



**MIDTOWN PONCE SECURITY ALLIANCE**  
**July 2006 Public Safety Report and other information**

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**I. PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING – JUNE 10TH**

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**ATTENDANCE**

36 in total, including

- Peggy Denby - Moderator
- Investigator O. Curry of the APD Vice Division
- Sgt Hale – APD Midtown Mini-Precinct
- Sgt. Millier and Sgt. Cooper – MPSA Patrol

**FOCUS TOPIC: TRANSVESTITE PROSTITUTION PROBLEM IN MIDTOWN**

Prostitution poses a number of nuisances and dangers to the community they afflict.

- Harassment of residents by prostitutes and johns
- Considerable litter including used condoms
- Unreasonable noise and disturbances during the night
- Trespassing and criminal destruction/vandalism
- Traffic obstruction

Street walkers and those with whom they associate usually engage in other forms of criminality, such as theft, robberies, gang activity, drug use, and all kinds of violent acts. Prostitution is only the beginning of further criminal activity.

We have three major concentrations of prostitution within the MPSA Service area:

- Ponce de Leon, characterized by the so-called crack whores
- Juniper Street, characterized by the so-called transvestitutes
- Cypress Street, characterized by male hustlers

The focus of the July Safety meeting was on the transvestite streetwalkers in the area surrounding Juniper Street.

On a nightly basis these "transvestitutes" invade the area south of 5th Street and from Myrtle Street westward. During APD crackdowns they tend to gravitate eastward toward the Parkway Drive/Boulevard drug markets.

Like daytime office workers, many prostitutes park on Penn and Myrtle and walk to work since there is limited free parking available. Some even live in the neighborhood. The MPSA works to identify indigenous prostitutes for notification to landlords, and other forms of pressure to leave our neighborhood.

Prostitutes often service their johns in all parts of the neighborhood. Area residents often find used condoms in their yards and along sidewalks. This allows opportunities for a child to mistake

a used condom for a balloon, and otherwise makes residents uncomfortable. Women living in the neighborhood are sometimes harassed by johns looking for prostitutes.

Residents are often awakened in the middle of the night as a result of the following:

- A prostitute and john having sex in a car
- Prostitutes fighting among themselves
- Prostitutes fighting with johns
- Boisterous conduct among prostitutes, particularly transvestitutes

These transvestitutes are rather cohesive and talk among themselves. They often communicate to each other with cell phones alerting to Police presences and neighbors seeking to call police about them. In many respects these transvestitutes take on qualities of street gangs and other forms of organized criminality.

They will sometimes attack local residents or vandalize property for calling the police. Residents have been attacked with pepper spray and have had rocks thrown at their cars while driving. These attacks are usually a spontaneous reaction, but occasionally two or more prostitutes will plan an attack on an area resident. These prostitutes normally carry blades and pepper spray, and will defend their "territory" aggressively.

Drugs play a core role in the prostitution problem. As a result of drug use they do not function well in society and resort to prostitution to support their drug habits. Prostitutes often have crack pipes when arrested and they often have their johns drop them off at Parkway Drive & Ponce for convenience to drug markets.

These transvestitutes also employ psychological warfare against police officers addressing the problem. They investigate police officers for later harassment – including posting pictures of officers and investigators on the Internet. They also file fictitious harassment complaints at the APD Internal Affairs department, a form of false victim syndrome in which a criminal or sociopath will accuse another in hopes of gaining sympathy.

They carry blades of different sorts and are quick to assault police officers. Undercover and uniformed officers have been injured by these transvestite thugs, in some cases seriously. They require special handling as armed and dangerous criminals.

Because of their aggressive nature and harassment tactics they require special handling from the police, and many officers shy away from dealing with this gang-like group.

#### **ATLANTA POLICE VICE SQUAD**

Investigator Curry of the Vice Squad spoke to the Midtown Community about their role in the Atlanta Police Department. In addition to regular police patrols Vice Squad also has a role in combating street prostitution.

