

MEETING MINUTES

West Town Community Meeting on Public Safety
Monday, February 6, 2017
Goldblatt's Building
Scheduled 6:00 - 7:15PM

Hosts: Beat 1221 CAPS Facilitator Kim Shepherd (Meeting Moderator), Smith Park Neighborhood Alliance, Chicago Grand Neighbors Association, West Town Neighbors Association.

Elected Officials and Police Personnel: First Ward Alderman Joe Moreno, Illinois Fourth District State Representative Cynthia Soto, Illinois Tenth District State Representative Melissa Conyears Irvin, and Twelfth District Police Commander Kulbida.

The meeting began about 6:10PM with more than 300 in attendance.

Kim Shepherd, CAPS Facilitator Beat 1221, who organized the meeting with the help of 1st Ward Alderman Joe Moreno's office and neighborhood community group leaders, served as moderator of the meeting. Kim introduced the key participants, city and state elected officials and police personnel who followed as speakers.

Kim Shepherd first provided a brief review of CPD's structure, the 12th District key officers covering our West Town area, and CAPS--community involvement.

Alderman Proco "Joe" Moreno reviewed the progress made in recent months:

Last fall 2016, in response to the community's strong advocacy for more police, he met with the newly appointed Superintendent Eddie Johnson and justified the need for more officers in the 12th and 14th districts. Division is the dividing line for these districts. Since then, the 12th district has added the most of any district in the city: 16 officers, 16 field trainers, 6 probationary officers and 2 lieutenants. This reflects the highest numbers of increased officers in the city. He has continued to advocate for equal distribution of CPD officers in our area. He was a critic of the overtime plan; the mayor has committed to adding 1,000 new officers. At the close of the application period, more than 13,000 people have applied to CPD.

Last year, he sponsored an ordinance for property tax relief, setting aside \$100 million to cover that rebate. Approximately \$17 million was applied for, leaving between \$80 and \$85 million remaining. Because the state has not had a budget for two years and has not funded nonprofits preventative services for crime, he's recommending the \$80-\$85 million be allocated to nonprofits for anti-violent and preventative-violent services since the state is not funding them.

The alderman thanked everyone for attending and encouraged communication through his weekly newsletter on Thursdays, social media, email. Later in the meeting he said he would provide answers and responses to all of the questions and proposed ideas.

Later in the meeting, in response to a question from attendee, and her expression of personal concern for her safety as a blind woman, the alderman said he would expedite what has been a slow process of getting a *Blind in the Area* sign request for Wood/Chicago near the Alcala's business establishment.

Ald. Moreno talked about how in Wicker Park extra Special Service Area (SSA) money was approved to hire private security/off duty police officers. He said he will look into using a portion of the West Town SSA money for Chicago Avenue to contract private security/off duty police officers. They complement and do not replace police. He is seeking support for this.

Illinois Fourth District State Representative Cynthia Soto primarily talked about how we residents need to stay alert to our surroundings and be cautious. Later in the meeting, Rep. Soto agreed to contact the State's Attorney about prosecuting juvenile crimes and she agreed to attend CAPS meetings. Several attendees asked Rep. Soto questions, but expressed strong disappointment with her responses.

Commander Kulbida postponed his scheduled vacation to attend this meeting because he recognized the grave importance of his presence at this meeting. He explained that the 12th District is very large in area and population. It stretches from Division Street to the north to the river to the south, Kedzie to the expressway, approximately 8-9 square miles. He first discussed some changes in area resources: He acknowledged that he has seen the spike in crime, so he has increased police officers in this area; daily traffic missions on all three watches from Hubbard to August, Ashland to Damen. He has seen lots of juveniles committing crimes, but unfortunately, they're back on the street a week later. The commander provided a comprehensive update on four shootings and various robberies in the area. First, recent shootings, some which are still under investigation:

1. Oakley & Chicago homicide: It was a retaliation murder--ie., an assassination, a hit.
2. 658 Racine: Sunday Feb 3 "street justice." Two individuals broke into someone's car and people followed them and shot them.
3. 1500 Huron: 3 people in car. Confidential, police working on it, related to a "problem establishment" in a different ward. More information will be shared in two weeks.
4. 1900 W. Chicago: Drive-by, no one filed a complaint, they don't know if gang members or road rage. Police still investigating and trying to enhance video.

Second, robberies: Numerous robberies and burglaries. People are committing robberies using stolen vehicles. Some have been arrested. One man was arrested recently who will be charged with numerous burglaries. Another was recently arrested who will have four charges. People in the communities have helped the police by providing videos and acting as live witnesses.

The commander provided examples of how we can help the police:

- He asked that homeowners and landlords put addresses on their garages along the alleys--this will help the police when they're chasing suspects who might jump fences into people's properties.
- He asked that people give their dog walkers and nannies codes to security systems--unfortunately, many unnecessary police calls go to homes with alarms accidentally set off by dog walkers and people authorized to enter the house, but who don't know the alarm is set. These calls take 10 to 15 minutes of time to check out, unnecessarily taking two cars of officers off the street.

