

Sector E Beat Management Team Meeting
May 7, 2008

The monthly Sector E meeting was held at MacDuffie School at 9:00 AM on May 7. Reporting for Deputy William Cochrane, who is recovering from shoulder surgery, were Sgt. Ferreira and Officer Michael Carney. The "hot spots" detail has focused on Avon Place and the South End. Improvement was cited in a building at Main and Marble Streets that had been a trouble spot. The police are taking a tougher stand on ordinance violations. There have been a number of recoveries of stolen motor vehicles and a number of arrests for motor vehicle B&Es. Officer Carney asked us to advise our neighbors not to leave anything on the front seat or attached to the windshield of their cars. The recent opening of LA Fitness is good news for the riverfront park. LA Fitness will open up the park for running and biking.

Neighborhood issues were then discussed. Officer Carney reported that the inebriated man he removed from the steps of the Hispanic Baptist Church on Salem Street several weeks ago had died on Sunday. The police are aware that they need to look behind the wall that conceals the church steps when they patrol Mattoon Street. Robert Louder mentioned congregating and prostitution in the alley between Chestnut Liquors and the Stop & Go on Chestnut between the hours of 5 and 6 AM. Officer Carney said that the bike patrols will monitor alley ways.

The Museum Association reported a motor vehicle B&E in its auxiliary parking lot next to the new Springfield History Museum, and turned over surveillance camera pictures to the police. There have been increasing problems with large numbers of older teens congregating at the Central Library during school hours and aggressively challenging the security staff.

Drug use in the parking lot next to the former Spano's on Chestnut Street was noted, and issues with drugs and prostitution in the Maple Commons neighborhood were raised. The police need to know what time of day such activity is taking place. The Vice Control Bureau needs to be notified. A request was made to add School and High Street to the "hot spot" areas. Starting next week, the Street Crimes Unit will also be hitting the "hot spots".

Kathy Brown gave a presentation on the Springfield Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project. The proposed ordinances are posted on the City of Springfield web site under Planning and Economic Development. Comments are invited on the web site. There will also be opportunities for comment at four neighborhood discussion sessions. After the 45-day comment period, the ordinances will go to the Planning Department and then to the City Council for approval.

Gil Perron noted that any proposed change in traffic ordinances must first go before the appropriate neighborhood council before it is presented to the traffic commission.

The Animal Control Center reported a rise in aggressive incidents, and discussed the current policy with respect to dangerous dogs.

There were several complaints about abuse of the new downtown parking policy. Harold King of the Parking Authority will be invited to the next meeting, which will be held at Maple Commons, 60 School Street, at 6 PM on June 4, 2008.