

DISTRICT SEVEN

CRIME & SAFETY MEETING

Monday, January 18th, 2010
WELLINGTON PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
7021 W. MEDFORD AVENUE
6:30PM

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Captain William Jessup called the meeting to order. He wished all a Happy New Year and then gave a recap of last year. New initiatives such as increased traffic stops were successful and reduced auto thefts by 28% in 2009 and 40% in the last 2 years. These stops are not intended to issue more citations but to discover other crime and to deter auto thefts. Gun recovery increased by 25% last year. There was also a 13% reduction in aggravated assault. District boundaries changed once again.

II. CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION: The area by Wellington Park Lutheran Church was recognized for revitalizing the once well established block watch here. Angie Saccaro was credited for starting this up again after a serious incident happened recently.

The Block Watch Council presented two Certificates of Appreciation at this meeting.

A. Rebecca Walker- She is the daughter of Squad Representative Angela Robinson and she was recognized for calling 911 about a home invasion where shots were fired which happened at a neighbor's house. Rebecca recently graduated from high school and it can be difficult for young people to rise above the peer pressures to not snitch so this is especially significant.

B. Elma Hughes- She was not present but Steve O'Connell, Squad Representative in her area explained that she called in two young men with suspicious behavior that led to arrests of these two known burglars. There had been a rash of burglaries and the neighborhood was watching out and this really paid off when she placed this call. She will receive her certificate at a later date.

III. OPERATION OLD NORTH MILWAUKEE/ NEW BUSINESS:

A. Operation Old Milwaukee: A new initiative has begun in the Hampton/Hopkins area. Capt. Jessup explained that the police, city attorney's office, Dept. of Neighborhood Services and others are focusing on a 68 square block area between 34th and 40th streets, Glendale to Fairmont. They hope to reduce crime, increase the quality of life and form new block watches in this area. They are also reaching out to the religious community for their support. Updates on progress will be provided at the next meeting.

B. Property Crime Impact: Captain Jessup also discussed how property crimes are on the rise due to the economic times. Burglaries are hard to investigate without citizen involvement and active block watches are essential. He reported that there are currently 187 active block watches in 7th District, but another 37 have been inactive recently. 7th District has a goal of developing 50 new block watches during 2010. There is also a need to impress upon the district attorney's office and the court system the importance of dealing with property crimes and how they impact neighborhoods.

C. Con Artist: For a number of years, an older man has been working neighborhoods all over the city, claiming to be a former worker from Miller Brewery. He seems to scout the

neighborhood in order to imply that he just moved into the neighborhood, he has told people he is the Block Captain, he uses neighbor's names in order to gain the trust of people into paying him for discounted beer and soda that he never delivers. His name is Bobby Lee Washington Jr. and he was arrested again recently.

A flyer with his picture and description was part of the handouts at the meeting. Please call the police if you see him and if you have been scammed please also report this so he can be charged. He mostly operates in the daytime. Tell the dispatcher that you were told at a District 7 meeting to call this in due to his past arrests/activities. People attending the meeting reported that he has been seen recently at Walgreens at 68th and Hampton, at 77th and Hampton, and at 19th Place and Stark. There were questions on posting the flyer with his picture on e-notify and Capt. Jessup explained that he would need to get permission to do this but that anyone attending the meeting could copy and distribute the flyer in their neighborhood to get the word out.

D. Burglary Initiative Update: Burglaries are not down in numbers but not up as well. There are 14-16 officers working on this currently. Career burglars get arrested and rearrested and are choosing this over drug dealing.

IV. GUEST SPEAKERS

A. Capitol West Neighborhood Beautification Project- Kathy Grothe announced that CWNA will be doing a neighborhood beautification project and is looking for volunteers to help organize this project. The boundaries for the project are 60th Street west to Highway 100 from Hampton to Center. 25 awards will be given out in this area (subdivided into smaller areas). If interested in volunteering see Kathy or call CWNA at (414) 985-1993.

B. Safe and Sound- Not able to attend but they are working on underage liquor sales and they will be asked to give an update at the next meeting.

V. DISCUSSION ON BLOCK WATCH REQUIREMENTS:

A. Captain Jessup discussed the basic requirements for block watches and captains including getting the block organized and he explained that the old requirement that a minimum of 10 people participate is being overlooked in the interest of organizing more block watches. A flyer on block captain responsibilities was available as a handout.

Discussion followed on some requirements for block watches recognized by the police department including these suggestions:

- 1) Ask block captains to come to Crime and Safety meeting, at least 1-2 times per year.
- 2) Request an officer to attend one of the block watches meetings every year.
- 3) Keep records as updated as possible.
- 4) Squad Representatives should review the sign-in sheets so they can make contact with block captains at the meetings
- 5) Offer Crime and Safety meetings at alternate day/times a few times throughout the year.
- 6) Need to get the word out on where and when the meetings are being held. (Not everyone has email).
- 7) Frustration over posting lots of flyers but having low attendance at block watch events.

Captain Jessup encouraged that communication needs to be a two way street and the police department will be contacting block watch captains as well. Seventh District has an assistant district attorney again, Nicole Sheldon.

Captain Jessup went over other ways citizens can help including target hardening, calling in crimes, getting info out to others, and citizen patrols. A listing of Squad Representatives will be made available so block captains can be more aware of whom to go to with issues.

VI. CITIZEN DISCUSSION:

- A) 18th St. and Hampton area is being told by dispatch that they are still in 5th district. Captain Jessup verified that this is incorrect- they are again part of 7th district. He will address this with telecommunications/dispatch.
- B) Problems at Mobil station at Green Bay and Hampton and haircut place near 19th Place and Hampton open at midnight (suspicion of drug dealing).
- C) Family Dollar at 76th and Hampton again- citizens reported that people might be climbing on roof to escape being caught. Family Dollar representative was supposed to attend this meeting-will request them at next meeting and at local block watch meetings.
- D) Family Dollar at 60th and Hampton-truck unloads and blocks the street and school buses can't get through.
- E) Bonfires in backyards? You can call the police or fire dept. about these.
- F) Drug houses-what is needed to help the police? It was suggested to talk to the officers that attend the Crime and Safety meetings and keep them apprised of details at particular houses.
- G) Problems on 5300 block of Lancaster.
- H) Burglary at the church here-Officer Lubus can assist with follow up information.
- I) People cutting through yards-what can be done? Can call this in, also check with block watch captain.

Lastly some tips from those attending:

- 1) Ask DPW to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior when they are in your neighborhood (sometimes they are high up and have a good view).
- 2) Census reminders: Every worker will have these 4 things:
 - a) An Identification Badge
 - b) A handheld device
 - c) Census logo bag
 - d) Confidentiality notice

Request to see all 4 items. They are not allowed to come into your house. Call in any suspicious things.

- 3) Let your mail carrier know if you are the block watch captain-they can have helpful information.

VII. ADJOURNMENT : The meeting was adjourned.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2010

**St. Aemelian-Lakeside
3939 N. 88TH STREET
10:00 AM**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:
MEMBERS FROM US POST OFFICE**