The Vice Division currently has 8 investigators covering the entire city. Their purview includes:

- Prostitution
- Liquor houses
- Human trafficking
- Escort services
- Internet crimes (related to vices)

Vice Division spends a lot of time at the airport to investigate human trafficking issues. Human trafficking poses a world-wide law enforcement problem. Women and children are smuggled from developing countries into industrialized countries for purposes of prostitution and other criminal activity. There is a lot of international pressure to address this and the Atlanta Police has to cover the Atlanta Airport, which in turns drains resources from our neighborhoods.

They also spend a lot of time in the convention district, where hotels complain of escort services.

These 8 investigators are constantly on the move trying to keep up with all the demands for special police operations. As with other divisions of the Atlanta Police they are too understaffed to stay in one place and on one problem to be effective. According to Investigator Curry the Atlanta Police Department should have about 25 investigators in Vice alone. They are unable to get adequate levels of logistical assistance due to officer shortages in the precincts.

Shortage of resources goes beyond staffing – the Atlanta Police does not have enough cars to do their work, both with marked police cars and unmarked cars for investigation purposes.

The Vice Division does stings based on where they are getting complaints. Arrests during stings are mostly for solicitation, which can only be done undercover. A prostitute will not normally solicit in the presence of a uniformed police officer. When feasible the vice division is willing to conduct observations from homes.

One attendee commented that an occasional sting is by no means enough. Combatting a long-standing problem such as the transvestites invading the neighborhood requires an intensive and protracted effort. While the effort of prostitutes is rather cohesive and concerted, the johns are coming from all places at random. The johns looking for prostitutes have to consistently come to Midtown and find nothing to see.

The Atlanta Police posts pictures of those arrested for vice offences. A few area prostitutes can be seen at <http://www.atlantapd.org/index.asp?nav=vicearrests>.

The Narcotics Division has a different mission – they pursue drug offences. As with Vice, the Narcotics Division is also severely understaffed. They have 26 officers when, according to our APD sources, they need about 100.

### **WHAT IS NEEDED TO MAKE POLICE EFFORTS MORE EFFECTIVE?**

Much of the discussion at the safety meeting revolved around this question. The underlying problem in our public safety issues lies in lack of police officers. We need to let our City Council, the Mayor, and Chief Pennington know that we feel "at risk" due to the lack of police personnel and the heavy presence of prostitutes, street criminals and aggressive panhandlers.

#### ***Police needs***

We feel that the City Administration is not meeting its primary obligation, i.e., to protect the citizens of Atlanta. As public safety lies at the core of all community development and activity, the following needs to happen in Atlanta to stem the flow of our trained officers to other cities:

- **Significantly improved pay and step increases along with better career ladders and fair retirement policies.** Many of our officers leave Atlanta Police for other jurisdictions because of significantly better pay and benefits.
- **Significantly increased staffing in order to adequately deal with community policing needs.** Much attrition occurs because of an inordinately heavy workload. Adequate levels of proactive patrolling and problem-oriented policing are not feasible in our neighborhoods because of severe understaffing.
- **Significantly improved resources such as good vehicles, sophisticated law enforcement equipment, etc.** Atlanta Police also needs more support staff for roles like jail transports and property handling. Every time a police officer makes an arrest, he has to immediately deliver personal effects and evidence to City Hall East, thereby taking the officer out of commission for an hour.

Unofficial sources tell us that there may be only 8 or 10 officers patrolling the entire Zone 5 area, comprising not only Midtown but also Downtown and its convention district, Old Fourth Ward, Central Park area, Atlantic Station, and surrounding areas. On most nights, however, there will usually be 15-20, which is still not enough to effectively get the entire area under control. These officers spend most of their time answering 911 calls – it is common that all 10 officers may each be on a call for service, with a backlog of an additional 20 to 30 calls.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP RIGHT NOW...

