



Special Meeting of the Wynnewood North Neighborhood Association

June 3, 2004

Call to Order: Joseph Hernandez, President of WNNNA called the Special Meeting to order. Joseph introduced Officers Robinson, Foster and Lt. Thominson. The meeting was at full capacity with numerous neighbors who had never attended a meeting before. WNNNA is fortunate to have our own designated officers to patrol the neighborhood.

Lt. Thominson addressed the association. He noted that while at the meeting, they have additional patrols covering the neighborhood during the meeting. Lt. Thominson noted that for the first time WNNNA has had started to have escalating crime issues. During the day, there are actually two officers out patrolling WNNNA from the storefront office. There are two officers patrolling during the day and one officer patrolling at night. They have two suspects who have robbed in the neighborhood; they have also committed crimes in Duncanville. They have been working on this pair of criminals for the past two weeks. Things we can do to limit crime include knowing your neighbor. This meeting is a great start. Many crimes are solved from call in sheets.

The two suspects vary in description – 2 black males between 18 and 26. The elderly people that are being robbed have been followed home from stores. If you notice someone following you home, don't pull into your driveway. Leave, go to a public place and call the police. Lt. Thominson feels that if we don't catch them we can at least displace them. The car has been described as a black Lexus, however in other crimes; they have been using a stolen car. If you see something that isn't right, call 911. The theory behind calling 911 rather than the substation is that the first available officer will come out. The Dallas Police department has no control over the 911 call system; it is controlled by the Dallas Fire Dept. 911 makes the determination as to the ranking of the calls. There is hope there will be a new priority system when the new Chief takes over.

Last Wednesday, Officer Foster chased two suspects who ended up being wanted for burglary, one of the suspects had a \$500,000 bond warrant out for him. Both had parole violation warrants.

No one has been hurt to date in the armed robberies. There is no better description on the cars. If you have information, it will depend on the type of activities you are observing.

The robberies have occurred either in the afternoon or evening/nighttime. The weapon being used is a pistol. The average goal time for a 911 response is 8 minutes. For a robbery that had



just occurred is 15 minutes. On a Saturday night, the division will be holding 40-50 calls – it's not a perfect system.

The 911 call is free – please call if you see something suspicious. Numerous calls have been called after the fact from the call sheets. However if there is not detail to the calls, they are not helpful and a record might not be made.

It would be a good idea to note the make model and tag number of cars seen in the neighborhood that neighbors don't recognize. If the driver sees you noting the tag number, it is also a deterrent.

Lt. Thominson relayed a story regarding burglars who were robbing homes at night using garage door openers. It is a good idea to drive in your garage, with your doors locked and putting the garage door down before unlocking your car. It is less likely to be robbed during the day. Bill Poteet was robbed at 1:30 in the afternoon, the other robbery occurred at 11:30 a.m. By far, the victim that cooperates is not hurt.

Has Kroger participated in helping the crime issue in their parking lot? No – they are a business and leave it to the police. A neighbor noted he saw two youth running from the Kroger parking lot with two purses, and the security guard didn't call. Officer Foster noted that she took that call and they actually captured the thief.

Neighbor on Mayrant and Llewellyn noted he constantly hears gunshots from his home. Lt. Thominson noted that even though the Dallas Police Department issues posters advising people not to shoot up in the air. However, most never bother to call it in, because last time he called in the 911 dispatcher argued with Joey about calling it in.

911 needs to get all the information they get to let the officers know what they are walking into – at the same time, the 911 system could use improvement. Helen Schneider had the same issue when she called 911 about gun shots. Lt. Thominson noted he would see what he could do about a stronger presence in the apartments.

Jeremy noted that he had excellent response from our officers when he had called in suspicious behavior.

A neighbor noted he had seen an old beat up white van with dark tinted windows that parked in front of his house, and then they drove slowly down the neighborhood.



Lt. Thominson noted that officers are human and trying to do a job. To do that job, communication with the neighbors is essential.

Friday and Saturday nights are hopping for the division. There has been no additional fires or arson that we are aware of. Robert Curin noted that he has seen a tremendous increase in the police patrol. He also noted there is a huge influx of people driving the neighborhood looking for recyclable trash. Suspicious cars drive slowly through the neighborhood. Lt. Thominson noted it is illegal to go through bulk trash.

