



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

April 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.



Welcome to another of our monthly newsletters!

One of the things we can always count on in life is change. This year alone, our division has bid farewell to 2 captains, and are now settling in with Captain Gregg Collins. While these changes can be disconcerting sometimes, our goal is always to find more effective ways to protect and serve the communities for whom we are responsible.

This month, I would like to encourage you all to join me as we see a change much closer to home – Kyle O'Dell and Chelsey Clausius-Padilla will be assuming new responsibilities within the division, so will no longer be serving as Response Area Coordinators. While they will be missed, Officers Brent Hartley and Kip Cupples will continue to spearhead our community efforts, and as always will be here to work with you to address crime and quality of life concerns in your neighborhoods!

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

2011 has seen the drop in crime continue for the Freedom Division, and CMPD as a whole. As of today (04/05/2011) overall crime is down -14%. In the Freedom Division our overall numbers have not quite been that good, with a current reduction of -9%.

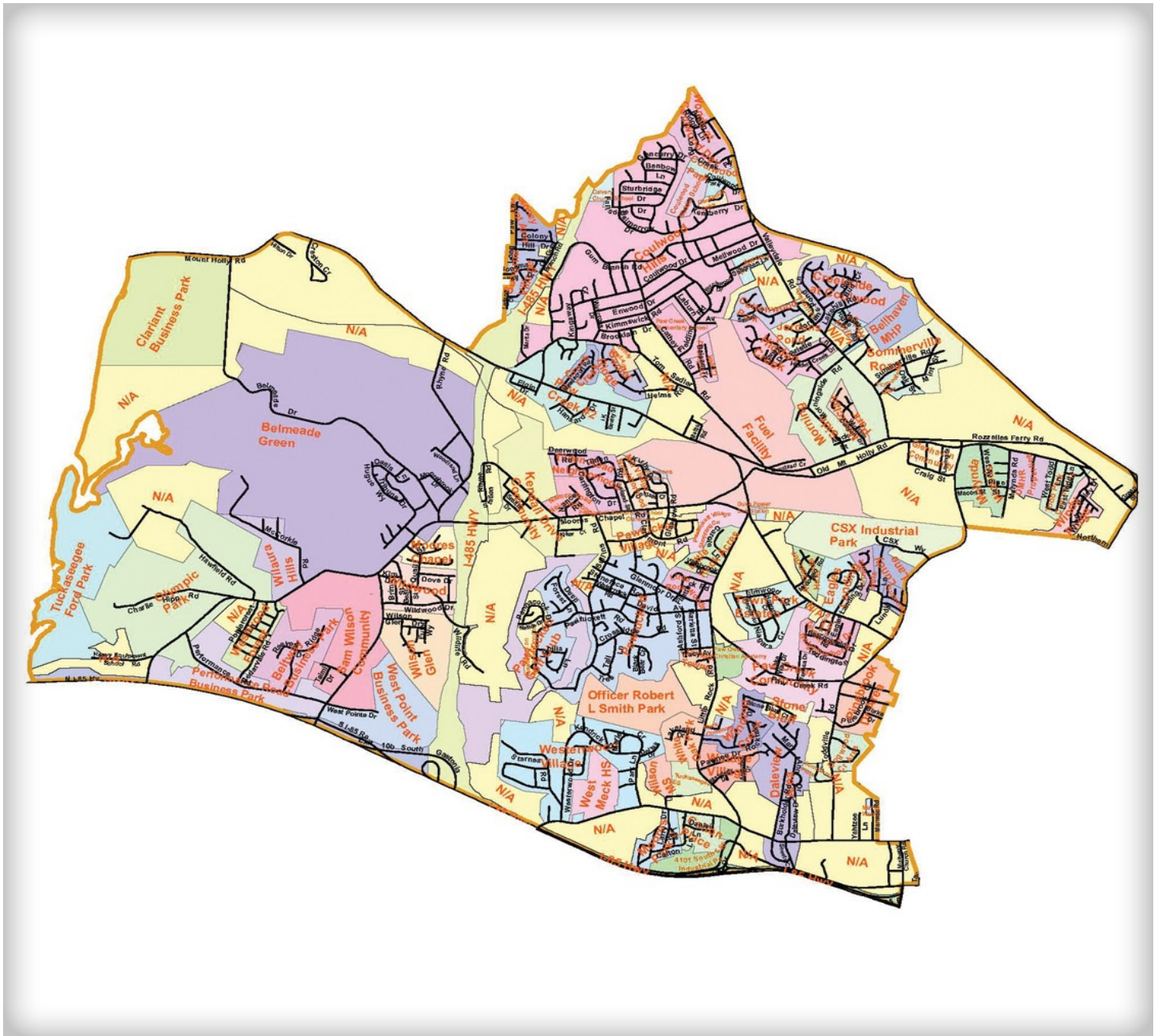
However, our violent crime is down -26%. In our targeted crime categories, we are down with a reduction in robbery of -55%, a reduction in residential burglaries of -32%, and larceny from autos down -18%. These reductions have been somewhat offset with a rise in larceny, particularly at the Walmart on Wilkinson, and also an increase in cars being reported stolen.

