



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

July 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/Patro+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.



Folks, on Tuesday July 5th one of our own Freedom Division officers was severely injured in a car crash when another driver crossed the centerline and hit his patrol car head-on. Most of you have seen this incident reported on the news, but many of you may not realize that Officer J. D. Guard has spent his entire 22-year career helping to protect the citizens of our Division. Currently, Officer Guard remains in the intensive care unit and is facing several surgeries. I hope all of you will join us in keeping Officer Guard and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he faces the road to recovery.

If anyone would like to donate to Officer J.D. Guard, please send your check to:

April Five Organization

10612-D Providence Road, PMB 745 Charlotte, NC 28277

* 100% of donations will go to Officer Guard and all donations are tax deductible.

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:

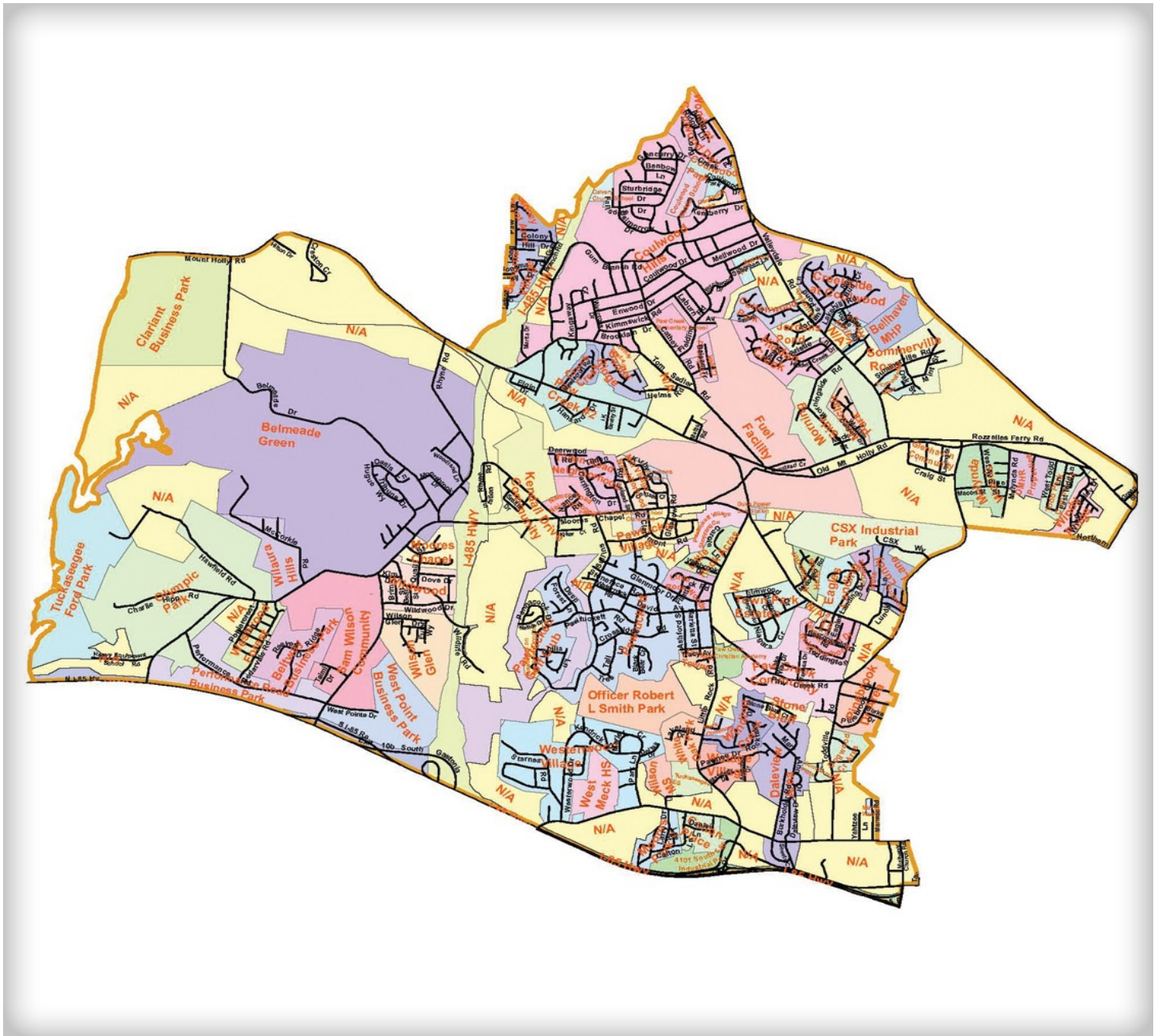
- The Captain's Corner, a monthly message from our Division Captain
- A map of what is included in Response Area 2 to help you determine where you are
- Crime statistics for the previous month
- Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month for RA2
- Crime trends that we are seeing in our area
- Prevention 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 everyone, hope summer is off to a great start. Today I want to answer the question "why are there so many police in my neighborhood?" Well there can be two answers. What we hope is the first one is that one of our groups of Officers are doing a saturation in order to prevent crime. Nowadays we have many teams of Officers that work in groups to address various target crimes. Our Focus Mission team address street level drugs and violent crime, our Burglary Suppression Unit does just that- suppresses burglaries, our Night Suppression Unit fights commercial break ins, larceny from autos and other things that pop up during the dark. So, you can see, having a group of Officers in your area can be a good thing. Unfortunately, the other reason is that a crime has already occurred and we are trying to catch the criminal. So how do you know the difference? You ask. Contact your Community Coordinators, or your Response Area Commander. Look on line. Speak to your neighbors. We do ask that if you are going to ask one of the officers out there, do it quickly and safely in case this is a crime in progress. Ask them, "Is everything ok? Do I need to be looking for someone?" Because you all can be our eyes and ears, one of our greatest assets. Thank you all, and by the way...crime is still going down in Freedom- violent crime is down -30% for the year, and residential burglaries are down -19%.

