



CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT
ON THE BEAT
RESPONSE AREA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Greetings,

Welcome to the Freedom Division Response Area 2 monthly community letter. You are receiving this newsletter because you've signed up for "notify me" with the Freedom Division. Please check the Freedom Response Area map at <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/CMPD/PatroI+Divisions> to see which area you're in. If you're not in area 2, contact Sergeant Brian Sanders, RA 1, or Sergeant David Minnich, RA 3, to sign up for your area's newsletter.

I'll be sending this newsletter out each month by email to residents and businesses in the Freedom Division RA 2. Ask your neighbors to contact me at lcarriker@cmpd.org, or the Freedom Division office at 704.398.6703, if they'd like to get on board.



Everyone,

We are coming back again into our holiday season, when many of us will be traveling to visit family and friends and share in the many joys we have had this year. It is critical that while we are enjoying these good experiences, we take the simple precautions available to ensure they aren't spoiled by a criminal act: don't leave valuables in your hotels or vehicles when you travel, make sure you have a trusted neighbor or friend watching your home while you are gone, making sure your mail and newspapers are not piling up in the driveway, keeping your packaging materials for new purchases or gifts out of sight and, **most importantly of all – watching out for each other!!**

We continually see our strongest successes in areas where the residents and police work together to prevent crimes and deter or catch criminals. One "nosy" neighbor can stop a thief in their tracks!! Keep safe, and keep calling!!

Best regards,
Sergeant Lisa Carriker



CMPD Freedom Division: Response Area 2
Response Area Commander: Sgt. Lisa Carriker
phone: 704.398.6790 email: lcarriker@cmpd.org

What you will see in this newsletter:

- The Captain's Corner, a monthly message from our Division Captain
- A map of what is included in Response Area 2 to help you determine where you are
- Crime statistics for the previous month
- Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month for RA2
- Crime trends that we are seeing in our area
- Prevention tips that you can take to make sure you and your property stay as safe as possible
- A listing of police and community activities coming up in the next month

FREEDOM DIVISION CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hello again and thank you for reading one of our Response Area newsletters that come out monthly. As the season turns and leaves begin to fall, crime rates also continue to fall in CMPD, and specifically in the Freedom Division. During the past three years, the neighborhoods in the Freedom Division averaged 14.9 house break-ins each week. This year we are at 12.1, and for the fourth quarter so far we are at 10 per week. While only a few per week difference, the numbers add up to be in the hundreds when looking at the entire year. While we have been successful for a variety of reasons, electronic monitoring, specialized police units working on prevention and apprehension, tracking items pawned at pawnshops, neighbors looking out for each other and calling 911 when they see anything suspicious, etc, I believe there is one over-all reason for our success in reducing burglaries (and violent crime and others)- the Response Area Commander.

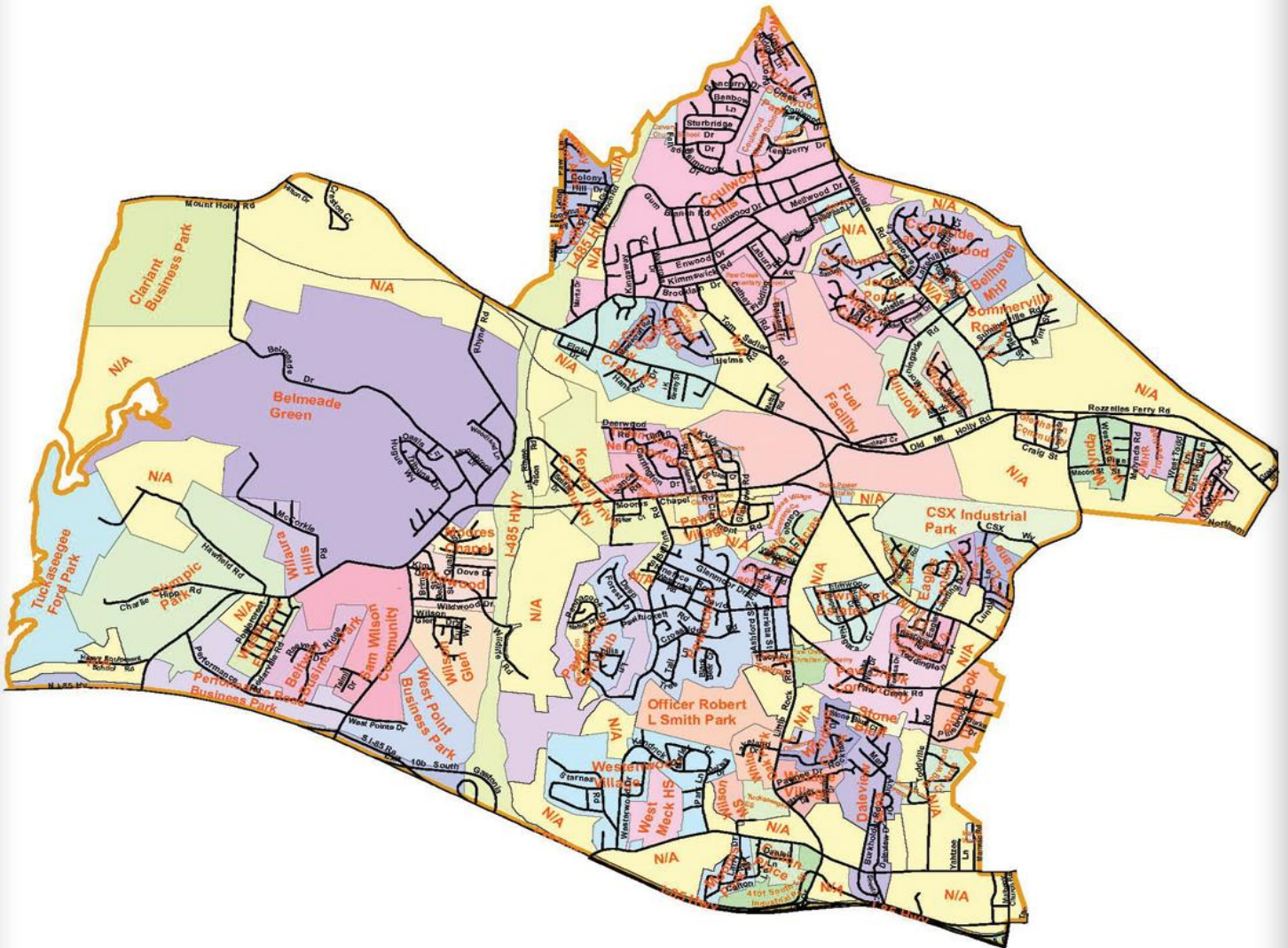
The Freedom Division Commanders, Sanders, Carriker and Minnich, are the ones primarily responsible for looking for crime trends, for identifying possible suspects, for developing plans and initiatives to target offenders, protect homes and business, for meeting with me and other members of Command staff on a very frequent basis to report on their efforts, and for many other tasks that go on daily just to get the job done.

