



MVNA General Meeting Agenda
July 27, 2009
Monroe School 3641 Missouri Avenue

Social Time 6:30 PM -7:00 PM

Pledge of allegiance 7:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Captain Gerald Leyshock – St. Louis Police Department, District 3

Captain Leyshock introduced himself and noted that he was in 4th district until this past February when he was transferred to the 3rd district. This is his first time to be posted in this area.

Leyshock distributed a crime statistics packet for Marine Villa. The report was run on July 21 and is a year-to-date comparison with 2008. Overall, crime is down 3.2% for the year. There have been 24 more robberies than last year at this time, but 47 less aggravated assaults. Leyshock noted there is not much police can do with bar fights or domestic situations.

Leyshock stated that when he was made captain of the 3rd district, he studied the 2008 crime statistics carefully. The 3rd district had 1,500 burglaries in 2008, and Leyshock vowed that the district would not be at this number in 2009. Currently, the district is down by 160 burglaries compared to this time last year. According to Leyshock, the police have made an impact.

The biggest problem at the moment is larceny and auto thefts. The number of these was down until 4 weeks ago. The police have started concentrating in certain pockets of the neighborhood. In terms of robberies, the number in Marine Villa is holding steady.

Leyshock gave the following reasons for the positive impact made regarding burglaries:

- At all meetings that police representatives attend, they urge people to call 911 if anyone sees suspicious activity. Leyshock acknowledged this can sound clichéd, but he urges residents to call. Leyshock has talked to his police officers and told them that even if one officer gets a call on a burglary, other officers can respond too. Leyshock gave an example of multiple teams going to a call and catching two career burglars in the Shaw neighborhood.
- There are two traditional shifts at police stations. Leyshock does an overlap shift. He reviews the previous day's burglaries, and then sends two-man crews out to knock on doors and gather clues from neighbors.
- For the last 2 years, the police have had a crime analysis unit that pinpoints hotspots. Leyshock works on these and sends out top investigators. 160 less burglaries in the district shows the impact this can have.

- When talking to neighborhood organizations, Leyshock reminds residents that if you are a victim of a robbery, you have to be careful. But, the very second the perpetrator leaves, start remembering all the physical details you can. This can be traumatic, but it can assist the police greatly.
- Leyshock has been a police officer for more than 20 years. He is always doing research: talking about perpetrator names with other officers, theories, trying to figure out who might have moved into neighborhood (for example, if someone is just out of the penitentiary, he pays attention to neighborhood). Leyshock does research every day. He is also fan of doing footbeats. He has increased foot patrol 50-60% to make the police more visible.

Q&A with Captain Leyshock

- A resident asked for clarification regarding calling 911 for non-emergencies, for example witnessing drug activity. Leyshock said to call 911 and to call the NSO. Non-emergency calls are also dispatched through radio. Leyshock emphasized that if you see anything suspicious (burglaries, for example), call 911. Dena Hibbard noted that the NSO has nuisance cards that include all the questions the dispatcher will ask for nuisance calls.
- Leyshock noted that everyone should have a checklist with serial numbers of possessions. Serial numbers can be run through Leads Online and checked against property that might have been pawned.
- A resident asked why crime is up now. Leyshock noted that there is currently a very liberal judge in juvenile right now, and it is hard to lock down people at the moment now. Leyshock explained there have also been some very low bonds set, and people are working on getting these raised. However, Leyshock stated there are only two districts where crime is higher than last year. The others are holding steady.
- Leyshock gave his number to resident: 314-444-0125

Introduction of Members

Police Reports

Covered during Leyshock's presentation.

NSO Reports

Dena Hibbard announced that the Construction Crew Academy on Truman Parkway has openings for students. Curriculum is just like any other school, but it also guarantee students a job with contractors after graduation. Contractors sometimes provide cars to kids in the academy, and graduates do very well.

Alderman Reports

Ken Ortmann – Ward 9

Ken was unable to attend

Craig Schmid – Ward 20

Craig reported that the mayor signed a workforce diversity ordinance today, which is part of an effort to have more employees who are city residents. The goals are: 25% African-American, 5% women, 15% apprentice. The Construction Crew Academy is important in this respect.

Benton Park West is having a movie night August 1 at 8:45.

National Night Out is Aug 4. Opportunity to meet neighbors.

On August 5, Concordia Publishing House will have an event for kids. It is giving out backpacks and other materials for the first day of school.

August 6 is supposed to be the sentencing for Doug Hartman with DHP. This is an individual who bought up around 400 properties and bilked investors out of money. He never developed the buildings. Some have sold, but there have been problems with ownership. He has already pled guilty. The maximum sentence is 20 months in federal prison.

Craig is still doing neighborhood walks on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays. Meet at the Old Firehouse at 6:00 pm.

The infected roses are now out of the flagpole island at Chippewa and Broadway thanks to city workers. Hopefully replanting can be done in October.

A large portion of Marine Villa is to be part of a Historic Preservation District (the area is east of Broadway, from Keokuk up to Winnebago, and goes into Kosciusko). Both sides of Chippewa need some attention, and hopefully historic tax credits will help.

A resident noted to Craig that there are serious problems on Jefferson, especially by Benton Park and at the corner of Cherokee. The resident asked what happens to calls after they are made to the NSO and 911. Craig replied that specifics are needed when making calls (property numbers, what sort of activity, descriptions of people, etc.).

Committee Reports

Beautification: Pam Wucher

Pam reported that a master gardener has made a plan for the triangle area at Chippewa and Broadway. The plan is in with Operation Brightside for a grant. After that, plants will be received. Commitment is needed from the community; a core group of dedicated volunteers is needed to take care of the plants. This weighs heavily on whether a grant will be awarded. Pam will talk more later about getting volunteers.

Pam will organize a workday for the Old Firehouse.

A resident asked a question regarding trees and whether the city plants trees. Craig said that the city will, just need 3x3 boxes. Craig said residents should call their alderman with the specific address. It was also noted that the city website has lots of information on tree planting. Craig and Pam said there is a new system of planting city trees that prevents them pushing up concrete.

Pam reported there is hearing on August 14 for the Historic Preservation District.

A resident asked about the process that the city uses to cut weeds on vacant lots. Dena said that some vacant property is given to the city and Forestry will come out. Forestry is a huge department, but they are trying to streamline the process. Dena said to take pictures of weeds and to email them to her. Dena reminded residents that Forestry lets summer crews go at the end of September.

Marketing: Marty Dames

Not in attendance.

President's Report

Nominations for Sergeant at Arms are still needed.

Treasury Report

Same as last month: \$2,190.74.

Approve Minutes

Approved.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Outdoor movie at Shepherd School is August 29, 2009. *Labyrinth* will be shown.

40th Anniversary Celebration is October 26, 2009, at 7pm (in place of general meeting). Amanda Penick and Stephanie Nelson will be organizing and are looking for volunteers. Call Amanda at 314-558-4083 if you would like to help.

Open Discussion

None.

Adjourn