



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

September 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](mailto:lcarriker@cmpd.org), or the Freedom Division office at 704.398.6703, if they'd like to get on board.



Good day, All!

It is often, in this day and time, an extremely difficult thing to bring together multiple communities for face-to-face meetings, but it is also becoming more and more important for us to share information, resources and encouragement! Many of the challenges we each see individually are common problems, and with limited resources everywhere, sharing between several communities often can accomplish more than each could do alone.

I hope that each of you finds something useful in these newsletters and that you are able to share them with your neighbors. And I hope that you will share with me so I can pass along those triumphs in your communities, challenges you have been able to overcome or situations where you might like a new set of eyes to offer some fresh ideas. Together, we are always stronger than we are separately, and one neighborhood's success might be just the piece of the puzzle another needs to succeed!

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](mailto: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

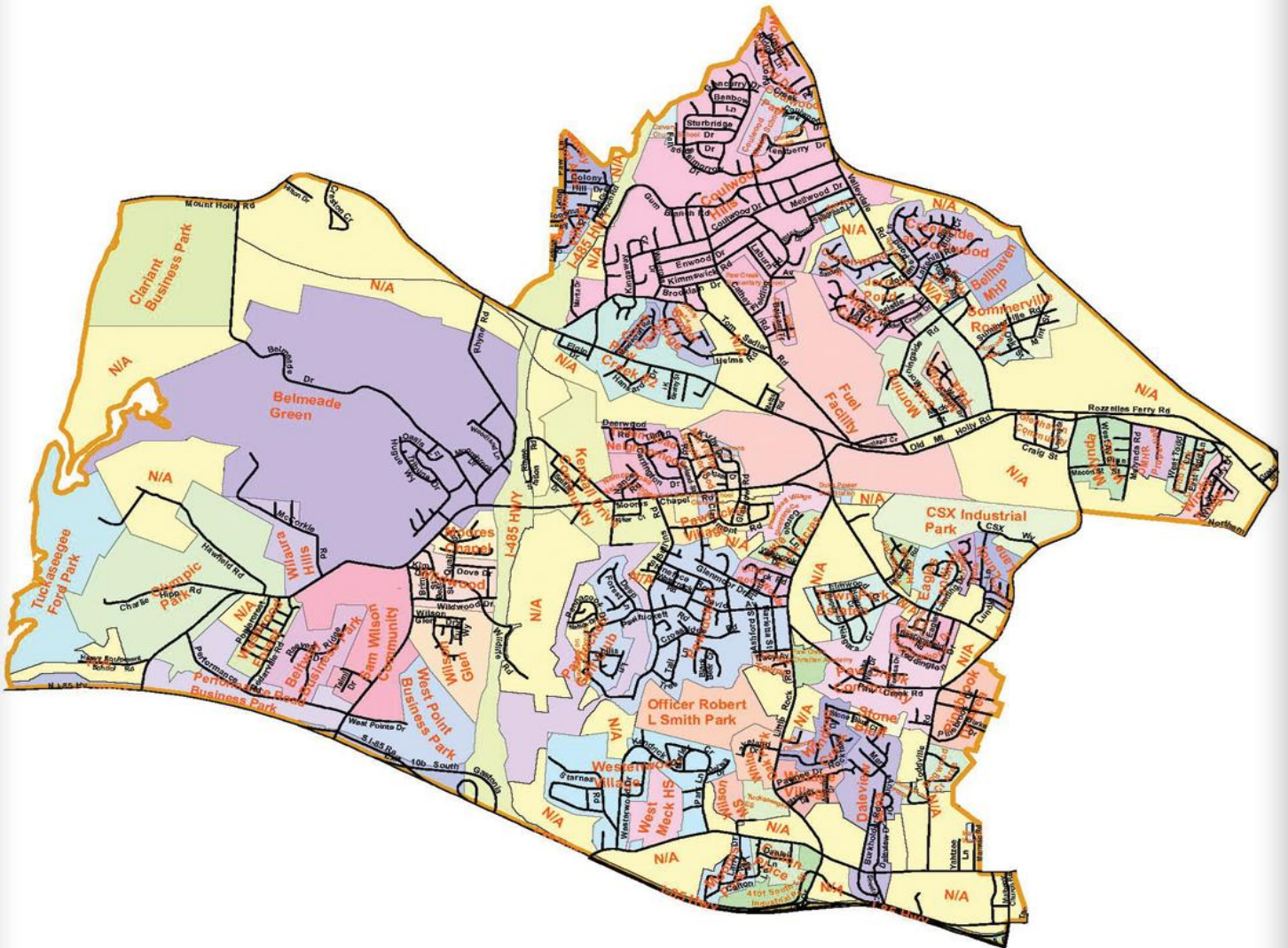
Request for assistance!

The Freedom Division is asking for your assistance in helping us to stop a recent increase in residential burglaries. While we still have less house break-ins this year than last, we have seen a recent increase since the latter part of July. This continued through the month of August, which resulted in 76 homes being broken into. Last year we had 56. While not a huge difference, we don't want to let it become one. We are asking for your extra attention to not only your neighbors' homes, but any people walking by that look out of place, especially if you see them going to knock on doors. By All Means, if you see a car backed into a drive way that you don't recognize, call 911 immediately. Our Officers in police cars, as well as undercover cars are doing all they can. The areas of Westerly Hills, Valleydale, Coulwood, and Thomasborro have been hit the hardest, but no area is immune.