I have two requests of everyone: #1: even with burglaries down, stay extra alert for your friends and neighbors as we typically see a spike in home break-ins during the holiday season, and

#2: Take an opportunity to thank Sgts Sanders, Carriker and Minnich for all of the hard work they have done, and continue to do to make a difference in our Division. It is often a thankless job, running from crisis to crisis, held to a high standard, working nights and weekends and holidays; I thank them for a job well done, and hope you do as well.

Thanks, Captain Gregg Collins





Response Area 2 is primarily residential, bordered generally on the south by I-85, on the west by the Gaston County line and Catawba River, on the north by Mount Holly Rd / Brookshire Frwy, and on the east by Toddville Rd. In addition to our many neighborhoods, we have key business corridors along the interstate, Brookshire, Little Rock Rd, Freedom Dr and Moores Chapel Rd. We are beginning to see a lot of new development, both residential and business, along the new I-485 corridor, and expect growth to continue in that area. We include both industrial areas, like the Pawtucket fuel depots, and beautiful natural areas, such as the US National Whitewater Center. We also have several elementary and middle schools, as well as West Mecklenburg High School.

For the 4th Quarter of 2011, we are going to continue our focus on Residential Burglaries and Commercial Burglaries as our other target crimes. Our target reductions for these will be: reduce Residential Burglaries by 20% and reduce Commercial Burglaries by 30%.

The biggest driver for our increase in Residential Burglaries in the 3rd Quarter was a significant increase in thefts from storage sheds of lawn equipment, and thefts of copper and other metal from vacant houses. Again, the key to continuing our decreases in these and for crime in general is a strong partnership between CMPD and the Community. We will be in the areas most frequently hit, but we depend on 911 calls to know where those areas are – ***please be sure you are calling in things that “just don’t look right”!***

Chart 1: Information specifically on our Quarterly Focus Crimes and how we fared with them for the previous month. It provides our reduction goals and the number of crimes in each category for the month in both 2009 and 2010, as well as how many we averaged per day for the month. Just a note on this chart, for the purposes of these goals, we add burglaries for both houses and storage buildings to obtain a total number.

Chart 2: A complete overview of all Major Crimes reported in our response area for the previous month. It provides the total number and types of Major Crimes that occurred for the month for 2010 and 2011.

Focus Crime Statistics for the Month of October:					
Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Day
Commercial Burglary	6	2	-67%	-30%	.06
Residential Burglary	30	22	-27%	-20%	.71

Overall Summary of Major Crimes for October 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Larceny-Other	21	31	10	47.62 %
Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*	0	7	7	NA
Larceny from Auto	11	17	6	54.55 %
Aggravated Assault-Gun	1	3	2	200.00 %
Armed Robbery	1	3	2	200.00 %
Larceny from Building	2	3	1	50.00 %
Larceny-Shoplifting	2	3	1	50.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon	2	2	0	0.00 %
Auto Theft	5	5	0	0.00 %
Larceny of Bicycle	2	2	0	0.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Knife	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Arson	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Larceny-Purse Snatching	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Rape	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Commercial Burglary*	6	2	-4	-66.67 %
Residential Burglary*	30	15	-15	-50.00 %

Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month

On Saturday October 29th around 4:30 am an unknown person fired multiple shots into a house on Oakshire Cr while the residents were asleep inside. At this time, there is no suspect information.