Please continue to remove your valuables from your cars, if your car breaks down on the interstate, call and let us know and get it moved as quickly as possible, and watch our for your neighbors house. If you see something suspicious, don't hesitate, call 911 and let us know.

If there is information that you would like to see included and isn't, please let us know.

As always, we appreciate the assistance of the community in letting us know what is going on in the neighborhoods. If we can be of assistance, please contact the Freedom Division at 704-398-6731.





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 1st Quarter of 2011, we focused on Residential Burglaries, Commercial Burglaries and Commercial Robberies. For two of these three focus crimes, we set some pretty aggressive reduction goals, and sought a more modest reduction for our Residential Burglaries. We not only achieved but significantly surpassed our reduction goals for all three of these focus crimes, and saw reductions in six other categories!

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 2009 and 2010.

Focus Crime Statistics for the 1st Quarter of 2011:

Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Month
Commercial Robbery	5	1	-80%	-20%	.08
Residential Burglary	72	59	-18.1%	-5%	4.5
Commercial Burglary	15	8	-46.7%	-30%	.62

Overall Summary of Major Crimes for 1st Quarter of 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Auto Theft	10	15	5	50.00 %
Larceny from Building	3	7	4	133.33 %
Larceny-Shoplifting	3	7	4	133.33 %
Aggravated Assault-Knife	3	6	3	100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Fists,Feet, etc.	0	2	2	NA
Larceny-Purse Snatching	0	2	2	NA
Arson	1	2	1	100.00 %
Homicide	0	1	1	NA
Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*	3	4	1	33.33 %
Rape	1	1	0	0.00 %
Larceny-Coin Operated Machine	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Gun	6	3	-3	-50.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon	4	0	-4	-100.00 %
Armed Robbery*	8	4	-4	-50.00 %
Strong Arm Robbery*	4	0	-4	-100.00 %
Larceny-Pocket Picking	6	1	-5	-83.33 %
Commercial Burglary*	15	8	-7	-46.67 %
Larceny from Auto	42	32	-10	-23.81 %
Larceny-Other	63	50	-13	-20.63 %
Residential Burglary*	69	55	-14	-20.29 %

For the 2nd Quarter of 2011, we are going to continue our focus on Residential Burglaries and will add Larcenies from Autos as our other target crime. Our target reductions for these will be: Residential Burglaries, reduce by 24% and Larcenies from Autos, reduce by 20%.

For these crimes in particular, the key to reductions will be alert, engaged citizens. Make sure you set your car and home alarms, don't leave items in your vehicles and be sure to **call 911** for anything that just doesn't "look right".

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Focus Crime Statistics for the Month of March:					
Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Day
Commercial Robbery	0	1	100%	- 20%	.03
Residential Burglary	31	21	- 32%	- 5%	.7
Commercial Burglary	11	1	-91%	- 30%	.03

Overall Summary of Major Crimes for March 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Larceny-Shoplifting	0	4	4	NA
Aggravated Assault-Fists,Feet, etc.	0	1	1	NA
Armed Robbery*	3	4	1	33.33 %
Homicide	0	1	1	NA
Larceny from Building	0	1	1	NA
Larceny-Purse Snatching	0	1	1	NA
Aggravated Assault-Knife	1	1	0	0.00 %
Arson	1	1	0	0.00 %
Auto Theft	5	5	0	0.00 %
Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*	1	1	0	0.00 %
Larceny-Other	24	23	-1	-4.17 %
Larceny-Pocket Picking	2	1	-1	-50.00 %
Commercial Burglary*	11	1	-10	-90.91 %
Residential Burglary*	30	20	-10	-33.33 %
Larceny from Auto	21	10	-11	-52.38 %

Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month

On Sunday March 6th at approximately 3:50pm, a black male suspect robbed the Wok-Bo Restaurant at gunpoint then fled on foot. At this time we have no information on this suspect or any vehicle that may be connected to this crime.

This robbery was done mid-day with a customer inside the business and could easily have taken a tragic turn.

If you have any information that could help identify the possible suspect in this incident, or have any additional information that could 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:

With people begin spending more time outside as the weather warms; the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is encouraging residents to take the necessary precautions to keep thieves at bay.

