

## CVCA SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

2/9/2012

### 1. Attendance at Monthly CVCBD Program Committee meetings:

After the July 2010 Pitcairn murder in the 2600 block of St. Paul Street and subsequent community safety meetings held in August 2010, I started attending the CVCBD Program Committee meetings, which are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at 2434 St. Paul Streets, as a member of the CVCA Safety Committee. By attending this meeting, I try to stay updated on Program Services and try to bridge the gap between CVCBD Program Services and the concerns of residents. It is my understanding that the CVCBD Safety Program provides the following services and/or is working to implement them: a) a camera surveillance system, which would be tied into the City's monitoring system, in targeted locations throughout Charles Village; 2) prepares and maintains the Court Watch List and Community Impact Letters, 3) conducts Monthly Safety Advisory Council meetings, 4) builds the Block Captain communication and education system, which includes the establishment of a Facebook account, 5) supports Neighborhood Walkers on Patrol, 6) prepares and circulates a weekly Crime Alert with information provided by Northern District and JHU Security, 7) coordinates with Northern District officers and city officials as needed, and 8) handles resident safety and crime prevention concerns. You can learn more about the current CVCBD Program Services by visiting their website at [www.charlesvillage.org](http://www.charlesvillage.org).

### 2. Handle Resident Complaints:

Often, residents send their crime prevention and safety concerns to the CVCA Safety Committee by email to me directly or to the CVCA website at [www.charlesvillage.net](http://www.charlesvillage.net). These emails from residents include notifications of crimes that have occurred to them or to their neighbors, complaints about suspected illegal activity occurring in their block, and requests for help. By responding to these requests for help, I attempt to connect residents with safety services that are available to assist them with safety and crime prevention concerns and to educate them on crime prevention tips, e.g., security audits, crime watch ID, language to use when making a 911 call, building a nuisance house case, etc. It would be great if the Chair of the Safety Committee was able to refer these requests for help to the CVCBD Safety Program Staff to be handled in the same way, to receive follow up confirmation from the Safety Program and to receive a copy of responses CVCBD gives to residents.

### 3. Courtwatch and CVCBD Safety Advisory Council meetings:

Steve Gerwitz, a committee member, tracks the court cases from arrest to conviction and supplies regular email updates on cases to his email list of interested residents. Steve [gerwitz@bellatlantic.net](mailto:gerwitz@bellatlantic.net) also makes sure that all arrests of interest to the community make it to the CVCBD Courtwatch list Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke has also appeared at most of the hearings.

Steve Gerwitz and I attend the CVCBD Safety Advisory Council Meetings, which are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1 PM at 2434 St. Paul Street, to follow the CVCBD

Courtwatch effort, which is a joint effort between CVCBD, State's Attorney, and the community; and, to meet with Northern District Police, safety professionals from JHU, Union Memorial, BMA, Parole and Probation, Stan Janscek, Inspection Supervisor, Dept of Housing, and community reps from Abell, Harwood, Old Goucher, Barclay, and Oakenshawe to discuss coordination of safety and crime prevention efforts, including Drug/Prostitution Nuisance House Cases. . After the SAC meetings, community reps also meet with Officer Doug Gibson, Northern District Neighborhood Services Officer, to discuss building Nuisance House cases using the new Nuisance House ordinance for behavior other than Drug/Prostitution Arrests. We need for the CVCBD Safety Program to schedule more regular meetings with Officer Doug Gibson to discuss nuisance house issues.

4. Extension of Charm City Circulator Purple Route:

The CVCA Safety Committee, working jointly with Old Goucher and Charles North Community Associations, has a draft letter prepared on the expansion of the Purple Line from Penn Station to University Parkway and is still in the process of reaching out to organizational partners such as JHU, Union Memorial, BMA, and the North Charles Village and Old Goucher Business Association for their formal support. The plan is to submit the letter by March 1.

5. Pedestrian Lighting:

The CVCA Safety Committee has also compiled a list of areas where enhanced pedestrian lighting is needed, e.g. 2600 block of St. Paul Street, and will be submitting its request to the Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works by March 1, after obtaining support from community partners listed above.

Recipient of a grant in 2010 from the GOCCP for its Light Up the Night Project, the CVCA Safety Committee continues to offer long life front and back porch lightbulbs to residents who commit to keeping their porch lights on from dusk to dawn or who have motion sensors. More funding is needed to assist homeowners who need fixtures installed in the front or rear.

6. Expanded Safety Patrols:

The CVCA Safety Committee continues to meet with JHU to discuss extending the JHU Safety Patrols south of 27th Street.

The CVCA Safety Committee asks the CVCBD to institute targeted patrols by off-duty police officers, one of the proposed CVCBD Safety Program Enhancements which were tabled by the CVCBD Board for 2011-2012. At the time it was hoped that there would be adequate funding for this enhancement until the proposed increase in the CVCBD Surtax was rejected by the City Board of Estimates in 2011.

The CVCA Safety Committee continues to work with CVCBD to build volunteer participation for Neighborhood Walkers on Patrol. This continues to be an uphill struggle and the

CVCA Safety Committee would like to have more success in building community participation in the walks.

7. Prostitution Prevention Strategy:

The CVCA Safety Committee, working with Old Goucher Community Association and Major Tapp-Harper of the Northern District Police, has been working on a Prostitution Prevention Strategy which includes enhanced patrols by police, accompanying trained volunteers to track license plates of vehicles displaying suspicious behavior (circling, cruising, stopping/parking illegally, etc. in targeted areas at targeted times for the purpose of the Northern District sending letters to the vehicle owners notifying them that they are being watched and encouraging them to discontinue the behavior. The group's last meeting was on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6 PM at 2434 St. Paul Street to discuss volunteer training by Northern District, the status of our request for support to the CVCBD Safety Program, which was delivered to the Program Committee on 1/4/2012, and a suggestion for CVCBD to coordinate a safety strategy with Midtown Benefits District, who has officers on segways. The group has asked the CVCBD for administrative support such as email notices to the community, volunteer development, scheduling, and information collection, database maintenance, handling phone calls and email inquiries, etc. Initially, the CVCBD Safety Coordinator, Diana Mitchell, scheduled a meeting between concerned residents and Major Tapp-Harper on December 13, 2011, at Northern District to discuss the continuing prostitution problem below 25th Street and the fact that has been observed by residents to be moving north of 25th Street and West of Charles Street, despite midnight walks scheduled for over a year by Old Goucher residents. The Prostitution Strategy Planning Group was formed as a result of that initial meeting. The group's next meeting is Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to discuss the enforcement of the "Prostitution Free Zones" Ordinance by the Police Commissioner. Guest Speaker will be James H. Green, Legal Affairs Division, Baltimore City Police Department.

CVCBD Safety Coordinator, Diana Mitchell, [diana@charlesvillage.org](mailto:diana@charlesvillage.org) has a plan to circulate self-help pamphlets with Charles Village Foot Patrol Police Officer, Bill O'Donnell to encourage prostitutes to find another means of support. The City States Attorney's office has a diversion program for Prostitutes where they offer targeted assistance to Prostitutes who are arrested.

8. Block Leader Program:

The CVCA Safety Committee continues to forward names to Allison, [allison@charlesvillage.org](mailto:allison@charlesvillage.org) a VISTA worker at the CVCBD to grow the block leader program. Block leaders assist in gathering questions from residents and directing them to the right place for an answer, and in delivering information from CVCA and CVCBD to the residents.

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