

Rogers Park, 24th Police District, Beat 2431
CAPS Meeting, January 8, 2007
Rogers Park Community Council Office
1530 W. Morse Avenue
www.caps24.org

Officiates:

Kevin O'Neil, Facilitator, CAPS Beat 2431.

Sergeant Keleyni, Acting Beat Team Leader, Chicago Police Department.

Jayne M. Hoffman, notes recorder.

Meeting notes are paraphrased, and quotations marked accordingly.

I. Welcome and introductions.

7:00pm: Kevin opened with comments and welcomed everyone into 2007. Kevin also gave a nutshell version of the premise and objectives of the Community Alternative Policing Strategy program. Introductions went around the room.

Kevin continued with the first order of business: Lt. John Wittenberg, Tactical Coordinator for the CTA, is presenting on crime issues and safety at the CTA. Morse, Jarvis, & Howard stations are citywide deployment areas when there is a surge in crimes on the CTA buses and/or trains. Kevin: When someone witnesses a crime, how does that person handle it? Also, how do we avoid a "shell game?" **Lt. Wittenberg:** Notify the conductor or call 911. Provide the direction of train; last station stopped; train car number (located just inside the train car door); describe the offense going on; give best description of offender, e.g.: hair color, skin tone, eyes, outer clothing, etc.

Citizen: Panhandling, open drinking, and gang bangers use entry ways to CTA for escape. These things happen 24/7: Why not deploy 24-hour security in the high crime areas? **Lt. Wittenberg:** We do that periodically, but personnel is limited. The CTA assigns security through their Security Department. I can recommend to them that they check their policy on deployment of security personnel. Kevin: What is the Security Cop's role? **Lt. Wittenberg:** Security cops are instructed to call 911 when they see crimes. They do have limited personnel: they may revisit the idea of moving 24-hour security back to Morse.

Citizen: What is the "shell game?" **Lt. Wittenberg:** The shell game can consist of cards, shells, bottle caps, etc. The perpetrators usually work in teams. They play as though they do not know each other. The dealer allows the player to bet and win cash. They entice unknowing riders on the train to bet and lose money, and then jump to another train car. It's really a game of solicitation and fraud. Call the conductor or 911 anytime you witness this game played on CTA property.

Citizen: How are your crimes logged? **Lt. Wittenberg:** We look at information from the Chicago Police in the areas near train stations, e.g.: the types of riders, and how much crime is happening in those areas. CTA crimes are logged separate from those logged by the Chicago Police. The areas outside of the CTA stations parameters are generally outside of CTA jurisdiction.

Citizen: What is going on with the construction at the Howard Street station? **Lt. Wittenberg:** I believe that capital improvements are going on at the station. Contact the Alderman's office, 773-338-5796, for more information.

Kevin: Let me make a clarification on panhandling. There used to be certain types allowed on the street.

What are the laws on the CTA? Lt. Wittenberg: Panhandling is against CTA policy. CTA regulates the laws on its trains and buses.

II. Police crime report. Click here to go to November and December crime stats. For ICAM reports, click here.

Citizen: Can we get (create) a grid to break down and log specific index crimes? Mary Jane Haggerty: You can go to www.chicagocrime.org for the listings, but they are not historical. **Citizen:** If the police department gives me the stats, I will post them on a web site.

Kevin: Crimes are down from last year. Go to www.caps24.org for the comparison report. **Citizen:** Where does that document come from? **Kevin:** It is from the police. **Citizen:** Why does it not log the murder of Wayne Jones this past year? **Kevin:** That is a good question. **Officer Cohen:** The victim did not die right away and so the statistic that made the comparison report was “aggravated battery”—which was how the homicide was originally documented—as with many homicides. He died in St. Francis Hospital. Much bad information as to who was responsible was deliberated for long time in that case.

1340 W. Morse/1345 W. Lunt. Kevin: That building is under a resolution agreement between The City of Chicago, and the new property manager, Troy Amber, assigned by Realty Mortgage, managers for the buildings owners. **Thomas Gongora (Tom),** the new building engineer is present: Whenever I call 911, the perps stay about 20 minutes and then leave, but before the cops arrive. **Sgt. Keleyni:** If there is a case reported, and detailed documentation, sometimes we can file a report. **Other Officer:** If you post no-trespassing signs, you do not have to warn them, just make the call.

