

## **MIDTOWN PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING REPORT**

*May 2006*

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### **IN ATTENDANCE**

- Peggy Denby (MPSA President & MNA Safety Chair)
- Sgt. Stewart - APD
- Sgt. Cooper - MPSA Patrol Coordinator
- Sharla Jackson - Community Prosecutor for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office
- 20 Midtown residents

### **MUGGING**

A mugging occurred on 4/22 on Charles Allen. It occurred at 11:30am on a Sunday morning in a condo parking lot. The criminal tried to steal a lady's purse, she would not give it to him so he struck her. She screamed and it scared him away.

### **VAGRANCY ISSUES**

Area residents have observed an increase in vagrant activity throughout the neighborhood. It is believed that many of these vagrants do not want to follow the rules of the new Gateway center so they gravitate to Midtown to take advantage of services offered with no questions asked (such as feeding stations operated by area churches).

Sharla Jackson, Community Prosecutor, suggested we call the HOPE Team to patrol Midtown. This special operation of the Atlanta Police Department deploys officers to deal with quality of life problems primarily caused by street people.

It has come to our understanding that a church is in the works for the former Abbey property. While we welcome them to our neighborhood, Peggy Denby (MPSA President) has discussed concerns about opening services for the homeless. She pointed out to them that we have significant problems with the volume of vagrants in the area, many of whom stay in the area because of drug availability along the Boulevard and Parkway Drive corridor and the multitude of homeless services in our area. Among the issues pointed out were aggressive panhandling, loitering, petty crimes, urban camping, urinating/defecating, and we are very weary of yet something else that perpetuates this vicious cycle in our area. We have no position from the church on these issues.

The developers who bought the property adjacent to the Abbey, 151 Ponce de Leon, are also talking to the new minister about using some of the space for outdoor entertainment. Both groups will be invited to a Safety Meeting to answer questions.

## PROSTITUTION

Sgt Stewart reported that APD currently has one officer in the Midtown precinct trained to do undercover work. APD has noted a large group of women coming in from other areas (such as Metropolitan Avenue) to ply their trade here. These are real females, not the usual transvestitutes. APD is still working on identifying the pimps deploying them here. Residents are advised to avoid contact with these prostitutes, particularly those with males loitering nearby. Pimps are very dangerous and territorial.

Midtown is listed on various web sites as a location to find prostitutes. If any of you find these web sites, try to post negative comments about how the police will arrest you for cruising, picking up prostitutes, etc., if they come to Midtown and that area residents are quick to call the police when observing this activity. Please let us know of these websites too.

During the last crackdown 6 females were arrested. Another sweep is planned this week.

The city still has not put up the No Cruising Signs on 3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets between Peachtree and Piedmont. They were requested months ago to enhance police ability to address prostitution. Please take a few minutes to email Council Person Kwanza Hall ([khall@atlantaga.gov](mailto:khall@atlantaga.gov)) to seek his assistance in getting these signs installed. MPSA patrol is waiting for the signs to make it possible to ticket the "johns" for cruising. So far Councilwoman Anne Fauver (represents the "other half" of Midtown) has been supportive of us on this issue but the needed locations for the signs lie in Kwanza Hall's district.

## APD MISC.

APD and Midtown Blue worked together last weekend ticketing drivers with loud music along Peachtree. They wrote 22 tickets and impounded 4 vehicles. The vehicles were impounded because the drivers refused to turn the music volume down!

Sgt Stewart also wanted to thank the person who called 911 about a car being broken into on Argonne who stayed on the line giving up-dates until the perpetrator was caught in the car!!

## MPSA PATROL ACTIVITY

MPSA arrests included 1 prowler, 2 drug possessions, 1 credit card theft, and public indecency. Sgt Cooper asked that MPSA members let them know when they are going to be out of town so the patrol can keep an eye on their property.

MPSA will increase patrol hours very soon from around 57 per week to 70+ per week. Some of that increase will be used by Sgt Cooper to address speeding problems. If you know of other problems we need to address, please let us know. We would like to target specific problems – prostitution is always one – or specific areas as we add additional patrol hours.

## TRAFFIC ISSUES

Speeding is a problem on Monroe and attendees discussed various ways to address the problem. The APD has no Traffic Enforcement Squad. Midtown has one Traffic Enforcement Officer. The MPSA will assign Sgt Cooper to do traffic control on Monroe and on Juniper on his motorcycle. Hopefully, if enough speeders are ticketed by Sgt Cooper, the word will get around to "SLOW DOWN".

## INDIVIDUALS SHOOTING OUT CAR WINDOWS.

As reported last February, three individuals (Jiovanni Allen, Kermit Newman III, and Clemmie Skief II ) were arrested after shooting out dozens of car windows in our neighborhood. According to Sharla Jackson (Community Prosecutor) this case has been indicted by the Fulton County Grand Jury under indictment number 06SC40822. The case is assigned to Judge Dempsey in court room 5D. Leigh Love is the Assistant District Attorney handling the case. If you need any further information, you may contact her at 404-730-4951.

## MARTA

Peggy is talking to MARTA about putting trash cans where they have benches or MARTA stops. These areas are always covered with litter. This is a city wide problem.

## FROM ANNE FAUVER'S OFFICE (5/17/2006)

*The City of Atlanta Department of Public Works continues to implement community improvement projects throughout the City as part of the \$150M Quality of Life Bond Program! **Late May or early June 2006**, we will begin installing traffic calming devices (**speed humps**) along **Charles Allen Drive** between 10th Street and Ponce de Leon Council District 6, NPU-E. This project is scheduled for completion within 3 - 5 days. The installation process will take place between the hours 9:00 am and 7:00 pm. Local traffic access will be maintained for the duration. For questions concerning impact to the right-of-way fronting specific properties or concerns during the construction of this project, please contact the Department of Public Works at (404) 330-6739.*

## WEB TIPS – Photos of the vagrancy problem in our area

- A website called Atlanta's Shame [www.atlantasshame.com](http://www.atlantasshame.com)
- MPSA collection of an encampment near Ansley Mall - [www.midtownponce.org/vagrantcamp](http://www.midtownponce.org/vagrantcamp)
- The side of City Hall East and Police Headquarters - [www.midtownponce.org/vagrantcamp2](http://www.midtownponce.org/vagrantcamp2)