



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

May 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.



Good day, All!

In many of these newsletters I urge you to take a stand and become active in your communities. Participation can be as simple as making that 911 call about something that just "doesn't look right", to working with your neighborhood crime watch program handing out flyers on a meeting, to attending our Citizen's Academy. Believe me, there is no action so small that it doesn't make a difference. Edmund Burke said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for **good men to do nothing**".

My friends, we all know there are evil people out there – whether they steal and hurt from drugs or psychological issues or simply lack of conscience, the fact is they don't care who they target, who they hurt. Most of these predators never began this way – they were the sweet little boy that used to rake your yard, the little girl that giggled as she played with your dog. And many of us know the heartbreak of having someone we love or watched grow up turn into someone we no longer know. And many are afraid because they live alone, or are gone long hours at work and think maybe it is safer to just stay invisible. **But what we ignore doesn't ignore us.** We all have to stand together, act together to make this the kind of community we want. To all those who have already joined the fight with us – thank you! For anyone who wants to make a difference, just take that first step, simply make that call to 911, come to that neighborhood crime watch, learn your neighbors. It is easier than you think!

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

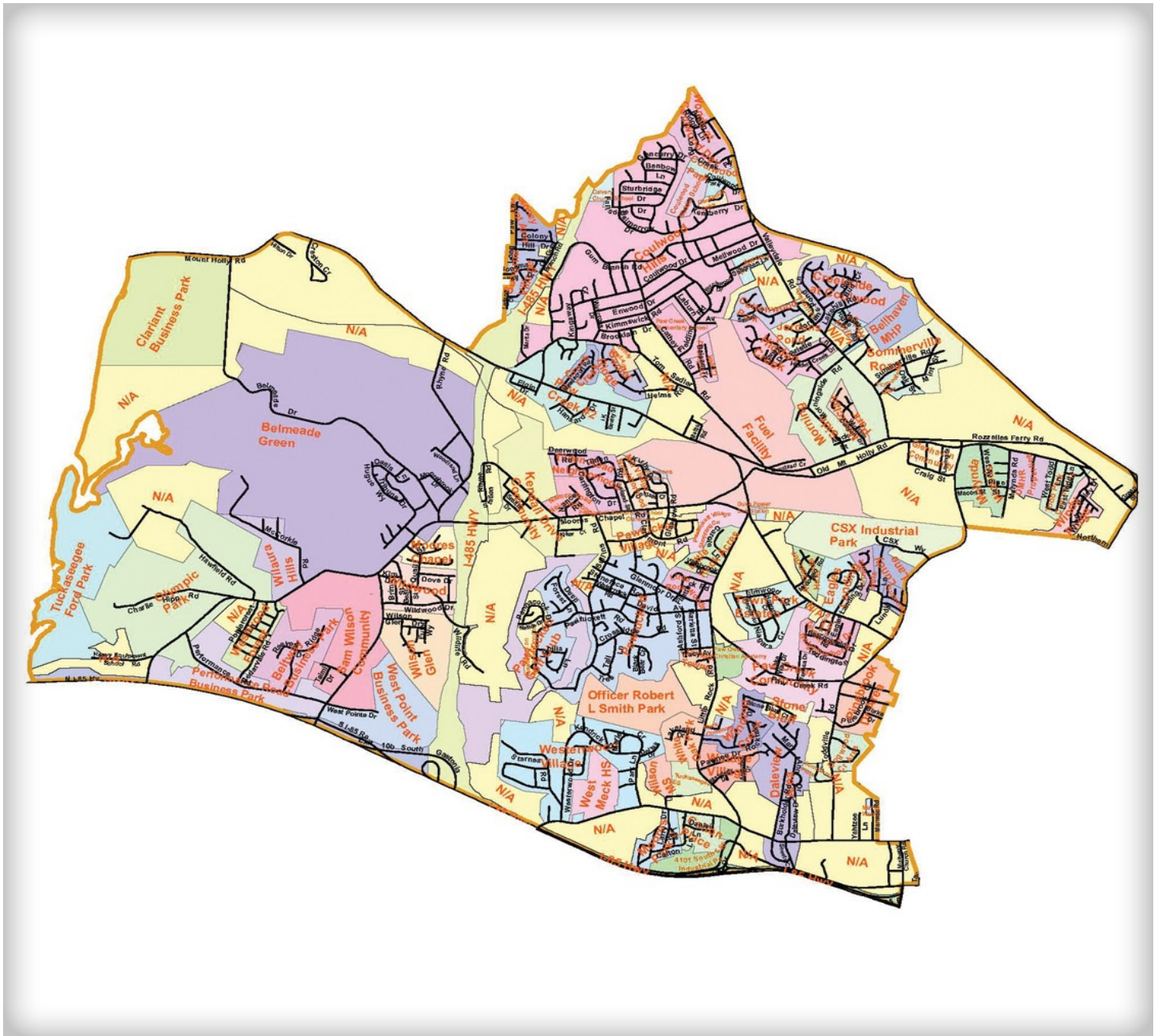
Captain's Corner

Hello again everyone, and welcome to May- when we start to think of summer and things like the Wells Fargo Golf Tournament, the NASCAR race Coca-Cola 600, and summer vacation. Some of you may ask why we as a Police Department think of those four different things. Well, the golf tournament and race bring thousands of visitors to Charlotte, along with their cars and their money. All a good thing, but things that we have to plan for, and to work extra hard to make sure the small bad element that is out there does not take it as an opportunity to steal. Summer typically results in a small increase in violent crime as people are out more, and out later, and unfortunately sometimes consume too much alcohol. Summer vacation means the kids are out of school, some of our neighbors are on vacation and their homes empty....not a good combination.

