

MPNA meeting 4/19/05

[apologies for errors, omissions, etc – I can only write so fast]

[shorthand: MM stands for SPD Capt. Mike Meehan, AT stands for MPNA chair Andrew Taylor.]

AT called the meeting to order, discussed the upcoming citywide crime summit with a review of the Licata position and the Racial Disparity Project on eliminating buy-bust operations. Also noted the Mayor's meeting on Saturday re. Business district strategy and the effects on parking.

MM spoke for some time, providing intros to (Ofc?) Eric Santo, night shift commander, Lt. John Hayes, Ofc. Davis, Sonja Richter, and Dan Okada.

He gave some statistics on the East Precinct:

Covers 9 square miles and 90k people, most densely populated precinct in city

2/3 multifamily buildings

140 employees total for the East Precinct division of SPD

crime in every category is down 12% from previous year

clearance rates for crimes ("solving" the crime or making an arrest) – up 14%

for 2005 through April 14th:

144 felony narcotics arrests – more than any other precinct

10 search warrants served – more than any other precinct

x? controlled buys

for the MPNA area census tracts 76-79, crime is down 3%

21st and Madison – 12 buy busts so far this year (about 1/week) – more than any other area

21st and Madison is their #1 priority in the Precinct as far as allocation of resources

SPD also working with Dept. of Corrections, Gang unit, SWAT, Traffic depts.

Working on right now:

Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA) – if you're arrested for drugs, you can't go back to that area, or you can be arrested just for being there – this has been very effective

Alcohol Impact Area (AIA) – city requests liquor board to stop selling cheap, high-alcohol content beverages (e.g. 40 oz. malt liquor), and no alcohol sales between 6 am and 9 am when kids go to school

There were also 4 Vice operations at 21st and Madison

Dealers in this area are sophisticated, with multiple layers of suppliers, and are adjusting their operations to counteract SPD methods of enforcement

You can have high expectations for the SPD, but please be reasonable.

New license plate recognition video recognition in patrol cars to catch stolen cars

Need more cops (much more), and the cops need to have teeth (ability to enforce)

Citizen asks: what about the bike patrol? Don't see it around here

MM: 80% of their time is on Broadway in Capitol Hill because it is the most dense, and the bike patrol is best for covering wide areas

Citizen who is one of the "22nd and Madison People":

Neighbors around her are very frustrated, to the point that things have progressed to vigilantism. Neighbors are fighting face-to-face with the bad element on Madison. They are frustrated with 911. They support the SPD, but things are getting very bad. The neighborhood is angry and they are beginning to go out and throw punches.

MM: Recently addressed major complaints from area at 28th and Dearborn. In a 2-hour walk in the neighborhood, they found most of the problems were coming from 4 houses. This was very productive in addressing the problems.

Of 800 calls in a recent time period, 500 were initiated by SPD – SPD initiates 2/3 of enforcement activity. You have to call, you have to communicate with the SPD.

AT: Lots of people have come to these neighborhood meetings before with energy, and eventually become frustrated and given up

Stephanie Tschida, chair of East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition, and Brad (?), the vice-chair of the org. Largest crime prevention coalition in the city, citizen's group, is listened to by city.

MM: People downtown are more united, so city council listens to them more than the East Precinct. You should find areas of agreement and band together with other community groups to make your voice heard.

Lt. Hayes: Working to bring in as many resources as possible to 21st and Madison, to tell the people "If you want to get off the street, get clean and sober, get a job, the services are there for you"

Get Off The Street (GOTS) program – resulted in more people using the area, less criminal activity during the day

Denise Hartley – SPD Weed and Seed coordinator:

Need to spend money on prevention and enforcement both

Dollars have dropped, but the use of the money has improved through resident input

Are now in last 5 months of funding

4 specific outreach programs

Krishna – invite city council members to live in our neighborhood for a week, sleep in our houses, shop at our groceries, go walking past Deano's. AT distributed sign-up list for Sleepover Plan to take to City Council

Mike – Proposal to put surveillance cameras at 21st and Madison
Cameras on network, so neighbors, police, 911 can all view
Allows neighbors to report safely and without fear of retribution
Will also record events for playback later – many times there is gunfire, police response is fast but shooters are already gone and do not get arrested. Can use this recording for apprehension and prosecution of criminals

Dan Okada: some existing cameras privately funded and operated from private property in Pioneer Square and SODO areas
Public property/funding would require city council approval

AT: be at meeting at 5 pm to sign up for a speaking position, or you will have no chance to speak

Priorities to convey for Crime Summit:
#1 safety – gunfire needs to be stopped!
#2 helping the street people/addicts
#3 ending “nuisance” crimes
(also) – specific mention of Deano's at 21st and Madison – that's where the problems are coming from

AT: can't depend on Deano's redevelopment to happen or to solve the problems

Brad: objects to Licata's classification of drug-dealing as a “nuisance” crime

Officer Davis: call 911, call me; this is a big problem – enforcement and outreach together still won't solve this overnight

Citizen: Deano's is a nuisance property. In Albuquerque these kind of places are shut down and the people kicked out

Krishna: what is being done at a high level to solve the drug problem at its source?

Santo: SPD tries to get in higher and deeper, but very difficult in this neighborhood because they are very established.

Citizen: in other area in East Precinct, got emergency abatements in 3-4 months

AT: Dean Falls has major influence, got 2-hour meeting with Mayor when community leaders couldn't. When city shut down Oscar's, they got a big settlement out of the city, so they are now reluctant to do anything.

Davis: organize better, have 1 point person for each area or problem to follow up with Davis and others

AT: Keep up with the website logs

Lt Hayes: motivational speech – don't care if Dean Falls builds or not – we're going to take them out. Board the buildings up. Take action. Don't give up.