Last year, the months of September and October had an increase of 20% in residential burglaries, when compared to July and August (133 vs 111). We do not want to have a repeat of that increase this year. So, look out for suspicious people and suspicious cars, if it looks suspicious to you – it is! Call 911. Also take a minute to look at doors, all front doors, and any back doors you can see. It's shocking how many doors get kicked in and we only get called when the owner gets home- lets all do a better job than that.

Thank you in advance for your extra diligence; only with you can we continue to drive crime down.





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 3rd Quarter of 2011, we will continue our focus on Residential Burglaries, with a reduction goal of 10%, and will return focus to reducing Commercial Burglaries (our goal is a 13% reduction) and Auto Thefts (our goal is a 23% reduction).

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 2010 and 2011, as well as how many we averaged per week 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 August:

Focus Crime	2010	2011	% Change	Goal	Avg Per Week
Residential Burglary	25	33	32 %	-10%	8.25
Commercial Burglary	5	2	-60 %	-13%	.5
Auto Theft	8	7	-12.5 %	-23%	.1.75

#### Overall Summary of Major Crimes for August 2011

Incident Type	2010	2011	Difference	Percent Change
Larceny from Auto	20	25	5	25.00 %
<b>Residential Burglary*</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16.67 %</b>
<b>Residential Burglary-Storage Bldg*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>400.00 %</b>
Larceny of Bicycle	0	2	2	NA
Aggravated Assault-Fists,Feet, etc.	0	1	1	NA
Aggravated Assault-Knife	1	2	1	100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Other Weapon	1	2	1	100.00 %
Aggravated Assault-Gun	1	1	0	0.00 %
Larceny-Shoplifting	1	1	0	0.00 %
<b>Auto Theft*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-12.50 %</b>
Larceny-Other	14	13	-1	-7.14 %
Rape	1	0	-1	-100.00 %
<b>Commercial Burglary*</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-60.00 %</b>
Armed Robbery	5	1	-4	-80.00 %
Larceny from Building	4	0	-4	-100.00 %

## Crime Stoppers Spotlight Crime of the Month

For the month of August, we saw a 100% jump (from 4 to 8) in burglaries in the neighborhoods along Valleydale Rd. Of these, 6 were vacant houses where copper wiring and pipes were taken.

If you have any information on possible suspects or have seen any vehicle that may have been associated in this area, please contact CMPD's Crime Stoppers Tipline at 704-334-1600 or call the Freedom Division office at 704-398-6701.



## Crime Trends: Vacant House Break-ins

The rapid increase in the price paid for scrap metal is fueling massive thefts of this material, not only in Charlotte but internationally. In many neighborhoods, there have been high rates of vacant properties, from rentals that don't have tenants to foreclosures that are still slogging their way through the court system.

These houses are often not checked regularly, and thieves frequently have significant time to tear out walls and floors to strip copper wiring, tubes and pipes from these locations, leaving a structure that can't be torn down, can't be rented and can't be sold. These derelicts then become havens for truant teens, burglars watching to see when you leave so they can break into your house, and a convenient place to stash your stolen TV while waiting on the police to quit looking for them.

Below are some tips that can help you avoid assist us in reducing these crimes, because where we see these, we also see breakins into peoples homes.

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: Vacant Houses

- **For Property Owners:**
  - Make sure your property is secured appropriately.
  - If you know any of the neighbors, have them keep an eye on the house.
  - Keep the grass cut.
  - If appliances are left inside, consider removing the doors – a thief won't steal a stove or refrigerator if they know they have to turn around and pay money to replace those in order to sell them.
  - Unhook and remove outside HVAC units if possible, or secure them to make cutting them apart for the copper harder – Code requires you have these systems in **occupied** properties, but not for vacant.
  - Make sure we have some idea who to contact about your property if we find it unsecured.
- **For Neighbors:**
  - Know the vacant properties in your immediate area of the neighborhood. Any that aren't secured properly can be reported to Code Enforcement through 311.
  - If you hear banging or see activity around a vacant house or see a vehicle parked near one, get a description of any people or vehicles and **call 911!!** If it is a contractor, they won't mind the police checking on them – and folks, bad economy or not, **most legitimate contractors DO NOT work nights!**

## Freedom Division Community Meetings and Events – September 2011

### CMPD Meetings / Events:

**Monday**

**September 19, 2011**

6:30 pm

Freedom Division Leadership Council

West Service Center

4150 Wilkinson Bv

\*Special Speaker – 311

### Response Area 2 Coordinator Contacts:

Officer Brent Hartley

[rhartley@cmpd.org](mailto:rhartley@cmpd.org)

Officer Kip Cupples

[ccupples@cmpd.org](mailto: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](http://www.snopes.com) to check these out **BEFORE** you send them on!

### 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/>

#### Key events include:

RiverJam Free Concerts each Thursday

Microbrew Cruises 1<sup>st</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays

#### Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Student Holidays:

**No holidays or other non-attendance days**

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

