

Wednesday, 2/15/17 - "Neighborhood Crimes"

Thank you very much to those who attended.

3 Officers were there to answer the questions

Sgt Detective Harms, Neighborhood Enforcement Team, Sgt Jones, and Patrol Officer Cross

Our Community Officer Deeg, Lieutenant Barry and Deputy Chief Martinez were also in attendance.

Questions and topics from audience:

1) Problem w/ vagrants eating & camping @ City Hall

- need to focus on and address behavioral problems
- cannot block entire sidewalk
- are there any law violations? Trash and food left around not acceptable

<http://sccch.com/Home/GeneralComplaintForm.aspx>

- it's a health & human services issue (County) – You fill out complaint with County about health issues

- area is technically a "park"
- freedom sleepers demanding 1st Amendment rights – they do have rights because this is protest

2) Homeless around the Salvation Army site - neighbors experiencing car break ins, campers, trespassing, feel unsafe

-Neighbors are doing the right things with security lights, locked gates but still homeless look for spots to stay

- Watch over empty houses vacationers or for sale
- write letters to Salvation Army, try to meet with Salvation Army with neighbors
- organize your neighbors - have a voice

3) - Meth house next door (Not giving location) so Police can talk further with neighbors

- get plate #'s if safely possible, keep log (on Santa Cruz Neighbors main page)

<http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/files/Neighborhood%20Witness%20Log.xlsx>

- get descriptions of people coming & going
- when you see issues, call 911
- Often times this type of activity can attract more crime into your neighborhood and they can see neighbors routines

- use anonymous tip line if you feel threatened or uncomfortable w/ reporting **831-420-5995**

4) Highland Ave - "What are you doing that is proactive in cracking neighborhood crime?"

- predictive policing - have neighbors call 911 – most neighborhood crimes are crimes of opportunity

- Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET)
- Stings and undercover work

5) Westside - "Are alarm systems good?"

- yes
- does deter burglars when it goes off but they will still have time to gather up things
- If alarm goes off neighbor can call 911 quicker if they know you are not home

-connect face to face with neighbors – have them watch over your house changing lights and blinds etc, like someone is home

6) Lower Westside - “How do you find out status of a gang member?”

- check court records, online or in person those probation term records are public records

7) Seabright - Use cell phone as a camera when witnessing a crime. We all have to look out for one another

- Yes

- No engaging or confronting the suspect – you will only give them a reason to get away. Just call 911 and let the officers identify them.

8) Lee Street - “Can we have patrols in the greenbelt?”

- these are heavy duty criminals

- don't let encampments grow, call when the first guy moves in

- Park Rangers are responsible for walk throughs and enforcement

9) Sean Arlt shooting – Release of Investigation was next day 2-16-17

<https://www.facebook.com/santacruzpolice> Has SCPD Press Conference

- SCPD is well versed in mental health issues – statistics released on how many calls they handle

- do have a crisis negotiation officer as well as a mental health liaison (currently only 40

hours/week - hopefully will increase coverage to 7 days)

- only 16 beds in mental health facility - need a lot more

- report from DA's office & PD due out tomorrow.

10) Bike Thefts - rampant throughout the City

- online registration w/ PD is free

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/police/bicycle-license-registration>

- put unique identifying marks on your bike frame

- many times we get them bikes but they are not registered.

- see suspicious behavior - call 911

- check Craig's list if stolen or locations around town

- currently running more successful bike stings with the NET Police Team

11) “What should we do if bikes (or bike parts) are found?”

- bring them in to PD

12) “What can we do to help you?”

- Organize your neighborhood, have neighborhood meetings with Santa Cruz Neighbors and

Police

- come to community meetings - be informed and aware

- call in suspicious behavior

- You asked for it section on website

<http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/resources.php?SectionID=14>

- 10 things you and your neighbors can do

<http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/files/10%20Things%20You%20%20Your%20Neighbors%20Can%20Do.pdf>

- 13) Sanctuary Homeless Camp
 - this is a County issue
 - addiction, mental health, & homelessness are the 3 major problems
 - 14) Lower Westside - Car break ins happening. Can PD park a van?
 - have a bait car, but has not been stolen yet!
 - Call on suspicious people you see in the neighborhood
 - If you are up in the middle of the night take a look outside
 - <http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/files/AUTO%20BURGLARY%20PREVENTION%20TIPS.pdf>
 - 15) Lighthouse Field - Who to call w/ problems?
 - State Parks
 - 16) West Cliff and Pacific Avenue - Pot smoking rampant
 - low priority, but do call it in Against Municipal Codes
 - 17) Lower Ocean (JD's neighborhood) - have seen improvement + grateful for recent gang member raid
 - put a police scanner on a speaker in back yard - really helped to scatter miscreants
 - 18) Seabright - 3rd & Atlantic - lots of cars coming & going late at night and early morning This tip will help with extra patrols
 - call it in – This type of activity may be drug sales
 - 19) **Clarified NOT Cayuga** Eastside person - appeal to people w/ video cameras to assist PD
Home video cameras were talked about in assisting PD to solve some crimes i.e. the hit and run that occurred killing a woman on 2-6-17 on Seabright south of Broadway. "Detectives are following up on video surveillance in the area looking for additional information or evidence." From Press Release
- They are looking to start program like Capitola and Sheriffs to have database of video cameras in case of crimes committed.
- 20) When traveling don't put your purse in the trunk when out in public – put it in the trunk before you leave the house. People are watching in parking lots for this.
 - 21) Neighborhood Watch signs Only work if the neighborhood is going to Watch and CALL 911
 - Go on line to SC Neighbors website or call for assistance
 - Design your own signs

KION Report

<http://www.kion546.com/news/santa-cruz-community-meeting-tackles-crime/336075777>

Go to our website for more Car, Home Safety and Neighborhood Checklists

Deborah Elston

elston13@earthlink.net

Santa Cruz Neighbors, Inc.

15 years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors

www.santacruzneighbors.org

email@santacruzneighbors.org

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