The Commander offered his business card with his email address and encouraged people to contact him with questions and concerns.

Later in the meeting, the Commander explained that in Chicago it is legal for panhandlers to stand outside businesses and ask for money, but that it's not legal if they get aggressive, so calling the police is a solution if a panhandler gets aggressive--e.g., if you feel threatened because the panhandler grabs your arm or in some other way becomes aggressive.

He provided an example of how he saw stereo equipment left on the outside steps of a house easily accessible for someone to steal; he suggested that if we expect package deliveries and we know that we will not be home to accept, that we tell a neighbor and ask the neighbor to accept the package.

During Q&A, Commander Kulbida agreed to re-establish foot patrols on Chicago Avenue with new officers in the district. He discussed Traffic Missions (targeted areas of traffic enforcement) as a tool in fighting more dangerous crime.

In response to the Commander's discussion, **Kim Shepherd** read from a document *Community's Expectations*¹, what actions and how we as residents will participate and be involved in helping prevent crime and find solutions to the problems, including forming a special volunteer Public Safety Committee and advocating the state and city for the necessary resources. Two neighbors are researching group discounts for security cameras and ways to share video with one another and police.

West Town Neighbors Association President Liz Tomka who lives in the 26th Ward, Beat 1221, read the *Community's Expectations* of the Alderman, the police/police resources, and of State and Congressional elected officials. The *Community's Expectations* includes a list of expectations for actions compiled from West Town community social media postings and discussions with community organization leaders.

Top line includes the following: Addition of officers detailed in *Expectations* document, opening a 12th district satellite office in or near the former 13th district police station, restoring foot patrols, changing statutes related to breaks-ins of buildings and trespassing, creating legislation

¹ See Addendum for full document.

to allow judges to determine length of sentences, and adequate State funding for services as a means to preventing crime.

Illinois Tenth District State Representative Melissa Conyears Irvin of the far west Garfield Park attended to introduce herself and to be informed about our area. Her district includes parts of our area.

27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett arrived after attending another meeting and spoke with individuals after the meeting.

Q&A Highlights

1. Will the 13th District Police Station come back? Alderman Moreno said No, not possible due to massive cost of renovating. However, the alderman said he will advocate for the 404 police officers and to create a satellite office in the area for police to be able to go to fill out paperwork. He needs a sign off from Superintendent Eddie Johnson for the satellite office to happen.
2. Would Citizen Patrols help the police? Kim mentioned that 10 police officers live in the 1221 beat who offer up assistance. Commander Kulbida said he's not against citizen patrols, but that most important, citizens need to be aware of their surroundings and know their neighbors. Have never seen a community get together like this meeting. This is an example of what is needed throughout the city to prevent problems. Undercover officers drive around which we may not be aware of. This is when Ald. Moreno talked about using SSA money to pay for private security in commercial corridors, mentioned earlier in minutes. Commander Kulbida said he believes strongly in foot patrols.
3. How long are juveniles kept and how do we make that longer? What can we do about this? Laws exist at the county and state level, but it's up to the Cook County State's Attorney to enforce. Rep. Soto said she will meet with the State's Attorney to advocate for enforcement of longer time and sentences.
4. Question directed to Rep. Soto--are you a member of the Facebook UVNW group, are you aware of the crime in our neighborhood and do you attend CAPS meetings? Rep. Soto seemed unclear and confused as to what UVNW group is and she has not but will start attending CAPS meetings.
5. Ald. Moreno added information about how non-juveniles repeat offenders keep getting arrested, go to jail, come out shortly after because the amount of time judges are allowed to sentence is extremely limited by State law. Superintendent Johnson and Mayor Emanuel have advocated at the State level to change the law or create a new law that gives judges more freedom determining sentences. The alderman believes this is a very important issue for the community to support and force elected state officials to deal with.
6. Commander Kulbida talked about getting involved in the Court Advocacy Program.
7. Dan Johnson, EVA President, said we need a commitment from our elected officials to inform us on a regular basis (e.g., weekly, monthly) of what they've done to achieve our expectations and more. Alderman Moreno does a good job through his e-newsletter.

Note, attendees expressed strong disappointment in Rep. Soto and her lack of communication, lack of engagement with the community.