So, what does the CMPD do to make sure we all have the safest sporting event, or vacation that we can? First we analyze crime trends from last year's events (or school breaks) as well as our current trends. We then plan for and pay particular attention to the areas that have been victimized, as well as keeping in touch with those that we know have committed these types of crimes in the past. If we can assist them in living a crime-free lifestyle, in any way, it is a victory for you, and for us and even for them. We also have specialized units out such as our Focus Mission Team (working on making our streets drug and violent crime free) our Burglary Suppression Unit (focusing on residential break-ins through prevention, or if unsuccessful, then working on catching the thieves) and finally our Nighttime Suppression Unit (finding ways to address larceny from auto, car theft and commercial break-ins). During these special events I mentioned, we are able to pay our officers overtime to engage in specific crime reduction plans to assist us in maintaining the crime reductions we have been seeing the last 3 years. Violent crime is down -30% for the year in our Division, residential break-ins are down -27%, and larceny from auto is down -10%.

Enjoy yourselves at these, or any other upcoming event. Look out for our visitors, look out for your friends and neighbors, and look out for yourself. And when you are looking, ALWAYS call 911 when you see something suspicious! Till next month, Captain 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 2nd Quarter of 2011, we have returned our focus to Residential Burglaries and Larcenies from Autos. Our target reductions for these will be: Residential Burglaries, reduce by 24% and Larcenies from Autos reduce by 20%.

Again, the key to reductions in both of these target crimes will be alert, engaged citizens. Lock your houses up when you leave, always arm your alarm system if you have one, pay attention to your surroundings when you are out and about, don't leave any valuables in your cars and most important of all, watch out for each other and **Call 911** for any unusual activity, people or cars!!

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 Month of April:

Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Week
Residential Burglary	27	26	-4 %	- 24%	6.5
Larceny From Auto	25	19	-24 %	- 20%	4.75

Overall Summary of Major Crimes for April 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Commercial Burglary	3	7	4	133.33 %
Auto Theft	3	6	3	100.00 %
Larceny-Other	23	25	2	8.70 %
Residential Burglary*	24	26	2	8.33 %
Aggravated Assault-Knife	1	2	1	100.00 %
Arson	0	1	1	NA
Larceny from Building	2	2	0	0.00 %
Rape	1	1	0	0.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon	2	1	-1	-50.00 %
Larceny-Pocket Picking	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Larceny-Shoplifting	2	1	-1	-50.00 %
Strong Arm Robbery	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Gun	3	1	-2	-66.67 %
Armed Robbery	4	1	-3	-75.00 %
Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*	3	0	-3	-100.00 %
Larceny from Auto*	25	19	-6	-24.00 %

Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month

On Tuesday April 26th, shortly before noon a subject walking to his home in the Pawtucket neighborhood was robbed at gunpoint by 2 males in a dark colored blue or purplish Dodge Stratus.