We would like for you to write to our city council members, the Police Chief, and the Mayor about the need for a significantly stronger police department. We feel that Kwanza Hall and Anne Fauver are adequately sensitive to our policing needs but they need documentation of how the community really feels about this issue.

This E-mail or letter should be succinct and straight to the point. This should ideally be about one paragraph but absolutely no more than two. This should be in your own words and from your own perspective rather than copying and pasting them from this report. **Please do not forward all or part of this report!** Kwanza Hall and Anne Fauver already receive MPSA mailings.

Please mention only:

- That you live in Midtown (or elsewhere if applicable)
- How worried/concerned you are about the level of crime in the neighborhood and lack of police resources
- Ask for more police officers.

### The following should be included:

- Mayor Shirley Franklin – Mayor - (mayorfranklin@atlantaga.gov)
- Richard Pennington – Chief of Police (pmwilliams@atlantaga.gov)
- Kwanza Hall – City Council District 2 - (khall@atlantaga.gov)
- Anne Fauver – City Council District 6 - (afauver@atlantaga.gov)
- Ceasar Mitchell – City Council At-large post 1 - (ccmitchell@atlantaga.gov)
- Mary Norwood – City Council At-large Post 2 - (mnorwood@atlantaga.gov)
- H. Lamar Willis – City Council At-large Post 3 - (hlwillis@atlantaga.gov)

Additionally, you can copy and paste the E-mail addresses at once into your E-mail.  
*mayorfranklin@atlantaga.gov, pmwilliams@atlantaga.gov, khall@atlantaga.gov, afauver@atlantaga.gov, ccmitchell@atlantaga.gov, mnorwood@atlantaga.gov, hlwillis@atlantaga.gov*

**Please also CC: the MPSA (info@midtownponce.org).** At a later date the Midtown Ponce Security Alliance will lay out a more comprehensive report of needs and call for action on those. For now we need to focus on policing needs.

### OTHER MATTERS FROM THE SAFETY MEETING

#### Flashlight walk

A discussion ensued about taking flashlight walks with police officers. This is occasionally done near Central Park. Unlike theirs, ours need to be when the hookers are invading the neighborhood rather than early evening when nothing is happening. The message of neighborhood disapproval needs to reach the prostitutes.

Atlanta police certainly discourages taking matters into your own hands, as these druggs are often armed and usually under the influence of years of drug use. A small handful of citizens already patrol the neighborhood sporadically to scout for prostitutes, cruising activity in Piedmont Park during the night, and other reasons to call 911. Those doing so should remain eyes and ears for the police, not hands!

### **Judges**

The judges in municipal court need to be more sensitive to community needs. The municipal court system has become a chaotic revolving door system in which petty criminals, many of whom have scores of entries on their criminal history, are sent back into the community in very short order. It was suggested that the community be more attentive to court cases, a rather tall order given that most people have careers and other obligations. The court system is difficult to navigate, both logistically and geographically.

The MPSA will call for action on this issue at a later date.

### **APD activity**

The Midtown Mini-Precinct had 1102 calls for service via the 911 system during the month of June. During the same month their arrest activity included:

- 108 Quality of Life arrests
- 47 citations for loud music
- 17 miscellaneous misdemeanors.

### **MPSA Patrol activity**

Sgt. Cooper patrols on police motorcycle during daytime hours targeting speeders and other traffic violators. Numerous tickets for speeding and other violations have been issued on streets like Monroe Drive.

The MPSA Patrol schedule is also heavily concentrated on overnight hours, mainly from 12 Midnight to 8am. Special emphasis is given to prostitution areas along with parking decks of member condo associations. Vagrant encampments are also target.

During the months of May and June the Patrol issued the following citations:

8 speeding tickets, 9 stop sign violations, 3 no insurance, 3 expired tags, 1 seat belt, and 2 impounds.