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 Pawtuckett 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 2nd Quarter of 2011, we focused on Residential Burglaries and Larcenies from Automobiles. In both of these we struggled to see the excellent reductions we have been achieving, but we continue to show overall decreases in these crimes for the year (down 8% in residential burglaries and 7% in larcenies from autos), and strong decreases in our Violent Crime incidents, both for the 2nd Qtr (down 63%) and for the year (down 47%)!

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 2nd Quarter of 2011:

Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Month
Larceny From Auto	61	62	3.2%	- 20%	20.7
Residential Burglary	78	84	7.7%	- 24%	28

Overall Summary of Major Crimes for 2nd Quarter of 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Larceny-Other	68	80	12	17.65 %
Commercial Burglary	8	17	9	112.50 %
Auto Theft	10	18	8	80.00 %
Residential Burglary*	74	81	7	9.46 %
Larceny from Building	7	11	4	57.14 %
Larceny from Auto*	61	63	2	3.28 %
Larceny of Bicycle	2	4	2	100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Fists,Feet, etc.	0	1	1	NA
Arson	2	3	1	50.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Knife	4	4	0	0.00 %
Larceny-Pocket Picking	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*	4	3	-1	-25.00 %
Strong Arm Robbery	2	1	-1	-50.00 %
Rape	4	1	-3	-75.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon	8	2	-6	-75.00 %
Armed Robbery	8	2	-6	-75.00 %
Larceny-Shoplifting	9	3	-6	-66.67 %
Aggravated Assault-Gun	9	2	-7	-77.78 %

For the 3rd Quarter of 2011, we are going to continue our focus on Residential Burglaries, Commercial Burglaries and Auto Thefts as our other target crimes. Our target reductions for these will be: reduce Residential Burglaries by 10%, reduce Commercial Burglaries by 13% and reduce Auto Thefts by 23%.

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 – so ***please be sure you are calling in things that “just don’t look right”!***

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Focus Crime Statistics for the Month of June:

Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Day
Larceny From Auto	15	22	47%	- 20%	.7
Residential Burglary	24	24	0%	- 24%	.8

Overall Summary of Major Crimes for June 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Larceny from Auto*	15	22	7	46.67 %
Larceny-Other	22	29	7	31.82 %
Auto Theft	4	7	3	75.00 %
Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*	0	2	2	NA
Aggravated Assault-Knife	0	1	1	NA
Larceny from Building	3	4	1	33.33 %
Strong Arm Robbery	0	1	1	NA
Arson	1	1	0	0.00 %
Larceny of Bicycle	2	2	0	0.00 %
Larceny-Shoplifting	3	2	-1	-33.33 %
Rape	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Gun	3	1	-2	-66.67 %
Armed Robbery	3	1	-2	-66.67 %
Residential Burglary*	24	22	-2	-8.33 %
Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon	3	0	-3	-100.00 %
Commercial Burglary	5	2	-3	-60.00 %

Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month

Since June 1st, we have seen 7 thefts in the Windy Ridge neighborhood, primarily targeting A/C units at vacant homes. On June 24th, 2 suspects were arrested for one of these, but they have continued while these subjects were still in custody, so others are carrying out the crimes.

