



QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005, 7:00 P.M.
TOP OF THE CLIFF CLUB – BANK OF AMERICA**

Call to Order/Welcome - Joseph Hernandez called the meeting to order at approximately 7:06 p.m.

Introduction of First Guest Speaker – Terry Thomas introduced Corporal Steven Armon of the Southwest Division. Corporal Armon spoke on Crime Watch Resources. His primary responsibility is to organize Crime Watch Groups. In the Oak Cliff area they have around 83 groups. In our area for 2004, there were a total of 394 offenses. The highest category of offenses was “other thefts,” which are normally shoplifting, etc. The second highest category was car thief’s, etc. These statistics include the Wynnewood Shopping Center. We have three reporting areas that we get information for: Our neighborhood, the shopping center and the Parks at Wynnewood. The largest majority of the crimes were in the business areas. The City of Dallas is broken down into 6 divisions. We are in sector 4. The sectors are broken down to beats and reporting areas. Crime Watch groups report to the reporting areas.

911 Calls – Based on a 5-tier system. The most serious crimes have priority. Total response time is based on the dispatch time and other factors. Type 1 calls have a response time goal of 8 minutes. Type 2 calls are “urgent” calls such as prowlers, dropped 911 calls, major accidents, robbery, etc. Type 3 calls have a goal of 15 minutes. These include random gunfire, minor accident, burglar, alarm, injured person, suspicious person, open building, drunk, abandoned child, drug house, missing person and others. Type 4 calls are non-urgent calls. Examples are noise disturbances, etc. Type 5 calls are telephone service only; the expeditor unit follows up these calls.

Actual response time depends on many factors such as staffing at the division, weather condition, and location of the officer at the time of the dispatch, traffic conditions, and insufficient or incorrect information from the caller.

Online Crime Stats are located at www.dallaspolice.net - “get crime statistics”. You will need to know your beat or reporting area. If you don’t know your reporting area, you can click on the map and it will show you the beat for the area you live. You can compare yearly statistics and the stats for other beats.



Crime Prevention Programs:

1. VIP Program – observe, recognize, and report. This is non-confrontational.
2. Operation ID – is a program in which you mark your valuables with an i.d. number. This program helps to recover stolen property. You need to maintain a log of your valuables.
3. Help End Auto Theft “H.E.A.T.” – this is a voluntary statewide vehicle decal system designed to reduce car thefts. Under this program, the vehicle owner signs a consent form certifying that the police may legally stop and question the driver between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. to determine if the vehicle is being operated without the owner’s permission. Special decals are affixed to the front and back windows. To register, the vehicle owner must present the following: vehicle certificate of title, driver’s license, proof of insurance and telephone number where you can be reached during the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 a.m.
4. Home Security and Insurance Reduction Survey – Crime prevention specialist will use a checklist to perform a complete inspection of your home looking for specific requirements of the law that must be met to qualify for the reduction. An officer will examine doors, locks, windows, lights, landscaping, gates and garages.

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Has a crime packet available that lists all the programs. The packet can be printed out and is 217 pages long.

Every crime must have three elements:

Perpetrator

Victim

Opportunity

Remove any one element and no crime can occur.

Get together, have a block party and help each other mark your valuables. H.E.A.T. registration could be done as a group if it was a neighborhood project. Radio Shack has engravers.



Be aware of prowlers. Prowlers are just a burglar, thief or rapists who haven't committed a crime yet. Call 911 on all prowlers. We don't care if they are offended if they are stopped for questioning. Lower your tolerance level.

Introduction of Second Guest Speaker – Catherine Traweek. Ms. Traweek from the Spring Creek neighborhood association spoke on the Volunteers in Patrol (“VIP”). Spring Creek is an older neighborhood. She is married, with a small child, Olivia. What are some of the things we do to protect our homes: Alarms, lights, dogs, radio, keep your garage door shut. Know your neighbors. Do they have a housekeeper, do they do shift work? Form an alliance with your neighbors. After they started the non-confrontational program, the crime dropped significantly. When the patrols were at their highest the crime dropped significantly.

This program is non-confrontational. The Spring Creek association holds a monthly meeting to discuss the crime stats. While you on patrol, you drive the neighborhood for one or two hour shifts. If you see something that doesn't appear right, call 911. Resources and deployment of resources depend on 911 calls. It is assumed nothing is going on in the neighborhood if no calls are being made to 911. It can't be stressed enough that you need to call 911. Be responsible, be kind to each other, be a community.