8. Kim Shepherd expressed that we need the U.S. Attorney to enforce federal laws to reduce gang crime.

Recap of What Community Members Can Do:

1. Put house numbers on your garage or fence so it is visible to police in the alley.
2. Post *No Trespassing* and *Neighborhood Watch* signs.
3. If you see something, say something and call 911.
4. Get to know your neighbors and if you are expecting a package, ask them to keep an eye out for it.
5. Provide anyone expected to enter your home with a security code.
6. Volunteer for the 12th district court advocacy group.
7. Follow a court case at www.vinelink.com.
8. Advocate to elected officials for changes required in the law to mitigate crime and increase sentences.
9. Volunteer for the West Town Public Safety Committee.
10. Commit to attending bi-monthly CAPS meetings regardless of the level of crime in the area.
11. Join "Ukrainian Village Neighborhood Watch" Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UKVillageWatch/>

ADDENDUM

Prepared by the meeting organizers, this document consists of the compiled ideas of actions and expectations posted on Facebook UVNW group page and the thoughts of community organization leaders. This document was shared with Alderman Joe Moreno, Representative Cynthia Soto and Commander Kulbida at the meeting.

WEST TOWN COMMUNITY PUBLIC SAFETY EXPECTATIONS February 6, 2017

It has been a privilege to live in a neighborhood with an involved community that will take action to protect one another. This community is a mixture of both the families who have been here for multiple generations who have built the foundation of West Town's neighborhoods and the newer families who also want to contribute to the growth and safety and stay here for many years to come.

But for our community to remain strong and grow, we need city leaders to provide support and resources now that will lead to solutions to reduce the crime and violence that have recently spiked in our neighborhood. We are all committed to our neighborhood and suggest setting the following goals that the city leaders and residents will work on collaboratively to make our neighborhood community a case study for turning around escalating violence with a well-executed plan that would be a standard for the rest of the city.

To restore a proper police presence in the 12th District/Near West, we respectfully request that our **Aldermen** work with **Mayor Rahm Emanuel** and **Supt. Eddie Johnson** to do the following:

- Add a net of 30 officers to the 12th District/Near West by July 1, 2017;
- Add the net number of officers needed by December 31, 2017 to reach a total of 404 officers, the number of officers working in the 12 District on August 16, 2014 (per July 28, 2014 FOIA request);
- To temporarily boost the number of officers on the street during peak crime hours, offer 12th District officers the opportunity to work overtime on 1st Watch on Saturday and Sunday and 3rd Watch on Friday and Saturday;
- While working towards building a new 13th District station which will provide a sustained level of police presence, open the much ballyhooed, but never opened, satellite office in the old 13th District Station from which officers can write and file reports instead of returning to the station.
- Restore foot patrols on Chicago Avenue from Noble to California and Division from Ashland to California;
- Restore wagon and park cars so that officers aren't pulled from their beats to transport

arrestees;

- Restore rapid response cars that can handle the overflow and reduce the number of "radio assignment pending" (RAP) incidences;
- Establish bike teams to work the 12th District's entertainment areas;
- Immediately replace the Robbery-Burglary Team's Detective Sergeant and the Sergeant of the Mission Team both of whom were promoted at the beginning of the year;
- Reduce to a minimum the number of officers holding in-station, non-bid desk jobs that be done by a civilian;
- Return all officers currently detailed out of the 12th District/Near West;
- Stop detailing officers to other districts to cover for special events unless it is on their regular day off;
- As needed, further revise the Investigative Stop Reports (ISR) to increase their usage;
- Extend free health benefits for officers citywide that are 55 and have 20 years on the job for an additional three years (age of 58) to encourage veteran officers to stay preventing a mass exodus in the next year giving CPD time to train new officers to take their place; and
- Convene a meeting between the offenders who are active in our area and designated members of the community that would facilitate a conversation to understand what it is that causes them to commit crimes in our community and talk about how we can help in ways that will turn them from crime. The offenders would need to know that they won't go to jail and we would need to know that we wouldn't be physically hurt.
- Work with the new U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois to initiate a program like "Project Exile" that was instituted in Richmond, VA. This program shifted the prosecution of illegal technical gun possession offenses to federal court, where they carried a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison under the federal Gun Control Act of 1968, rather than in state court.

To Elected State Officials:

- In Illinois, a criminal can be arrested for pulling on a vehicle door handle, but not the handle of a door of a building. There also is no law against trying to open a window of a building. Accordingly, we ask that changes be made to Illinois State Statutes making attempted break-ins of buildings a crime. Damage should not be the factor determining if a crime occurred.
- Individuals jumping a fence/gate or simply walking into a yard and trying the door can't

be arrested for trespassing unless a No Trespassing sign is up or the person refuses to leave after being done to do so by the building owner, inhabitant or their designated agent. The law needs to be changed to make it illegal in urban areas (population greater than 500,000) to enter the property of another person unless you are a first responder, utility worker or have been invited to do so by the building owner, inhabitant or the designated agent.

- The Illinois state budget crisis is irresponsible and is directly impacting the lives of its residents, especially Chicago. We need adequate funding for social services, education and job training programs as a means to preventing crime.