Kevin read from a report that Troy Amber, who could not be present, submitted to CAPS: Tom’s hiring has had impact. Security guards have been effective working with police. Problems have decreased by about 50 percent since security was implemented. CAPS meeting notices were posted. Building entrances have been secure, and additional lights installed in parking areas. Troy will be leaving The City of Chicago. The new manager who will replace him has yet to be named.

Citizen: What happened to the woman who was a problem (had jumped out of a window to avoid being caught)? **Tom:** We evicted her. **Citizen:** Is there anything you need from the community? **Other Sgt:** Deputy Chief from Area 3 also aware of this issue. **Tom:** Officers now have about 10 sets of keys to enter without my assistance. There are still a couple of people who continue to buzz in loiterers. **Citizen:** Do you know who they are? **Tom:** We have one narrowed down to apartment 302. There is another somewhere on the fourth floor. We also had problems with apartments 513 and 514, but they have been evicted.

III. Identify new problem areas.

Citizen: Is the blue light at Morse & El real? Several windows have been broken. When our window was broken at approximately 2:00pm on January 1, 2007, a patient guarded it and called us. Why did not the police call us? **Sgt. Keleyni:** Local police have the card with your contact information on it. 311 does not have information to contact the “key holder.” This is the venue to address this issue. Now that the officers know that there is an issue, we can address this directly. **Kevin:** What is the address? **Citizen:** 1405 W. Morse. **Sgt. Keleyni:** If there was someone on the scene, and there was no burglary in progress, then we handle it from the paperwork standpoint. A broken window is not an index crime unless property was stolen from inside the premises.

Citizen: If there is a blue light camera, why wouldn’t the police go back to the record a day or two later

to try and solve the crime? Other officer: it's a flaw in the system. Kevin: I will invite monitors from that group to answer questions on what the camera captures. Officer Cohen: I honestly do not know if they would access that information for a broken window.

Citizen: The word I have not heard mentioned in the last 20 twenty minutes is "investigation." Sgt. Keleyni: On "property damage" only, there will be no investigation. There is not the manpower to address every break in unless a theft or a crime, other than vandalism, takes place.

Kevin: Other new problems?

Citizen: On Farwell (at Sheridan) there is a problem with the pizza delivery drivers triple parking at Giordano's. Kevin: Officer Salvador, did you ever talk to them? **Officer Salvador:** I will personally address this situation, and issue tickets. Sgt. Keleyni: It has been brought up with the owner. Citizen: Can we get the owner into a meeting. Another citizen offered to ask the owner.

Citizen: The building on Morse, behind it looks like a junkyard. **Citizen 2:** It is construction material: that area is under construction.

Citizen: The convenience store beneath the Lunt Street El keeps getting its window busted out. **Kevin:** Get him to attend the CAPS meetings.

Citizen: 6920 N. Wayne. No complaint in the past month, but there were earlier in the fall.

IV. Priorities for 2007:

- Mission focus for Beat 2431 has been the 1300 -to-1700 blocks on Morse. **Kevin:** Over the past 2 years, we have had missions to shutdown drug dealing: I imagine we would want to have police continue to focus on drug dealing in this area;
- Problem buildings that are constant;
- Quality of life crimes which include violent crimes;
- Hold Beat meetings to an hour in length;
- Citizen: Merchants advocacy groups get more business owners involved in meetings. Can we work on getting outreach to the merchants in the beat area? Katy Hogan: SSA would talk about it on Tuesday, January 9th at the No Exit Cafi 1900, 6970 N. Glenwood;
- Citizen: 1420 Morse, liquor store. Loiterers, many of whom look under age, consistently at the door; and
- Kevin: 1430 Farwell that we have been putting off to focus on Morse/Lunt.

V. Announcements.

1. The next beat meeting will be **Monday, February 12, 2007. We return to our normally scheduled meetings on the 3rd Monday on, March 19, 2007.**
2. To enquire about cell phones available to elderly, call Katy: 274-2003 or Mary Jane: 387-3822.
3. **Go to www.chicagocrime.org to retrieve up-to-date raw crime statistics.**
4. Beat 2431 boundary maps available at the Rogers Park Community Council, 1530 W. Morse Avenue.

VII. Happy Monday! Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.