Catherine left handouts regarding the VIP Program and the guidelines that have to be followed. There are strict guidelines to follow when involved in the program. The purpose of the program is to provide a visible presence in the neighborhood as a deterrent to criminal activity. Report suspicious or illegal activities to the police department to apprehend criminals. The patrols are 24 hours a day. When they first started patrolling, they focused on the evening hours. They currently have 65-70 volunteers helping to patrol their neighborhood. The Spring Creek Neighborhood Association funds the VIP program. They have three or four briefcases with VIP materials. The briefcase contains a police scanner, neighborhood directory, large mag flashlight and a cell phone and the signs for their cars. You must patrol in pairs. The shift is two hours per month. Typically the shifts are one to two hours.

Reading/Approval of Minutes - Joseph advised that the minutes from the last Quarterly meeting had been posted on the website. A motion was made by Stewart Rogers to approved the minutes and seconded by Joe Morolla. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Crime Watch Update – Terry Thomas



Last quarter crime activities were very limited. There were approximately 8 offenses. In the last week or two, there was a burglary with the theft of a TV. there was also a break-in through a bedroom window on Monssen. Christmas decorations were taken from Mayrant and another burglary on Bizertte.

Activities Update – Sue May

Sue reported on the Christmas party. The silent auction was very successful. We made approximately \$1,200.00 on the auction. We had the horse drawn carriage. Thanks to Jeremy Ratliff for organizing the event and Dr. Rupp and Tom Reeves for paying for the carriage.

Treasurer's Update – Tom Reeves

Tom presented a re-cap for the year. We ended the year with \$7,106.00 for the year. Remember that any donations to the association are tax-deductible.

General Items

Joseph complimented the neighborhood on the Christmas decorations.

1. December winner of Holiday Light Contest
 - a. Dwayne Privott & Lance Ivy – 520 Monssen
 - b. Mary Scherer & Cindy Kirk – 506 Woolsey
 - c. Mr. And Mrs. Ramon Garcia – 631 Mayrant
2. All By-Laws Changes – Dean reviewed the changes in the bylaws. A motion was made by Janice Coffee to approve the revisions to the bylaws. Jeremy Ratliff seconded the motion. The motion carried and the bylaw revisions were approved.
3. 2005 Elections – Joseph advised that positions on the Board are for one year, and as of this meeting the 2004 Board terms are up.

President – Dean Rose

Vice President – Greg Gormley

Secretary – Christine Connelly

Treasurer – Tom Reeves

Activities – John Ridgley

Beautification – Jeremy Ratliff

Communications – Andy Shell



Crime – Mary Scherer
Publications – Joseph Hernandez
Special Projects – Cindy Kirk

A motion was made by Helen Schneider to ratify the 2005 Board as presented. The motion carried was approved by 100% of the members in attendance.

4. Quarterly WNNA Award – Terry Thomas and Janice Coffee were awarded the Quarterly WNNA Award. They will be given a gift certificate for dinner at a restaurant in Oak Cliff. Paula Graves noted that Janice has lived in the neighborhood since she was 9 years old and is a true asset.

Silver - announced that there will be a concert at the Methodist Church and the money raised will be donated to the Tsunami relief effort. The concert is January 30th. There are flyers on the table if you are interested in attending.

Joseph – announced that he has been in contact with Lakecliff Neighborhood Association. They are having problems with crime right now and asked for assistance in reporting anything they see. Elmwood Association has also had an increase in time.

In Oak Cliff – there will be a Community meeting to discuss the Tiff district on January 24th at 5:30 at Medical City Center.

Andy Shell is very involved in the effort for Citizens for Responsible Liquor Sales. The group is raising money for a polling effort to see what Oak Cliff has a whole would like to see done. The polling would help determine what should go on the ballot. If it is 65% positive, the item can be put on the ballot. The vision was to be able to buy beer and wine in the grocery stores – not necessarily liquor stores. There is a meeting on Feb. 5th. There is a party on Feb. 3rd in Kessler Park. It was commented that this issue is coming to the forefront due to changes in the Lake Cliff area, the Ft. Worth Avenue area and other areas developing. It is difficult to get growth because the area is dry. The issue is getting a second look in order to make the development area more attractive and to grow our tax base. We need to raise \$10,000 to raise enough money to do the survey. That is the beginning of the process of making Oak Cliff a wet area.

Bulky trash goes out now.
Engraving tool will be at Mary Scherer's home.



Kroger store triangles – there are plans to build condominiums.
New neighbors – Bob Roberts and Mitchell Hosowitz have bought the home on Hoel.

Open Forum

Next Meeting is April 2005, 7:00 p.m. – Top of the Cliff Club

Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.