ample opportunity to comment in any decisions related to this case. The defendant is still under mental evaluation and is confirmed still in jail.

**Damon Foson** is charged with a vicious attack on a young woman on West Peachtree Street. This victim attended a safety meeting in recent months to express her gratitude for community concern. She is still recovering from her injuries. The defendant is still under mental evaluation and is confirmed still in jail.

**Cecil Washington** has been sentenced to 3 years incarceration (6 months probated for time served). This relates to the home invasion at the Dakota.

### MPSA PATROL REPORT

#### Arrests

2/03: Drinking in public  
2/25: Pedestrian in roadway – the subject was punching at cars  
3/02: Drinking in public  
3/08 Indecency  
3/09: Disorderly conduct shell station  
3/11: Begging  
3/11: Urinating in public

#### Traffic

Speeding: 7 counts - some on 10th some at Juniper and 4th  
Tag violations: 2 counts  
No insurance: 1 count  
Driver License (no/suspended): 1 count  
Red Light violation: 1 count  
Stop sign: 2 counts (both on Myrtle)  
Brake light: 1 count

### MARTA POLICE

MARTA police has beefed up patrols in stations and on trains. Undercover operation continued with focus on QOL issues.

Important that people follow through when they report. Descriptions can sometimes be vague. "Black male white t-shirt blue jeans"

### MPSA MAILBAG (these do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the MPSA)

#### **Hoodlums throwing objects at vehicles** (correction from previous version)

Today, at 5:10 pm, my husband and I went out to the KFC on Ponce. To return home, we turned right onto Parkway Drive and right again onto North Avenue. As we drove along Parkway Drive, we noticed the usual collection of ruffians, but probably more than usual. (Maybe close to 20 this time.) As we rounded the corner onto North Avenue, one of the youths (BM, 12 to 14, 5'8" medium build) threw a heavy object and hit our van with it. Fortunately, we found no damage. We know that we do not care for the activity in that area, but we never expected the street ruffians to attack a moving vehicle.

[MPSA edit]: Because of personal constraints they were not in a position to call 911. This sort of thing should normally be reported immediately to 911. This stretch of "Crackway Drive" has been out of control for many years, and relief is not in sight. We can only contain it at best.

#### **Dangerous drivers in neighborhood**

Pedestrian crosswalks are pretty dangerous, and I was quite alarmed on 10th Street yesterday by the number of people that almost got run over by vehicles not stopping for them at the crosswalks. It was far beyond normal. Add to it the fact that it was obvious many people were either going to or coming from the beer bash at Park Tavern made it even more worrying. I am not being hysterical here - it was very dangerous.

This is coming from a man that HATES to see cops writing speeding tickets, but it seems that if the city is going to create crosswalks then they should really spend some capital in enforcing them. Otherwise it creates a false and dangerous perception by unwitting pedestrians that traffic will stop for them. Myrtle and North is the most horrible example. I literally had a motorcycle come within 6 inches of me once there.

***Kudos to MPSA***

I am Major Williams, Chief of Staff for the Atlanta Police Department. I know that your group is doing wonderful things for the community, specifically, your court watch program. The Detroit Police Department is trying to start a community court watch program and I told them about some of the successes you have achieved through coordinated efforts. If this is something you don't mind sharing with them, please let me know a contact person that I can have them speak with.

Thanks again for all you do for your community and the City of Atlanta - Major Williams

***Inconsiderate newspaper delivery***

I live in the vicinity of 3RD and Myrtle. For the past few weeks, I have been woken up every morning between 5-6am by VERY loud rap music. Over the weekend, I finally managed to wake myself up enough to figure out what was going on and realized that it's the AJC delivery guy! His music is extremely loud even when he drives by, but the noise is even louder because he stops his car in the middle of the road (3RD ST) and leaves it running with the door open while he delivers the papers to our building. I called the AJC subscription customer service line (404-522-4141) Monday and Tuesday to complain, but again, the music woke me up this morning. I called the AJC again today and they again assured me they would speak with the driver about the noise.

---

***A Safer Midtown... You are truly a part of it! [www.midtownponce.org](http://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:***

**[Westminster Commons](#) / [The Sembler Company](#)**

**[Post Parkside](#) / [Midtown Neighbors Association](#)**

**[Midtown Tire, Inc.](#) / [Ackerman & Company](#)**

**[TLC Rents](#) - National Night Out sponsor**

**SUPPLEMENT: CRIME INCIDENT TALLY – FEBRUARY 2007**

**ROBBERY**

Incident #	Street	Offense	Report Date	Location
70371928	6TH ST	ROB-RESIDENCE-STRONGARM	20070206	near Durant
70441621	MYRTLE ST	ROBBERY-BUSINESS-GUN	20070213	near PDL
70511964	PENN AVE	ROB-STREET-OTHER WEAPON	20070220	at PDL
70570015	6TH ST	ROB-STREET-GUN	20070226	near Juniper

**BURGLARY**

Incident #	Street	Offense	Report Date	Location
70472131	7TH ST	BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC	20070216	near Glendale
70481886	PIEDMONT AVE	BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC	20070217	near 7th
70510963	GLENDALE TER	BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC	20070220	at/near 7th
70530717	CHARLES ALLEN DR	BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC	20070222	near 10th
70542090	MYRTLE ST	BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC	20070223	near 10th
70561300	10TH ST	BURGLARY-FORCED ENTRY-RESIDENC	20070225	near Taft

**AUTO THEFT**

Incident #	Street	Offense	Report Date	Location
70360691	PIEDMONT AVE	THEFT OF TRUCK/VAN/BUS	20070205	near 10th
70391471	MONROE DR	AUTOTHEFT	20070208	near 931
70421186	PENN AVE	THEFT OF TRUCK/VAN/BUS	20070211	near 6th
70561478	MONROE DR	AUTOTHEFT	20070225	near 931

Source: Crime mapping feature at the Atlanta Police website. These are not the official stats we feel this gives a good overall feel for trends in our neighbourhood.

We only count “dots” that fall within our service area.