

UNC Public Safety Working Group Kickoff Meeting

Saturday 8/26/17, 10-11:30am

21 people in attendance

Meeting read-out:

1. Attendees discuss high-priority issues. What are potential topics for the Working Group to focus on?

- Drug use, including response to overdoses and enforcement of drug-free zones
- Solicitation (e.g. on Newton and Georgia)
- Specific problem corners/properties – e.g. known problem areas on Newton, Princeton and Quebec
- Visibility – use of cameras. Are people using cameras? Do we have them in the right places? Are they working?
- Vacant properties
- Police presence – how many officers are patrolling our area, when, and where are they stationed? How does coverage in Park View compare to coverage in other areas? (Perception that we are not receiving the same attention as other neighborhoods)
 - Communication/coverage issues related to the fact that we're on the dividing line between PSAs 409 and 302
 - Need to improve communication between neighbors and MPD – it often feels like we're not getting information
- Deterring minor crime/"broken window theory" – car break-ins, stolen packages, better lighting, etc.
- 311/911 requests – which to call when and etiquette for calls (e.g. how to ensure that you know the outcome of a 911 call; type of information to give when you call 911)
- Speeding on Park Place
- DPR programming – supporting more/better programming at Park View Rec
 - Need a better understanding of the responsibility of DPR staff to deter minor incidents on the grounds of the Rec – e.g. smoking pot at the picnic shelter
- Better enforcement against parking violations by out of state vehicles (tied to drug activity)
- Neighbor-to-neighbor communications – how do we ensure neighbors know what the working group is doing and are getting information? What about those who don't use email/seniors?
 - Compiling and distributing information on public safety/resources to the community

2. Attendees discuss first-step tasks related to these issues and assign point people to each task.

If you are interested in getting involved with a particular task, please email Elanor Starmer or Cliff Valenti (elanor.starmer@gmail.com, cliffvalenti@outlook.com) and we will connect you with the designated point people.

- Create a master spreadsheet where we can track information related to problem areas – incidents and responses. Spreadsheet can be linked to Google map allowing us to visually map problem areas.
- Create listserv for Public Safety Working Group (google group)
- Research process for addressing vacant properties (DCRA, MPD, Department of Tax and Revenue, DOH for rat issues) so we can better engage and advocate when issues arise
 - We discussed checking on properties on a weekly basis to document issues/responses
- Research MPD coverage of our area and how that compares to other neighborhoods so we can better advocate for resources with Chief and Council
 - MPD will also present at each monthly UNC meeting and we discuss having a Working Group presence at quarterly PSA meetings.
 - Councilmember Nadeau's office should also be involved here
- Research with DPR what staff coverage at the rec center looks like and what their responsibility is vis a vis minor crime taking place on rec grounds
 - We would also like to engage in the future to support more/better/better publicized programming at the rec
- Create a flier that can be distributed on cars and to homes with information about how to deter minor crime and who to call if there are issues
- Compile and publicize resources for the community: Gather points of contact at relevant agencies/offices, events in the community, other resources (e.g. camera rebate program)
 - Point of Contact: Park View UNC board, working with Councilmember Nadeau's office; to be posted to UNC website and disseminated in other ways for those who don't use computers
- Report all incidents and issues, and document issues and response
 - Everyone
- Overall oversight/management of Working Group: Elanor Starmer and Cliff Valenti (elanor.starmer@gmail.com, cliffvalenti@outlook.com)

Additional issues discussed:

- Need to look comprehensively at addressing drug use – not just MPD but also DBH for treatment (CM Nadeau has been working on this)
- Need to think about how to better advocate with MPD watch commanders – they decide where patrols are going. If there are only 2 officers covering the area from Park Place to 16th st., they will get pulled to address issues in Columbia Heights and we will have no one.

- Need to better understand how to get response on parking violations – DPW/ROSA is not easy to figure out how to navigate. Parking enforcement does not come through during listed hours. MPD/911 will play role if there is illegal activity taking place in cars
- How do we use the media to bring attention to issues?