

Subject: Re: More Police? It's up to you!
Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2006 11:43 AM
From: LonLL@aol.com
To: <tayles@jps.net>

Andrew,

Below is a copy of a letter to Sally Clark which I sent via email this morning and will hand deliver at tonight's hearing. I have similar copies individually addressed to each council member -- and one mailed to the mayor. In each letter, I have included a chart that reflects crime statistics in our area over the past five years (attached).

I hope to testify by referring to the crime data from Census Tracts 76 and 77, the tracts that include the Miller Park area and my immediate neighborhood. While the statistics for the past five years show a relative improvement, the data for **this year** shows a huge increase in key crimes in both neighborhoods. Combined with the rapid growth of new housing and businesses, the rise in crime over the past eight months is a frightening trend. I hope this research provides compelling evidence of the need for more police.

I will try to arrive as close to 4:30 as possible, although it may be closer to 5:00. Thanks for letting me know about the public hearing. See you tonight.

Thanks.
Lonnie

October 10, 2006

Councilmember Sally Clark
Seattle City Council
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Clark,

I am writing in support of the Miller Park Neighborhood Association and the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition requests for additional funding in the City's 2007-2008 Budget in order to provide more police officers in our neighborhoods.

The attached document includes Seattle Police Department crime statistics over the past five year for Census Tracts 76 and 77, the two tracts closest to the Miller Park Neighborhood. I live in Censes Tract 77.

As you can see from the data in red, over the first eight months of 2006, crime has increased in both census tracts over the same period in 2005. **Overall, since the start of this year, the number of crimes in Tract 77 rose by 20% and crimes in tract 76 increased by 15%.** Especially disconcerting are the increases in Vandalism and Offenses Against Families and Children. In my census tract alone (77), **offenses against**

families and children doubled and vandalism increased 147%.

You will also see that prior to the current year, most crime statistics in these two census tracts followed a pattern of relative decreases. I am not sure what may have changed. Regardless of the explanation however, what is particularly alarming is that, given the rapid growth of new housing and commercial buildings in this area, the opportunities for crime have increased exponentially.

Over the past five years, **more than 1,000 new residential and commercial units have been constructed within an eight-block radius of where I live and work.** Most of these new units have become occupied within the past 18 months. This growth means more children play in our yards and on our sidewalks; more vehicles are parked on our streets; and more business transactions are made here than ever before.

My business is located in my home. I have lived here for 16 years. Like many of my neighbors, my car was broken into and a bicycle was stolen from my garage. Many of us have witnessed drug deals, drug use, individuals loitering near our homes and businesses, cars being vandalized, and other crimes. Many of us have called 911 to report these crimes.

Due to such rapid growth, the chances these crimes will increase around us are much higher than in many or most other Seattle neighborhoods. We are more than concerned. We are afraid.

I join my friends and neighbors in urging you to consider adding funds to the City Budget in order to allow greater police protection in our neighborhood. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Lusardo

In a message dated 10/10/06 8:33:04 AM, tayles@jps.net writes:

Here's a quick reminder about Wednesday's City Council Budget Hearing (5:30 PM at City Hall, turn up early if you can).

Councilmember Steinbrueck has gone out on a limb to suggest such a large increase in the number of Police Officers in Seattle. Other Councilmembers may be convinced to support him IF they see lots of us at the hearing on Wednesday.

So please attend (and/or write). Even if you don't choose to speak in public, your presence there will speak volumes. It's up to you.

Many thanks,

Andrew Taylor
Miller Park

<http://home.jps.net/~tayles/handout.pdf>

and further details (and contact info) are provided by the Chair of the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition:

<http://home.jps.net/~tayles/EPCPC.pdf>