

ROSE GARDEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION Crime Watch Committee Meeting
December 8, 2008

Our meeting this evening focused on Police coverage for our neighborhood. While there actually is a reduction in city-wide crime there is a restructure of the police department which would assist in being clear and responsive to neighborhood concerns.

Police are staying in their assigned neighborhoods and being proactive in their course of action instead of just responding to a reported crime. Sergeants are even putting in time in the streets for Police Service Areas. The West End is listed as a PSA2.

The City of Allentown receives more than 20,000 calls per year. 9000 hours per year are used for ambulance calls. An emphasis is on the Fire Department to assist ambulances which frees up manpower to all police to be proactive to patrol and solve crimes.

Another animal control officer has been hired instead of using police officers. This frees up several hundred hours per year, or 20-30% of calls, to help patrol addresses with crime watches.

More men/women are now on the Allentown police force due to more officers retiring in recent years which made for less police and coverage available in the past. Retirement has stabilized.

While there actually is not a rise in crime in our area, per se, we as a group are just made more aware of it and are paying closer attention due to the incidences we had in early fall.

Neighborhood watch signs were discussed and serious consideration should be taken to add these to our blocks.

Crime Prevention Officer Captain Stevens offered to have our neighborhood go on a Communications Center Field Trip. A date was not discussed as of this date. He did, however, give us concrete tips to use as concerned neighbors:

We can't do it alone!

Keep/use a flashlight

Use timers for lights in house

Know what's going on in your neighbor's house (i.e. vacation time away)

Muhlenberg College hired more Allentown police officers to assist for coverage on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights throughout the West End.

.....and most importantly, BE OBSERVANT!

---Submitted by Kathleen Forte