

MIDTOWN PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING REPORT

March 2006

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IN ATTENDANCE:

- Peggy Denby, Safety Committee Co-Chair
- Sgt Bill Cooper - MPSA Patrol Coordinator
- Special Guest Officer Fanning and his wife Brandy.
- 30 additional Midtown residents

PHOENIX

The Mayor signed the license revocation order which was served on 2/28. Several Days later they were still open and serving liquor. In response to complaints from nearby residents, APD arrested three staff members of the Phoenix Sat night for serving alcohol without a license. According to our source at APD the Phoenix is planning to file an injunction on the license revocation.

MPSA PATROL SCHEDULE

The MPSA adjusted its patrol hours to accommodate a 6-8am shift to address the prostitution problem. This patrol project focused mostly on the area surrounding Piedmont and 4th. It seems to be effective because complaints from residents have stopped. Neighbors we have asked near 5th & Piedmont and on Myrtle Street tell us that they have not seen a prostitute in a long time!

Sgt Cooper reported MPSA calls and activity very light. There have been very few calls and complaints! There have been some pedestrian arrests, mostly prostitution/related issues. Criminal trespass arrests were also reported by MPSA Patrol.

PONCE & PIEDMONT

We have been told the Abbey (Ponce & Piedmont) has been sold to the Presbyterian Church and will be an active church again. The building next to the Abbey has been sold. It will be torn down and a hotel or condo is planned in that location.

This area attracts a lot of vagrants for several reasons:

- The Peachtree Pine Shelter is only a few blocks away
- The buildings are empty and/or neglected and pull in urban campers

We will contact the new owners of the empty building to ask their help in addressing the vagrants camping on the steps there.

CAR WINDOWS SHOT OUT IN MIDTOWN

Last month we told you about three individuals arrested for shooting out car windows (and people it turned out). We identified the officer who caught these thugs in the act and asked him to attend this safety meeting. Officer Fanning- talked about the pellet gun shootings that happened in the neighborhood last month.

A 911-call came in from a woman who had been shot by a BB gun on a street in our neighborhood. Several other calls came as people reported hearing the noise and seeing the broken windows. Officer Fanning arrested the suspects in the act at 7th & Myrtle. The suspects had two BB-guns in the car, and BBs came rolling out when they opened the doors. When asked why they did that they stated that they were bored.

There are currently 28 charges filed against the suspects. One of the suspects had a hold in another jurisdiction (which means that once he made bail for Fulton County he was handed over to the other jurisdiction). A Court date has not been set. We will periodically check with the Fulton DA's office and pass that information along as it becomes available.

LIQUOR LICENSE ISSUES

Peggy shared with the group the current process on Liquor License applications, as she is also the chairperson for that MNA Committee. Frustration was expressed that the process at the city is very difficult to follow. The information from the city is sometimes not available to the public without paying for the reports. As far as the city is concerned it is the residents' responsibility to gather information needed to close "bad businesses."

The MNA is not officially in the review loop so Peggy Denby is working with Licenses and Permits and the NPU to gain some kind of status. Don Jones suggested forming an organizational effort to bring together Old 4th Ward, Midtown, Ansley Park and Virginia Highlands to work on making process changes at the city to address the License processes.

It is commonly agreed that citizens have very little say in what happens in the city and especially in the area of liquor licensing. Bad license holders have a significant impact on neighborhoods yet it is hard for neighbors to close them down. The police have all the statistics, yet they can't close them down. It is felt that something is wrong with the system, and Peggy will continue working on the process.

MIDTOWN TRAFFIC ISSUES

Sara Van Beck announced that the City of Atlanta has started water line work in Midtown. Information is on the MNA traffic web site. Traffic hassles will be routine in the coming months, and more street closures are forthcoming.

Traffic problems with the Dogwood Festival should be reported to the MNA traffic web site (www.midtownatlantatraffic.org).

MIDTOWN TOUR OF HOMES

The Midtown Tour of homes will be on the weekend of April 8th and 9th. Please visit the Tour of Homes web site www.midtowntourofhomes.com. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Peggy at peggy.denby@gmail.com for more information.

There will be a neighborhood clean up on April 1 in preparation for the Tour of Homes weekend. Please clean up your yards and sidewalks. If there is a bad spot or junk/abandoned cars in need of attention please let us know.

MISC.

The homeowner at 3rd and Myrtle announced he is converting from a boarding house back to a single family residence. He suffered a break in last week and lost his power tools. Our neighborhood is improving one property at a time!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Though we are making great strides in the long run, we still need to hear from the neighborhood about observations. The E-mails and phone lines have been very quiet. We may not be able to address a given issue immediately but the information we receive is critical to our success. After all, it is YOUR neighborhood too...