

Mount Vernon Square

Neighborhood Association

Uniting our historic community since the 1970s

February 2007

Next MVSNA Meeting

Tuesday, February 20th, 7:30 pm

Metropolitan Community Church
Corner of 5th & Ridge Streets NW

Agenda:

- Public safety/crime report. Metropolitan Police Department officers from 3rd & 1st Districts
- 2007 Officer Elections
- Presentations by Zach Dobelbower & Jeff Davis, Neighborhood Planning Coordinators - Wards 2 & 6

Message from the President

The last few weeks have been trying times for our neighborhood. Even those of us who have lived here for decades are shocked at the surge in crime, with at least 28 separate reported incidences of gunfire in Police Service Area 308 (between 4th Street and 9th Street, up to S & Florida) since the turn of the year and several people injured or killed, including a drive-by hitting a 15-year-old girl on 7th Street (who I hear will be ok). Barely a day seems to go by without hearing or seeing a serious incident and I share the sentiment of many MVSNA members and our neighbors that we must work together to get this situation under control and restore the peace in our community.

I am thankful that the police presence in our neighborhood has markedly increased with additional officers on duty between 6pm and 2am, a truck with flood lighting circulating the neighborhood, and patrol cars stationed at about four fixed positions on most nights. MPD has made several arrests, recovering drugs and several guns.

The police in our area also expect to receive successful new technology called "Shot Spotter" within the next few months, which will immediately alert officers to gunfire and pinpoint its origin within a few feet. MPD is in the process of implementing an "Adopt a Block" program that assigns individual officers to each street, which hopefully will increase communication between residents and the police (see reverse, full PSA 308 roster posted on the MVSNA blog). Lt. Ralph Neal and Master Patrol Officer Tommy Barnes have my appreciation for their efforts in developing plans to address the root causes of the criminal activity in our neighborhood.

What can we do as residents? Keep your exterior lights on and report any streetlights that are out by calling 727-1000. For about \$7, you can buy a sensor at Home Depot that will automatically turn your exterior lights on at dusk even if you are not home. Report any and all suspicious activity to 311 or 911. Get to know the officer assigned to your block. Attend the Shaw Crime Forum at the United House of Prayer on February 21 at 6pm so that Mayor Fenty, Councilmember Evans, Chief Lanier and the MPD leadership fully understand our concerns. We should all demand increased police staffing in our neighborhood, not just when we are in an emergency situation, including more foot and bike patrols, particularly as the weather warms. MVSNA is also establishing a closer relationship with First District officers who are responsible for "the chimney" area (New Jersey Avenue, 1st, 3rd, and 4th Streets, Morgan and Kirby Streets) who will attend our future meetings.

Finally, please join us at the next MVSNA membership meeting on Tuesday, February 20 when, after the crime report, we will be joined by the DC Government's Neighborhood Planning Coordinators for both Wards 2 and 6 and participate in a dialogue about the future of our neighborhood. At this important meeting, we will also elect MVSNA officers to serve our neighborhood for the next year. And please mark your calendars now for the March 20 MVSNA meeting where we will be joined by Mayor Fenty and adopt goals for our association to work toward in 2007.



Neighbors Continue to Work with Third Street Church of God

MVSNA Officers and nearby neighbors met again with Pastor Sanders and Reverend Boddie of the Third Street Church of God. During this meeting we addressed issues of trash, vagrants, cooperation with the police and renovation status. The work on the main building is nearly complete and The church plans on resuming services on Third Street some time in March. There is no longer a kitchen in the basement of the church sanctuary and no feeding service will be conducted out of the church at this time. Parking issues were also discussed to minimize impact on the community and ensure that the regulations are obeyed by parishioners. The Church has significantly altered their plans for the properties that they own on the 1200 Block of 4th Street. At the last meeting, the church was considering using the properties at 1209/1211 for a Family Life Center that would provide outreach services of some kind. Their new plan, after considering feedback from neighborhood residents, is to restore the 4th Street properties for affordable residential housing. The church is now considering use of the vacant houses at 1232, 1234, and 1236 New Jersey Avenue as its Family Life Center. Some possibilities include after school activities for Dunbar students and neighborhood children and/or a coffee-style café and meeting/classroom space, or senior living. Negotiations are in progress with the owners of 301 M Street NW regarding the property line with the Church owned 1202 3rd St NW. Both parties are confident an agreement can be reached so that their renovations may progress. The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue the dialog on an ongoing basis and coordinate with church and community events. Full meeting notes available at: <http://lifein.mountvernonssquare.org/index.cfm/2007/2/2/Third-Street-Church-of-God-Update>

Upcoming Events

- Feb 20 - MVSNA Meeting, 7:30pm, 5th & Ridge
- Feb 20 - ANC 6C Meeting, 7pm, 214 Mass Ave NE
- Feb 21 - Shaw Crime Forum, 6PM, 601 M St NW
- Mar 7 - ANC 2C Meeting, 6:30PM, 440 R St NW
- Mar 8 - PSA 101 Meeting 6:30PM, 1100 NJ Ave NW
- Mar 14 - ANC 6C Meeting, 7pm, 1100 N. Capitol NW
- Mar 20 - MVSNA Meeting, **Mayor Fenty to Attend**
- Apr 21 - MVSNA Spring Clean-Up

Add your thoughts to the MVSNA neighborhood blog at: <http://lifein.mountvernonssquare.org>
 To download an MVSNA membership form & view lots of neighborhood info: <http://www.mountvernonssquare.org/>
 To join the MVSNA yahoo listserve, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mvsna/>

MPD-3d PSA 308 Adopt-a-Block Officers and Locations in Mount Vernon Square

(for a full list go to lifein.mountvernonssquare.org)

Leave a message for the officer assigned near you by calling: **PSA 308 Lt. Ralph Neal (202) 673-7403**
 To email an officer: firstname.lastname@DC.Gov

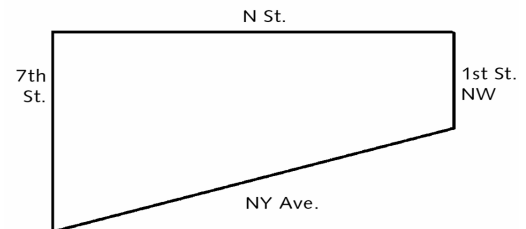
OFFICER NAME	BLOCK/PARK LOCATION	TOUR OF DUTY
Barnes, Tommy	400 block of M Street, NW	DAY
May, Towanna	600 block of N Street, NW	DAY
Graham, Juanita	400 block of Ridge Street, NW	DAY
Boucheron, Marc	400 Block if N Street NW	EVENING
Gonzales-Tirado, Jose	400 Block if N Street NW	POWER

Tour of Duty:
Day 6am-2pm, Evening 2-10pm, Midnight 10pm-6am, Power 7pm-3am
Marco Santiago, Community Relations Coordinator, 3rd District MPD
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2007 MVSNA Officer Slate

- President – Cary Silverman
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- First Vice President - Si Kailian
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- Second Vice President – Sam Farmer
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- Treasurer - Megan Lavin
- Recording Secretary – Jeff Parke
jeffersonparke@gmail.com
- Corresponding Secretary - Melanie Mfume

The **Mount Vernon Square Neighborhood Association** is bordered by the south side of N Street., NW, the west side of 1st Street, NW, the north side of New York Avenue, NW, and the east side of 7th Street, NW. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at the



Police Contacts

PSA 308

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PSA 101

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