If you were in this area that morning and saw anyone hanging around on the street or have any other information that could help identify the possible suspects in this incident, or aid in our investigation, please contact CMPD's Crime Stoppers Tipline at 704-334-1600 or call the Freedom Division office at 704-398-6701.



Crime Trends:

As is often the case this time of year, we are seeing an increase in our violent offenses, something that is especially disturbing after the decreases we have seen in these crimes recently.

While in many cases the suspects are known to the victims, we often see an increase in stranger incidents, particularly robberies, targeting individuals where there is no identifiable relationship, and that trend is beginning this year already.

With the time change occurring, it will be getting dark earlier, so please pay special attention to your surroundings as you come home in the evenings, got to area businesses and visit friends and family to celebrate the holidays.

Additionally, this time of year often puts significant stress on relationships and family dynamics. If you, a loved one or a neighbor would like help in dealing with family, financial or other problems, even if it is only someone to listen, we can often provide information to you on resources available at low or no cost. Please utilize these valuable services before letting what might be a minor argument escalate into something that can't be undone.

As always, if you have any information on possible suspects or criminal activity that might be in your neighborhood, please contact one of your community coordinators or the Crime Stoppers Tip Line, 704-334-1600.

Crime Prevention:

We live in a free society where we as citizens have the right to own personal firearms. But it is on each of us that exercises this right to be responsible in securing these weapons from negligent or sinister use.

November Tip – Residential Alarms

- First and foremost, no alarm will help you if it is not set! If you are paying for it – Use It! Not just when you go on vacation, but all the time and any time – use it when you are home, when you go to the store. I determined 13yo can kick in your door in less than 2 minutes.
- Be careful who you give your alarm code to – the more people that have it, the easier it is for it to fall into the hands of someone that will use it to their advantage – not yours!
- Remember – loud is good! Thieves don't want the attention, and neighbors may hear it and call 911.
- Be sure to register your alarm so that police are notified when it goes off. Registration is FREE – you can go to <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/CMPD/Ordinances/Alarms/Home.htm> for more details.

Thanksgiving Ghost Towns are Ideal for Burglars

With Thanksgiving just weeks away, a local crime trend specific to the season abounds along with the harvest and plenty.

Thanksgiving time is one of the most popular travel times in our country. On any one street many of us could leave our homes to visit relatives to share the festive holiday long weekend with relatives and friends and leave our street a virtual ghost town. Well “ghost towns” are a target rich environment for burglars. If you are planning on doing any travel over the Thanksgiving holiday remember to **lock and secure your residence** on the way out! Hopefully you know your neighbors well. Hopefully you trust your neighbors. If you know a good trustworthy neighbor that will be home for the Thanksgiving holiday consider asking them to help keep an eye on your residence. Laptop computers, cash, jewelry, GPS units, iPods and PlayStations are the most common items stolen over the past year in our area burglaries, and will probably remain so over the long holiday weekend. For those who must leave laptop and gaming computers behind, consider hiding them where a thief would have difficulty finding such items. In addition, please consider making a list of the serial numbers of your property and to take digital camera photographs of jewelry. Recording the serial number of your property can assist the police in identifying and returning stolen items to you if you do have the unfortunate circumstance of being a victim. Mark items without a serial number with your driver’s license number (NCDL 1234567) using an etching tool. Take a close-up photograph of personal property (like jewelry) that cannot be marked and attach an index card to the photo that includes a detailed description of the item.

For those of us left in town, remember: **Lock it up, don’t leave it unattended, be aware and watch out for your neighbors.**



Freedom Division Community Meetings and Events – November 2011:

CMPD Meetings / Events:

Wednesday

November 09, 2010

7:00 pm

Jordans Pond Crime Watch Meeting
Mightt Fortress Lutheran Church
McClure Cr

Monday

November 14, 2010

6:30 pm

Freedom Division Advisory Council
West Service Center
4150 Wilkinson Bv

****Date Change this month only**

Response Area 2 Coordinator Contacts:

Officer Brent Hartley rhartley@cmpd.org
Officer Kip Cupples ccupples@cmpd.org

Coordinator Office: 704-398-6721

Freedom Division Office: 704-398-6731

Please note, it is usually easier to get in touch with any of our CMPD officers through their email address rather than a phone number.

Response Area 2 Community Events:

US National Whitewater Center

To see the exciting events offered to the community by the USNWC events, go to their website at:
<http://www.usnwc.org/>

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Student Holidays:

November 11: Veteran's Day Holiday

November 25-25: Thanksgiving Break

Do you have an event scheduled in your community for the holidays? Please let me know and I will be happy to include it!

Useful Website Resource:

We all get the dire alerts and warnings from our friends – don't flick your headlights, gang members will shoot at you, get a free laptop for forwarding emails – most are **Complete Fiction!** Emails are a great tool, but these hoaxes tie up server systems, waste time and create unnecessary concern. Use the website www.snopes.com to check these out **BEFORE** you send them on!