MPSA also made the following arrests during the same period:

6 Prostitutes, 1 urinating in public, 2 drinking in public, 1 crystal meth charge, 1 marijuana, and 1 solicitation.

### **Building next to Abbey**

This building, long a problem property, is now under new ownership. Paul Thomas spoke to the group about plans to redevelop that property. He is well aware of the vagrant problem on that property and is working to eliminate the problem.

There are also plans to demolish the building and replace it with a mid- to high-rise mixed-use building. They are planning 200 to 260 living units and retail along the street. Demolition is expected in about 2 months, once proper permits are in place. The property may have a surface parking lot for about a year.

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual National Night Out in Midtown be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6-8pm, on Myrtle Street near 6<sup>th</sup>. More details forthcoming.

### **UPCOMING SAFETY MEETING TOPICS (tentative)**

- **August 14th:** Commissioner Nancy Boxill and the need for an expanded criminal justice system including jails
- **September 11th:** Open-air drug markets along Parkway Drive and Boulevard, role of Section 8 housing in this problem
- **October 9th:** Peachtree Pine shelter and its role in the crime and disorder in the community

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## II. EYE ON MIDTOWN EXCERPTS

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### **PATROL SCHEDULE**

We have implemented a new patrol schedule to run at least 30 days, with a special focus on prostitution. The patrol is scheduled every night from Midnight to 6am. Additionally, we will deploy officers most mornings from 6am to 8am. The patrol schedule you have received previously is no longer in effect. Members (particularly newer members) who wish to have the direct line for the patrol along with the vacation notification line should write to us - we will reply with the numbers once we verify membership.

### **ALWAYS DIAL 911 IN AN EMERGENCY. WHEN CALLING 911 REMAIN CALM AND GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

- **WHO** you are – succinctly identify yourself and your location
- **WHAT** you are reporting – so the 911 Operator can determine whether the call will be directed to Police, Fire Department, and/or Ambulance Service
- **WHERE** the situation has happened/is happening
- **WAIT** for additional questions by the 911 operator.

### **NEW ROBBERY INCIDENT**

The BP on Ponce was robbed at gunpoint on 7/3/06 @ 3:30am. The robber got \$170.00 in cash. He is a Black male in his late 20's, 5'11"-6'1", 190-210lbs, dark skinned, wearing dark shirt and shorts. He goes by the name Ant.

### **CHRISTIAN EXTREMISTS HARASSING GAY CITIZENS**

Recently on weekends a Christian extremist group believed to be from North Georgia have picketed the intersection of 10th & Piedmont. They were most visible during Pride assaulting the diversity of our community. While they generally seem to be within their First Amendment rights, they do bring a vitriolic message to our community and pose a potential nuisance issue. They have been known to harass people believed to be gay. We will continue to monitor them. Anybody witnessing or receiving harassment or hate statements from this group should notify us too, after reporting to police and media outlets.

### **POTENTIAL BURGLARS CASING HOMES**

We are hearing more about people rattling windows and kicking doors. There have also been an inordinate number of burglar alarm calls. We urge you to make sure your doors and windows are locked. The stats we have seen for this year so far are relatively good numbers - we would like to see burglaries remain low so please spot-check your property now.

### **Behaviors to watch for:**

- Wandering onto private property and going door-to-door
- Peeking into cars
- Walking around parked cars as they walk down the street
- Wandering aimlessly through the neighborhood, especially when taking note of certain houses.
- Loitering on the street during night-time hours
- Sitting in cars in a residential area particularly during night-time hours.
- These should be reported to 911 so the police can at least conduct a field interview

### **ROBBERY SUSPECT UPDATE**

The three surviving robbery suspects were released from jail on bond. The victim, a resident in our neighborhood, reports having received harassment since the ordeal. More details at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution website -