Lt. Thominson doesn't feel car stickers for residents wouldn't really work.

A neighbor noted that the businesses of Wynnewood North don't really act as good neighbors. She also noted that the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce had a stake in this as well. Businesses should care about the neighbors around them. She found it disturbing that we would let the businesses off the hook because they make a profit. She feels we should seek to make the businesses more accountable for safety.

Nelda has shopped at Kroger's for 36 years and has never had a problem.

Lt. Thominson is not convinced that the apartments are the source of the crime. Officer Robinson stated that 9 times out of 10 these people are coming in off the bus and are not from the area. Many have been from the lower Greenville area. The officers are looking at people coming in from the outside.

Fred Duren noted that there was a "rogue" path cut through from Clarendon to the neighborhood and questioned if that issue had been addressed. Joseph advised that a fence had been installed with our District 1 and 3 representatives. The area in question is where Dart is accessing the rail because there is no alternative route. The issue is still being worked on. There is some type of fence that has been put up temporarily.

Neighborhood crime watch – volunteers on patrol. The Dallas Police will provide all the training. There are several different programs. One is Volunteers on Patrol; training is two to three days. The neighborhood will schedule the patrols. If something is reported, the Police respond immediately. The Dallas Police provide a security report for homes, and in addition to helping to harden your home as a target for criminals, you might qualify for a home owner's insurance discount.

Without the neighborhoods eyes and ears – they are no good.

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Thanking the police.

Joseph recapped that we have a problem in our neighborhood and the WNNA Board works hard to address the crime issue. Joseph wants us to be paranoid and be aware we have a problem. This is beyond stealing flower pots from front porches. Don't go home and do the "slam click." Tonight is a good example; there are numerous people at the meeting we have never seen at a general meeting. How many people do you know here this evening? Try and make your home appear as if someone is there. Go to Home Depot and buy a timer and install it. Be proactive. Do you know what your neighbors drive and you know where your neighbors live? We need to be more aware, but we assume most people know who lives on their street. Meet your neighbor – if you don't know them, introduce yourself. We will weather this storm of crime.

The floor was open to WNNA residents for Questions and Answers.

Sue May – Suggested that we have 5 extra minutes when we get ready to leave, cruise the streets. Lt. Thominson noted in humor that if we get called in for cruising the neighborhood we will be pulled over...

Helen noted that having a dog also helps to deter crime. She suggested going to the SPCA and adopting a dog.

Joseph noted that we will be posting additional information on the website that Lt. Thominson mentioned. If you don't have a computer, we will have the information in the neighborhood newsletter or we will print out the information and bring it to you. If you see the Neighborhood Alert signs out – call the number to find out what is going on. If you need a magnet, call Sue May.

A neighbor also questioned if there was anything we could do about the speeders. Joseph stated that the speeding question is throughout the neighborhood. The issue is being addressed and we are also looking at trying to block off a street.

Terry Thomas noted that we have 10-15 people already driving the neighborhood. Both Kidd Springs and Elmwood are not having the problems we are.

Bill – was walking was the victim of a strong arm robbery where he lost his wallet. Mr. Nesbit was approached by two black males with a gun who stole his wallet. Mr. McKeever– taken by gun point into his home and robbed and his car was then stolen. Mr. McKeever's car was stolen again after it was returned. It has now been recovered again, but was involved in an accident. The person driving was arrested. Terry reiterated to call if you see

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anything suspicious. An employee of a neighbor actually saw who robbed Joseph and Jeremy's home, but didn't realize anything was going on. The WYNN shopping center is having armed robberies and there was also a car jacking on Illinois and Zang. Terry advised he wouldn't go to the shopping center after dark.

Officer Robinson addressed the group. She advised that if you leave your home you should let someone know where you are going, and if possible, try and take someone with you. The Dallas police have stepped up their patrol. Don't hesitate to flag the police down.

Officer Foster seconded what Officer Robinson stated. He also noted that he felt we should call 911 with any concerns.

Neighbor question – do speed bumps deter speeding and possible crime? The officers responded that in their experience, they have helped some, but weren't the solution.

Meeting was adjourned.