If you have any information that could help identify the possible suspect in these incidents, 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:

Currently, our Response Area (as is the entire county) is seeing an increase in the number of burglaries targeting retail locations. Many of these businesses have been small stores where cigarettes have been taken but we area also seeing thieves hit auto parts stores, mini-storage locations and small clothing stores. Most have been simple smash-and-grabs, where the suspect simply chunks something (brick, rock, etc) through a window and grabs the first thing they get their hands on.

Just like burglaries that target homes, our best defense against these attacks is help from all of you. If you are driving home at night and see a car in a parking lot of a closed business? Call 911. See somebody hanging around outside a business at night? Call 911. If you own or run a business, make sure you set your alarm and have it registered so officers get notified if the alarm is activated. Make sure you don't leave cash unsecured in a cash register. And folks, when you get offered that "too good to be true" deal on an iPod, digital camera, GPS unit, computer, designer clothing / handbag, or cigarettes, stop and think about whether it might be stolen. Because when you buy stolen items, you tell the thief it is ok to steal – and the thief that stole it could be the very one that hits your house, your car or your business next!!

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:

July Tip – When Do I Call 911?

This is a very common question we get at most of our Crime Watch meetings. The most common reasons many of you say you don't call in are: you aren't sure what to call in, you are afraid of retaliation if their neighbors know they called, or you don't want to bother police with minor things.

- First, we WANT you to call in things that concern you – that is how we know where our problems are, and most importantly, if we don't know about something, we can't do anything about it!
- You CAN stay anonymous when you call 911 – just tell the call-taker you want to be anonymous and don't want the officer to talk to you. We do ask that if possible, you provide a phone number so that if questions arise we can call for further information, but you don't even have to do that!
- As for what to call in? Anything you think "just doesn't look right" – a car parked at a vacant house in your neighborhood or one where you think the residents are gone; people (yes, even kids – they are often our housebreakers!) walking behind houses in a neighborhood; someone ringing your doorbell and giving you some kind of story when you answer (looking for some unknown person, need to use the phone, etc); someone selling door-to-door that doesn't have a valid business ID card; at night, a person or people sitting in a parked car on your street or in your parking lot; teens that look under 16 out at night after curfew hours – and this is only a partial list!
- Finally, we prioritize calls, so if you call in something, even something minor, it won't impact someone that has an emergency situation!

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Alarm Permit Requirement

If you have an electronic security alarm system in Charlotte, Mint Hill, Matthews or in the unincorporated area of Mecklenburg County, it must be registered. Auto, Fire and Medical alarms are excluded.

Registration is **FREE**. Once you are registered the first two false alarms within a 12-month period are **FREE**; beginning on the date the permit is issued. Alarm users will be fined \$50 each for false alarms 3, 4 and 5; \$100 each for 6 and 7; \$250 each for 8 and 9; \$500 each for 10 and above. Police will not respond to future alarms at your address if fines are not paid within 30 days.

Some Things You Should Know

- Complete the application below and submit by mail or fax. You must obtain your permit letter by mail before operating your alarm system. Alarm permits are not transferable.
- Audible alarms that sound for more than 15 minutes will result in an additional \$100 fine.
- Upon receiving your permit letter it is your responsibility to provide this number to your Alarm Company. The police cannot respond to an alarm at your address unless the Alarm Company has this number when calling to request a police dispatch.

Avoiding Fines

Most false alarms can be easily prevented by following these simple guidelines:

- Make sure all alarm users and key holders are trained to use the system and know the codes to arm and disarm the system, including how to cancel a false alarm.
- Be sure doors and windows are properly closed and locked before arming the system.
- Be sure motion sensors are adjusted correctly, especially if you have pets.
- Have an arming delay of at least 60 seconds and arrange with your alarm company NOT to call the police if the system goes off immediately after it has been armed.
- If thunderstorms or power outages easily set off your alarm system have it repaired or adjusted.

Call your alarm company, if you have questions.

Freedom Division Community Meetings and Events – July 2011:

CMPD Meetings / Events:

Monday

July 18, 2010

7:00 pm

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

Tuesday

July 19, 2010

6:30 pm

Todd Park Community 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/>

28th Annual National Night Out:

Tuesday

August 2, 2011

Your Neighborhood!

Don't forget this great event! To register or find out more, go to the main National Night Out webpage at
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org>

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:

Crime In Charlotte, NC Blog
(www.crimeincharlotte.com)

This website has very useful links to the NC Sex Offender Registry, the Mecklenburg County Inmate Lookup and Warrants website, etc. and can be a great resource for keeping an eye on things affecting your neighborhood!

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!