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/0704metmarine.html>

### WEB FIND: PERSONAL SECURITY AT ATM'S

- If anything strikes you as suspicious use a different machine. Trust your gut instinct.
- After dark make sure to look for well-lit machines.
- Do not use a machine if there is someone hanging around.
- Cover the keypad with one hand while typing in your code with the other, even if you are by yourself. You may feel silly doing it, but it is a good habit to start and there have been cases of people using binoculars or video cameras to capture pin numbers.
- If no money comes out, make sure to check the money slot for blockages and notify the bank immediately. A recent popular scam has been for people to block the money slot with a piece of plastic and then return to collect the money after the customer leaves.
- If using a drive-through bank machine, make sure all of your car doors are locked.
- Memorize your PIN code - do not write it down on something carried with you!

Source: [Vancouver, BC Police Dept website](#) . More extensive personal safety tips on a variety of topics can be found online at:

**Los Angeles Police Department** - [http://www.lapdonline.org/prevent\\_crime](http://www.lapdonline.org/prevent_crime)

**Vancouver Police Department** -

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/police/crimeprevention/index.htm>

**Toronto Police Service** - <http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/crimeprevention/>

**Atlanta Police Department** - <http://www.atlantapd.org/index.asp?nav=CPI>

### VEHICLE UPDATE

1) We have some wonderful news from Midtown Tire on Ponce de Leon Avenue: Midtown Tire Inc. is committed to the safety and security of our neighborhood. Therefore Midtown Tire is willing to offer routine service for a MPSA patrol vehicle at no charge. For the first year they will provide the following service at no charge:

- Oil & filter change
- Tire rotation & balance
- Tire replacement
- Brakes
- Other small miscellaneous services as needed.

This is a major break for us!

2) We have raised \$13,000 to date in both funds and pledges. Though our goal is \$18,000, we will immediately start shopping for a suitable vehicle for the money we have raised so far. The manager of Midtown Tire, who will sponsor the first year of regular maintenance, will advise us on our vehicle selection.

Having a marked vehicle will increase our patrol's effectiveness. As funds permit, we will add needed patrol accessories (such as the amber lights). We are in negotiation with a place to safely park the vehicle.

### TWO ROBBERIES ON SAME NIGHT (June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006):

Two armed robberies were reported last night at about 1:45am at the following locations in Midtown:

- Penn Ave
- Argonne @ 5th.

The Atlanta Police Department is looking for the following individual suspect:

*The suspect is reported to be a Black Male, 20-25 YOA, 6' 01' to 6' 03' and approximately 195 to 205 lbs. Suspect was last seen wearing a white tee shirt with blue jeans and a black baseball cap. He was reported to be armed with a handgun so please advise your e-mail group to report any sightings to 911 and under no circumstances should anyone approach this person. I will continue to update you with anything further.*

Additionally, the MPSA received an E-mail from another individual telling us about a robbery. We believe it is one of the incidents listed above.

*I am a resident of the Midtown area. While I am not a member of the MPSA b/c I am currently a student unable to afford to join, I would like to report a Robbery that occurred on a 5th and Argonne on Sunday a.m. around 1:30 am. I was walking home from 6th and Charles Allen to 5th and Piedmont, when my boyfriend and I were robbed at gunpoint. According to the Atlanta Police officer who took our report, another couple was robbed by the same guy immediately before us. My boyfriend's license and credit card were found between North & Ponce de Leon later in the morning on a side street by the Clairemont Lounge along with some belonging of other victims. I just wanted to make you aware.*

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### III. MPSA MAILBAG

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#### PEEKING INTO CARS

*This isn't a big deal, [MPSA comment: oh yes it is! Please **call the law** when you see someone peeking into cars.] but thought you'd want to know.*