CMPD is warning residents not to leave their lawn equipment, gardening tools and other valuables unprotected in their yards or in an open shed or garage. "When you have those in plain view out in yard or with a garage door open, you're asking a criminal to walk up and take them," said one CMPD Sgt. At this time of year, thieves begin to target lawn equipment and these storage spaces, regardless of whether the homeowner is there, because residents often leave them unattended. Thieves are known to ride through neighborhoods scouting for unsecured lawn equipment and open garages and other easy targets. Don't be a victim!

A recent study in one Charlotte neighborhood found a garage burglary can occur in as little as 15 seconds - the time it might take you to walk from the front yard to the back. When it's a pretty day and people are working in the yard, it's an easy opportunity to take something quickly and leave. Many people don't realize something has been stolen until they need it. Many victims have walked to the garage or shed to find their personal possession missing with definite time frame of when the crime occurred, further hampering our efforts to solve the crimes.

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:

April Tip – Preventing Lawn Equipment Thefts

- Close the garage door and lock the interior door to the garage each night.
- Keep your garage closed while doing yard work. It may be an inconvenience but can save hours of frustration. A thief can be in and out before you walk from the back yard to the front yard. Keep your more valuable items (golf clubs, bikes, lawn mower, etc.) as far from the garage door as possible.
- Lock car doors and don't leave garage-door openers in plain sight in your car.
- Look out for your neighbors. If you notice their garage door open for long periods with no outdoor activity or if they appear to have called it a night, remind them to close the garage door.
- If you secure your lawn equipment in a storage shed, lock the shed with a quality lock and consider installing motion detector lights.
- Keep an eye on your equipment while you are working out in yards. We have heard many stories of string trimmers mysteriously vanishing while the owners are in the back yard cutting grass or blowing off the back deck.
- If you can't keep your equipment within eyesight, consider buying locks for the equipment. One method we have seen used to prevent and discourage thefts of lawn equipment is one large chain and a lock connecting multiple pieces of lawn equipment together, as it prevents the items from being easily moved.

North Carolina Move-Over Law



On Saturday March 12th CMPD Officer Jeff Templeton got out of his patrol car to help the stranded motorist on the side of the road on John Belk Freeway when a Toyota Camry crashed into the rear of Templeton's marked patrol car, police said. Templeton was not in his patrol car and was not injured. Then CMPD Officer Chris Kunz, who was off duty at the time, passed the accident scene in his personal vehicle and stopped to help. Kunz parked his vehicle and got out. Moments later a Toyota 4Runner then crashed into the rear of the Toyota Camry.

The driver of the Camry, who was now standing in the road talking to the officers, was then tragically hit and killed by the 4Runner. The victim was identified as William Sweezer, 53, the father of two. Officers Templeton and Kunz were also hit. They were transported to Carolinas Medical Center with non life threatening injuries. Kunz's unoccupied personal vehicle was then hit by taxi cab. There were a total of three crashes during the incident. A total of eight people were transported to the hospital, including the two police officers. The driver of the 4Runner was arrested and charged with misdemeanor death by motor vehicle and no Operators license.

The Move Over Law and Fender Bender Law are two relatively new laws in the books in North Carolina. However, a fair number of drivers don't know about the laws (or the consequences of breaking the laws) because they are so recent. The Move Over law went into effect at the beginning of 2002, while the Fender Bender Law went into effect at the end of 2003 and was recently expanded effective December 1, 2010 to include utility crews.

The Move Over Law requires that when drivers see an accident scene or any emergency vehicles with their light flashing on the side of the road, they are to move into the far lane, reduce their speed, and be prepared to stop. If there is only one lane of traffic, cars should further reduce their speed and be on the lookout for emergency workers and emergency vehicle.

If you violate the Move Over Law, you could face a \$250 fine and \$100 in court costs. More importantly you will endanger the lives of emergency responders – the very ones trying to save the life of your or your family member!

The Fender-Bender Law requires that drivers involved in minor accidents (in which the cars are still operational) move their vehicles as far to the shoulder of the road as possible, and as quickly as safely possible.

If you violate the Fender-Bender Law, you may face a \$10 fine and a possible \$100 court fee. On top of that, you could cause a second accident when your damaged vehicle is left in the roadway.

Freedom Division Community Meetings and Events – April 2011:

CMPD Meetings / Events:

Wednesday

April 6, 2010

7:00 pm

Freedom Division Advisory / Leadership Council
West Service Center
4150 Wilkinson Bv

Thursday

April 7, 2010

7:00 pm

Moore's Park Crime Watch Meeting
Covenant United Methodist Church
6824 Tuckaseegee Rd

Tuesday

April 19, 2010

7:00 pm

Coulwood Community Meeting
Coulwood Clubhouse

Thursday

April 21, 2010

7:00 pm

Windy Ridge Neighborhood Meeting
New Zion Baptist Church
217 W Todd Ln

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:

April 18-22: Spring 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!

