

## VaHi Safety Team Report Week 52 (12/18/16 – 12/24/16)

I'm finally able to wrap up the crime reports for 2016. Hopefully we will have more timely reports soon. In the meantime, keep calling 911 whenever you see something suspicious, and keep communicating with your street captain about any questions or safety concerns you may have.

### *News and Notes*

#### *Critical Meeting on Monroe Safety Improvements – A Message from VHCA President, Jenifer Keenan*

On February 28th there will be an important meeting regarding safety improvements to Monroe Drive. If you can only attend one neighborhood meeting the entire year, this is it. Renew Atlanta is hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, 2/28 6:00 – 8:00 at Big Bethel AME Church, 220 Auburn Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30303. The Complete Streets Project, and in particular, the proposed road diet to reduce Monroe from 4 lanes to 3, is of critical importance to our neighborhood.

There have been two fatalities on Monroe in the last year. The proven and most effective way to deal with the dangerous conditions on Monroe is a road diet. The road diet will provide 24 hour a day improvements to the safety issues facing Monroe (speeding, blind spots from left turns, weaving to avoid left turn lines). Neither increased police ticketing nor speed humps can provide 24 hour a day improvements to these safety issues. Road Diets have been implemented in Atlanta and throughout the country and have been shown to reduce crashes by up to 47%.

For more details on the benefits of the Road Diet, see [this](#) recent article published on the VHCA website and in The Voice.

We need good attendance at this meeting to show the city that the road diet must be a part of the Monroe Complete Streets project.

#### *Home Video Cameras Help Solve Crime*

At the recent security forum hosted by MLPA and VHCA, Atlanta Police Department representatives told us that residents and businesses with street facing video cameras often capture footage that can be helpful in identifying suspects involved in nearby crimes. To aid APD in locating where video footage might be available, we are asking that anyone with a camera facing their porch, driveway, sidewalk or the street contact us at [safety@vahi.org](mailto:safety@vahi.org). Please provide your name, street address, phone, and the number of cameras installed. This information will be shared with APD. Please understand that by providing this information you are not obligated to share your video with police, but it will make it easier for them to identify where video cameras are installed so that they can contact you and ask.

#### *Street Captain's Annual Meeting March 4<sup>th</sup>*

Public safety was the #1 issue for Virginia-Highland residents who completed a recent survey. On Saturday, March 4th at 10 am at Church of Our Saviour (N. Highland at Los Angeles), come and hear from experts about how the Atlanta Police Department (APD) is using cameras to fight crime, and participate in a discussion about what we can do within our neighborhood to reduce crime.

Experts will describe how the city's Video Integration Center (VIC) uses information from thousands of cameras to track potential crimes in progress and for subsequent investigations. Then APD officers will demonstrate the bodycams that are now being used.

After these presentations, discussions will include:

- Maximizing the effectiveness of our VaHi Neighborhood Watch Program, including discussion of best practices/challenges from our Street Leads/Street Captains

- Private security cameras and how they can assist the police with their investigations
- How lighting or other environmental factors that reduce crime can be improved.

All interested residents are encouraged to attend!

## ***Crime Statistics***

The following information is taken from our APD Zone 6 report. Current and historic crime data for Zone 6 beat 601 can also be found at the [APD Open Data Portal](#).

It includes information from the Virginia-Highland Beat 601 reported incidents along with relevant reports from other nearby beats. Keep in mind that not all incidents are reported. A map showing the location of beats 601 – 612 within Zone 6 can be found at this [link](#). This information is not shared to scare anyone, but to let you know what happens around us every day so you can be alert and aware.

**Homicide** None reported in Beat 601. None reported in Zone 6.

**Rape** None reported in Beat 601. None reported in Zone 6.

**Pedestrian/Carjacking Robbery** One reported in Beat 601. Four reported in Zone 6.

On December 21<sup>st</sup> an officer responded to two victims in the 800 block of St. Charles Avenue who advised they had been walking home from a local bar when they were approached by two black males approximately 18 years of age. Victim one was struck in the back of the head with what appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun. Victim two was also struck in the back of the head with a similar looking gun, possibly a 9mm. Both victims were instructed to hand over wallets and cell phones. Both handed over their belongings.

Suspect one was described as approximately 6' tall weighing 140 pounds and being very skinny. He was wearing a black t-shirt with jeans. His hairstyle was very short on the sides and dreads on top with highlights. Suspect two was described as a skinning black male about 6'3" with a low haircut. He was wearing all black. Officers attempted to track the telephones, but neither victim could remember the proper password.

No cameras were located in the area of this incident.

**Residential Robbery** None reported in Beat 601. None reported in Zone 6.

**Commercial Robbery** None reported in Beat 601. None reported in Zone 6.

**Aggravated Assault** One reported in Beat 601. Five reported in Zone 6.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> in the 1000 block of Ponce de Leon police were called to a residence where the victim reported she had let "Red" into her home to take a shower. He began looking around as if to steal something and she began struggling with him. Two friends came to her aid and one was hit with a rock while the other was hit with a hammer. The suspect, a black male, fled the scene.

**Residential Burglary** None reported in Beat 601. Thirteen reported in Zone 6.

**Commercial Burglary** None reported in Beat 601. Two reported in Zone 6.

**Larceny From Vehicle** Eight reported in Beat 601. Thirty-eight reported in Zone 6.

Vehicles were entered on Los Angeles (2), Maiden Lane (2), Maryland, N. Highland (2), and Virginia. In all cases windows were broken. Thieves made off with four laptops, two tablets, four backpacks and bookbags, a purse, a cell phone, a phone charger, two sets of headphones, wallets with cash, credit cards, ID, a checkbook and clothing.

**Other Larcenies** One reported in Beat 601. Twenty-five reported in Zone 6.

On December 23rd high end racing bicycle was stolen from in front of a house on Greenwood while the owner ran inside to get a water bottle.

**Auto Theft** None reported in Beat 601. Seven reported in Zone 6.

If this report was forwarded to you and you would like to be added to the distribution, please send a message to me at [VaHiSafety@gmail.com](mailto:VaHiSafety@gmail.com) with your name, email address, and affiliation. Thanks.

Stay Safe!

Kay Stephenson