

Home Park Community Meeting → Tue, 12/13/11

Special Guests:

- Val Peterson, Georgia Tech
 - Major Leighty, Atlanta Police Department
 - Lieutenant Snowden, Atlanta Police Department
 - Lieutenant Wilson, Atlanta Police Department
 - Officer Babb, Atlanta Police Department
 - Deputy Chief Connolly, Georgia Tech Police Department
 - Captain Rogers, Georgia Tech Police Department
 - Other Officers, Georgia Tech Police Department
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Val Peterson

- Georgia Tech has less crime than its peer universities (UGA, GSU, etc.)
- Crime is trending down
- Of the 4 most recent robberies of GT students, robbers in two of the crimes have been captured

Major Leighty

- As a result of the crime wave overtime has been approved by Chief Turner, so now Home Park has 3-5 officers in Home Park (8pm-4am)
- The APD Beat Redesign went into effect today (12/13), so now HP has a smaller beat which means better coverage
- Home Park has at least two officers on duty 16hrs per day (501 beat & Officer Stevens/Babb) → trying for 24hrs per day
- APEX & Narcotics units have also been operating in Home Park (shut down drug house on Haines St)
- Over the holidays are preparing for a transition of crime from robberies to burglaries; so keep your eyes out for unusual activity
- In the past 60 days Zone 5 had 6 robberies, 4 of which were in Home Park; however there were other areas that have had it far worse
- Gang tagging has gotten worse in the neighborhood, particularly near Northside Dr → the APD Gang Unit has gotten involved
- The key for helping secure Tech is for students to become involved

Deputy Chief Connolly

- Have period "Frontline" meeting with 'troops on the ground'
- Joint car for HP/AS is clearing legal hurdles but is expected to come online in the near future
- GTPD has been working to educate students about the risks of urban life; door hangers feature "See Something, Say Something" campaign
- Testing new video surveillance equipment

Crime Ideas

- Surveillance Cameras → Midtown Alliance, Georgia Power, and GT may be sponsors
- Improved Lighting → Department of Public Works and Georgia Power can help
- App for Crime Prevention → GT may be source

- Student Awareness → GT will email all students with safety tips prior to the holidays
- C4G (Computing 4 Good)
- Michael Brandon will take lead

City Council Redistricting

- All of Home Park moving to Ivory's district
- Will take effect in Jan 2014 (so two more years of having both Kwanza & Ivory)

APS (Atlanta Public Schools) Redistricting

- APS is going through redistricting and plans currently call for HP to have its school feeder system re-aligned → this would be VERY BAD for the neighborhood, both for the students (underperforming schools) and for the neighborhood in general (cratered home values)
- Currently HP has Centennial for Elementary; Inman for Middle; and Grady for High
- All of the options would still have Centennial for Elementary; but all of the options would have HP shifting to Kennedy (not good) for Middle; and two of the four options would have HP shifting to Douglas for High (also not good)
- Janet Kinard and Kathy Boehmer are taking the lead
- Next Steps:
 - o Take the survey (deadline, Fri, 12/16) → Comments are the most important part
 - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2SPYCCK>
 - Comment Examples:
 - By re-aligning the public schools in Home Park, the neighborhood will be negatively impacted – taking students from overachieving schools (Inman Middle & Grady High) and transferring them to underperforming schools (Kennedy Middle & Douglas High) – this is simply outrageous and will harm the children of the neighborhood.
 - Home Park is a burgeoning urban neighborhood and is experiencing a resurgence of young families moving into the neighborhood. If the school system for the neighborhood is destroyed by moving out of the Centennial-Inman-Grady cluster that will inevitably drive the majority of these young families out of the neighborhood.
 - Home Park is the most up-and-coming neighborhood in Midtown / Downtown Atlanta; however by taking away one of the neighborhood's most desirable attributes (good schools) the neighborhood will lose millions of dollars of property value (1,200 homes); which will in turn significantly impact tax revenues for the City.
 - o Get Kwanza & Ivory (as well as At Large City Council Members) involved
 - o Have key advocates write letters on behalf of Home Park
 - President Peterson, Georgia Tech
 - Turner
 - Coca-Cola
 - Atlantic Station
 - o Bring as much attention to the issue as possible (press, listserv, etc.)
- www.msm.edu/atlantapromiseneighborhoods → Provides info regarding Kennedy

'Love Your Block' Mini-Grant and Home Park Clean-Up Day

- Won grant (\$500) which will be used for neighborhood clean-up and beautification of Home Park Park

- Planning Clean-Up Day in Jan

Home Park / Georgia Power Substation

- Alley closed
- Meeting with Tony Rogers (PM) on Thu morning
- Hope to hear back soon regarding CBA (Community Benefit Agreement)

HPCIA Elections

- All positions elected
- VP – Community Planning & Development = OPEN
- VP – Learning Center #1 = Stephanie Soltau
- VP – Learning Center #2 = Janet Kinard
- Treasurer = Hugh Sanders
- Secretary = Joe Blount
- Chair, Business Committee = Nelson Burke
- Chair, Land Use Committee = Eric Jones
- Chair, Marketing & Communications Committee = Mat Thomas
- Chair, Public Safety Committee = Kathy Boehmer
- Chair, Membership Committee = Bill Patterson
- Chair, Events Committee = Paul Fortsen
- President = Dan Noyd
- NPU-E Representative = Shaun Green

Treasurer

- Few expenses
- Income sufficient