*I called 911 on a guy looking into cars on Myrtle Street last Wednesday morning. I was returning from a vet appointment at about 10:10 and saw the guy looking into two cars. As it happened, I had to park in his path. After waiting for him to pass, I got out of the car and got [our dog] out of the back. She's part wolf and all of the homeless people are afraid of her. He crossed 4th St. and watched me take [our dog] into the house. I called 911 to report this guy and as I was talking to the operator, another man walked up and the two of them proceeded up 4th St. towards Piedmont.*

*After waiting a few minutes to make sure he was gone, I got in my car and headed to the office. At 4th and Piedmont, I saw a bike cop and a patrol car stopped and talking. I jumped out of the car and went to ask them if they'd seen the guy. They hadn't, but they were looking for him. As I was talking to the bike officer, the guy appeared in view on 4th St headed towards Juniper. I alerted the police and the patrol car stopped him.*

*The police took my name and number so I could testify against this man, but they haven't called me yet. Not sure what the disposition of this will be, but they said he could be arrested for interfering with a parked vehicle.*

#### BURGLARY

*[A resident in Old Midtown (east of Monroe)] was broken into last Wednesday. She works mostly out of her home. She went out to lunch and it occurred between 12:00 and 1:15. As she returned home, the perpetrator was coming out of her house. Unfortunately, she left home in a rush and did not take her cell phone so her call to police was delayed and they were able to get away. She felt very strongly that he had an accomplice who warned him when he saw her car approaching. Kicked in her front door - took her computer (desk top!), cell phone, house phone and digital camera. Also, he had her TV disconnected from the cable and ready to go but apparently ran out of time and couldn't take it. I'm not sure if she has access to e-mail yet since her computer was taken. Since she was going out for a quick lunch with a friend, she did not arm her security system - something many of us do. But never again!! You may want to give everyone a heads up on that, as well.*

*After this occurred, she mentioned that it appeared in the past that her door had been kicked. I've had the glass breaks go off in my living room a couple of times and I assumed they were malfunctions of the system. Now I strongly suspect these guys may kick the door, bang on the glass or cause some other disturbance to see if an alarm goes off. If so, they move on. If not, they*

*proceed with the break-in. I have no idea if this is correct - just a haunch, based on a combination of her and my experiences.*

### **RASH OF BURGLARIES**

We received an E-mail about a rash of break-ins (or attempted) on Vedado Way and in Old Midtown (three incidents in total plus the one above). We have little information on the specifics, and do not know if they were reported to the police.

### **SOCIOPATHIC CONDUCT - 700 BLOCK OF MONROE DRIVE**

*This morning [Tuesday June 27th, 2006] when I went out to my car, there was a black male - slightly taller than me (so I guess about 5'5 or so) with an oval shaped face and for the most part bald - he was wearing an oversized white football-type jersey. The jersey had a name and a number stenciled on the back, but I apologize I can't remember what those were. He had a slow - but steady - walking gait and his shoulders appear to be slightly uneven, although that could have been an effect of the oversized shirt.*

*Anyway...he had just reached the black gates of our neighbors on the other side of the easement when I came out of our gate. As I crossed into the easement to go to my car, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that he had turned and was following behind me. I turned to let him know that I saw him and slowed my walk. At this point, he began trying to get my attention - "Morning? How are you? Did you hear me?" Etc...*

*He sped up his walk, but as soon as he got slightly ahead of me, I turned and started walking back to our front door. He made some rude comments and acted like he was going to walk back down the end of the easement. As I got to our gate, I noticed he was again behind me standing on the sidewalk. I did not look at him again, but just proceeded into our front door and waited to see if he followed or passed.*

*He did not, and so after a minute I attempted to return to my car. As I was driving off, I passed him walking along the street - north on Monroe.*

*PLEASE - PLEASE - PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL OF THIS PERSON!!! Although nothing happened, I got a VERY, VERY bad feeling about this guy! He was NOT one of the usual junkies. He was very much in control of his mannerisms and actions.*

**MPSA Note:** we do not know if this was reported to the police. Please report these incidents to 911 so police can at least conduct a field interview.