To Congressional Delegation:

- Consider making changes to the definition of the term "terrorist" under the United States Patriot Act to include "domestic street gangs." If known street gang members are treated as domestic terrorists, then law enforcement (local & federal) has the right to mitigate criminal activity before it happens.

What the Community Will Do:

- Establish a West Town Public Safety Committee (WTPSC) with a mandate to follow up on expectations presented tonight. The WTPSC will meet monthly and provide reports to aldermen, CDP/CAPS, area neighborhood organizations and Chambers. WTPSC will include one or more person from each beat, neighborhood organizations and the Special Service Area committee. These neighbors will be expected to present updates at neighborhood meetings and copy for newsletters;
- Begin a campaign directed to Illinois elected officials with a list of the changes required in state and federal law to mitigate crime in our area and citywide;
- Call 911 utilizing instructions from CPD on what to say when you call 911;
- Attend CAPS and meetings of neighborhood organizations regardless of crime levels;
- Affix address numbers and "No Trespassing" signs on garages or fences that are visible to police when they are answering 911 calls or patrolling alleys;
- Place "No Trespassing" and "Neighborhood Watch" signs in front yard, fence or window, etc.; and
- Participate in "Know Your Neighbors" initiatives that include phone/text trees, security cameras, etc.

Alderman Moreno's Response

-Add a net of 30 officers to the 12th District/ Near West by July 1, 2017.

*I met with Superintendent Eddie Johnson in August and demanded this request. He was very agreeable and stated that we would deliver on our demands. Since then, we have added the 30 officers and will continue to add more officers

-Add the net number of officers needed by Dec 31, 2017 to reach a total of 404 officers, the number of officers working in the 12th district on August 16,2014.

*See above... Superintendent Johnson knows of our pertinent request and will continue to add officers

-To temporarily boost the number of officers on the street during peak crime hours, offer the 13th District officers the opportunity to work overtime on 1st Watch on Sat and Sun and 3rd Watch on Fri and Sat.

*I spoke directly with the Commander regarding this request and he said he agrees, but needs to work on it.

-While working towards building a new 13th District station which will provide a sustained level of police presence, open the much ballyhooed, but never opened, satellite office in the old 13th District Station from which officers can write and file reports instead of returning to the station.

*As I stated at the meeting, the past Superintendent was not open to this but Superintendent Johnson is open to it. I am working on this and will have further updates soon.

-Restore foot patrols on Chicago Ave from Noble to California and Division from Ashland to California

*Done... Before our meeting started last Monday, I asked Commander Kulbida that he reinstate the foot patrols and he agreed. The foot patrols started last Tuesday.

-Restore wagon and park cars so that officers aren't pulled from their beats to transport arrestees.

*The commander is aware of this request and will get back to me.

-Restore rapid response cars that can handle the overflow and reduce the number of "radio assignment pending" (RAP) incidences

*Again, The commander is aware of this request and will get back to me.

-Establish bike teams to work the 12th District's entertainment areas

*The Commander stated that this is his 3rd priority as he receives more officers

-Immediately replace the Robbery-Burglary Team's Detective Sergeant and the Sergeant of the Mission Team both of whom were promoted at the beginning of the year,

*The Commander said that he is looking to do this with his added officers by moving seasoned officers up.

-Return all officers currently detailed out of the 12th District/ Near West

*See above

-Stop detailing officers to other districts to cover for special events unless it on their regular day off.

*Done

-As needed, further revise the Investigative Stop Reports (ISR) to increase their usage.

*I sent a letter and had a conversation with Superintendent Johnson regarding this as it is, ultimately, his responsibility.

-Extend free health benefits for officers citywide that are 55 and have 20 years on the job for an additional three years (age of 58) to encourage veteran officers to stay-- preventing a mass exodus in the next year giving CPD time to train new officers to take their place.

*This is really a Police Union and Mayoral role. I have sent letters to the union and the Mayor, and made phone calls, advocating for this position. Because, as Aldermen, we vote on CPD's budget

-Convene a meeting between the offenders who are active in our area and designated members of the community that would facilitate a conversation to understand what it is that causes them to commit crimes in our neighborhood and talk about how we can help in ways that will turn them from crime. The offenders would need to know that they won't go to jail and we would need to know that we wouldn't be physically hurt.

Two answers ---- I have hosted Keeping it Real--- where ex-felons, mainly burglars, talk to constituents about how they approach robbing a house, person, business, etc. They give tips on how to avoid such interactions. I will be hosting more of these events. We also need to fund Cease Fire- which is an organization of ex-gang members that want to do good in our community and get involved in "gang shootings/ rivalries". They have been very successful and the Chicago Tribune researched their work and concluded it was a net positive for our communities. I was a financial contributor and volunteer for Cease Fire before I was Alderman and I am now pushing the Mayor to fund Cease Fire at the City level since the State is not funding anything.