Currently, we have NO INFORMATION on who these suspects are. If you live in that area and heard or saw anything around that time or have any additional information that could help identify a possible suspect in this incident, please contact CMPD's Crime Stoppers Tipline at 704-334-1600 or call the Freedom Division office at 704-398-6701.



Crime Trends: Metal Thefts

Aluminum, \$1.26 per pound. Copper, \$4.25 per pound. Tin, \$14.64 per pound. Your 11 year old 4-door car scraped and crushed to a cube, \$500. Most metals are at record highs for scrap, and an enterprising thief sees scrap where **YOU** see an air conditioner cooling your home, copper tubing in your house for water or gas, the catalytic converter cleaning the exhaust in your car, even your **ENTIRE** car if it is older than 10 years.

County-wide, we have seen significant increases in thefts of these metals from cars, vacant homes and even occupied homes and businesses. While most scrap dealers work with CMPD to identify and bar thieves from profiting from these crimes, it is often hard to stop once the theft has been done. Most of these items are unidentifiable. Metal items are melted down quickly to conserve space. Scrapyards can crush a car stolen after breaking down on a street or highway within hours of the "owner" selling it, often before the **true** owner knows its gone and reports the theft. (That's right – and its legal to scrap a car 10 years old or older without presenting a title!)

What can you do? Secure your crawlspace. Don't leave your car broken down – towing is cheaper than replacing your car. See a truck or van parked at a vacant house? Call 911 – a legitimate contractor won't mind.

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 Tips:

As we enter the spring season, many of you will be traveling. Here are a few tips to help keep your home safe while you are gone.

May Tip – Vacation Strategies

- Have a neighbor that you can trust watch your house while you are away. You can have them park their car occasionally in your driveway, take in your mail and paper, and generally check to make sure all is good. Be sure they have a way to contact you so if anything does happen, the police can begin acting on it right away.
- Get timers and set them at changing intervals around your house to bring lights and a radio or TV on and off to make it look as if someone is there.
- Ask someone to cut your grass if you will be gone a week or more so a scraggly lawn doesn't indicate you are away.
- ***Make sure you have your serial numbers on your electronics and other items written down and stored in a safe place.***

Larceny from Vehicles Prevention Tips

Don't let a thief remove valuables from the inside of your vehicle. This is one crime that **YOU** can control, so please consider the following tips to keep from becoming a victim.

- **Always** lock your doors and roll up your windows
- Store packages in the trunk of your vehicle while shopping and check to make sure your trunk latched properly
- **Never** leave valuable items in your vehicle, even for a short time
- **Remove** items such as GPS units, telephones, ipods, purses, briefcases, backpacks, cash and even loose change each time you leave your vehicle (*and remember – a visible charging cord or GPS mount indicates there might be something worth smashing your window to get!*)
- Park in well lit areas at night
- Park your vehicle in the driveway rather than the street
- Consider a car alarm for added protection (*and if you hear it go off, look to see why!*)
- Call 911 if you see any suspicious activity, either in your neighborhood or in a parking lot (someone walking close to cars, looking inside vehicles, pulling door handles, etc)

ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS TO KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF THEIR VEHICLES AT HOME, WORK OR WHILE RUNNING ERRANDS.

Remember: It's a Car NOT a Closet!!



Freedom Division Community Meetings and Events – May 2011

CMPD Meetings / Events:

Monday

May 9, 2011

7:00 pm

Coulwood Hills Community Meeting
Coulwood Clubhouse

Wednesday

May 11, 2011

6:30 pm

Woodlyn Community in Coulwood
Woodlyn Cul-de-Sac

National Night Out 2011

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Don't forget to register your community!

<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/reg.html>

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:

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day Holiday

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

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.

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!