### **SOCIOPATHIC CONDUCT - MAN IN JAGUAR**

*In recent weeks I have seen a very obnoxious, foul-mouth around - his conduct is absolutely horrendous. He is a heavy set black man driving a cream- colored Jaguar. He has the most foul-mouthed I have ever experienced. He was very loudly calling everyone a "n-----" or "cracker." He was most concerned that everyone saw him carrying a HUGE wad of cash. He gave himself as a former NFL star, and says he is from Washington DC.*

*This man made quite a scene this morning at the Chevron at Ponce and Piedmont. I had just filled up and had to go inside because the pump was not reading my card. As my card was declined, he walked in behind me and pulled out his wad of \$20 bills. He insisted that he would pay for me. As I refused his offer several times he flipped out. He started cursing and calling everyone names. I was nervous, so I went to my car and called friends to come bring me some money. He made several outrageous displays in the parking lot, basically making sure everyone knew he was there.*

*He became really angry because nobody seemed to pay any attention to him, and finally got in his car to leave. As I sat in my car with the door ajar he bolted in his car at me, almost hitting my*

car door. As I pulled my car door closed, he pulled beside me and rolled down his window. I ignored him as he held out some photo, I guess of himself in football gear.

The whole thing was just an insane spectacle. It has been down-right bizarre and unnerving both times that I encountered him. Something is off with him - I am quite sure it is illegal, but can't quite put my finger on it. I wanted to call 911, but he pulled out and I was not able to get a tag number. The first encounter of this man was at a Starbucks in Buckhead. He literally ran off every single table in a line before he got to us (we were table four). He would follow the people into the parking lot yelling at them, and making fun of whatever car they were getting in. You are right - he just did not know how to act. I was offended mostly because of his crass assumption that I was there for his entertainment. I was actually there on a coffee date and his overbearance caused us to call the date short.

I started wondering exactly what his story was - have you heard anything about this most colorful character?

### **CAR ALARM SCARES AWAY STREET PERSON BREAKING INTO A CAR**

I live [on a street near Ponce]. This morning around 8 AM someone broke into [my father-in-law's] VW camper van, parked in front of our building, and set off the alarm. Some camping items were visible inside. The person broke some window moulding, cut the window screen, and then opened a door. When the door opened, the van's alarm system sounded and the person made a quick disappearance without taking anything.

### **PROSTITUTES**

Thanks for bringing the spotlight to prostitution. It really has become a much more significant problem in the neighborhood in the past few months. As I've said in prior emails, we seem to have different set of prostitutes on 4th street than I've seen in my 6+ years in the neighborhood.

I was reminded of the great health threat that prostitution poses to us all this evening. I was walking up Myrtle between 4th and 5th with my wife, two young kids and two dogs this evening when we happened upon a used condom from one of last night's johns. I hope no innocent bystander gets AIDS from one of these "treasures".

I'm sorry that I'll be out of town tomorrow and will miss the meeting. Please let me know if there is something I should be doing in addition to calling 911 whenever I see a prostitute.

### **INCIDENTS REPORTED BY A NEIGHBOR**

**Four hundred block of 4th Street:** Late Friday night (June 30th), or early Saturday morning (July 1st) - a chained bicycle was taken from the backyard of my neighbor's house. The perpetrator climbed my neighbor's chain link fence and carted my neighbor's chained bike across my backyard. When he/she could not open my locked gate/fence to escape, damaging my gate in the process, he/she threw the bicycle over the fence and used a chair from my neighbor's yard to scale the locked gate/fence. For whatever reason, the perpetrator left the chained bike in my other neighbor's yard when he/she was unable to ride or carry the chained bike away. The police were called the next morning, and the bike was recovered in the neighbor's yard.

**Four hundred block of 4th Street:** Early Thursday morning (July 6th) - a driver's side rear seat window was smashed in on a neighbor's car parked on the street. The police were called this morning.