

Safe Neighborhoods Network Meeting
Saturday July 9th, 2011 – 9 AM
PCRG Office

In attendance: Maria Bethel, BBI-City of Pittsburgh; Katy Frey, Greater Park Place Neighborhood Association; Khrys Myrddin, Greater Park Place Neighborhood Association; Liz Style, Mayor's Office-City of Pittsburgh; Al Kaib Jr., Troy Hill Blockwatch; Joan Bellisario, Brighton Heights Citizen Federation; Pete Bellisario, Brighton Heights Citizen Federation; Blair Kossis, OPDC; Tom Corcoran, California-Kirkbride; Toni McClendon, CAY; Zinna Scott, Operation Better Block; Shirley Wheaton, Operation Better Block; Henry Cianciosi, Oakland; Harry Johnson, Office of Councilman Lavelle.

Welcome and Introductions

- EA briefly welcomed all attendees. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and their familiarity with SNN, SAFE Pittsburgh, and PCRG. Also spoke to how they heard about SNN and why they chose to come to the meeting.

Overview of PCRG and SNN

Announcements

- National Night Out
- PNCIS Training
- 2010 Annual Police Report is out and available online
- Crime Policy Survey
- Upcoming Meetings/Events?

Nuisance Properties Discussion w/ Guest Speaker Maria Bethel of BBI's Disruptive Properties Task Force (DPTF)

- Maria Explained the Disruptive Properties Ordinance
 - Whenever someone is arrested or receives a citation, property owner is notified.
 - After 3 citations, the city starts charging for public safety services.
- Meets monthly w/ DA, Chiefs of: BBI, Narcotics and Vice, City Law Dept., commanders
 - Discuss properties in each area, what have citizens brought to their attention
 - Maintain database w/each property and number of citations each has
 - Work w/County to find property owners
- Appeals Board
 - Landowner can appeal every notice they get, usually don't.
 - Notices can give landlords grounds to go to magistrate to evict tenants.
 - Option of filing abatement plan to tell DPTF how they will remediate the problem
 - Sometimes DPTF is powerless, but Allegheny County can do "expedited eviction"
- Once issued a citation, landowner has 15 days to respond

SAFE Pittsburgh Debrief

- SAFE Pittsburgh occurred May 21, 2011 at West Penn Hospital, more than 100 attendees for workshops on gangs, building block watches and crime statistics.
- Featured opening remarks from Chief Harper; keynote address by US Attorney David Hickton, and a panel discussion moderated by Councilwoman Theresa Smith “Who Ya Gonna Call...and When?” featuring reps from 911, 311, BBI, DPW, and HACP.
- Day included a resource fair for info on city departments and local non-profit organizations including: Citizens Against Litter, Allegheny CleanWays, PIRC, 311, 911, Police Dept., Mayor’s Office, PCSI, One Vision One Life, Allegheny County DHS and others.

Feedback From Event

- Issues of most concern were Drug Activity and Nuisance Properties. Also, Police/Community partnerships
- SAFE Pittsburgh Planning Committee has already met, working to continue partnership under “SAFE Pittsburgh” umbrella. Another day long event is likely next year, as are shorter, intensive trainings on specific issues.

Roundtable Discussion