

Safety and Security Committee Report – October 11, 2005

Committee members: Linda Allen, Ellen Barth, Becky Hooper, and Janet Jobe

Crime in recent months:

-5 separate residences that back up to the alley way between Crescent Park and Ridgeside Road have had garages and utility sheds broken and articles stolen. One stolen, parked car was reported and thought to be in use as home base for stolen goods. Many of these crimes are thought to be from foot traffic. One car in this same area, parked in resident's driveway, was broken into.

-9 different incidences of cars being broken into, most while parked on the street, have been reported on Windmere and Brookwood. These are happening during the night and most likely by driveby-drivethru traffic. The probability is very high that your car will be broken into if you park on the street. Side windows and sunroofs are busted as well as the rubber molding along doors removed and door forced open.

-1 final notice warning for a loose and dangerous dog has been given to the Rhotons on Windmere Drive. The black mixed dog has attacked the Jobe dog (on leash) five times and Mrs. Jobe twice. Two attacks happened in Jobe front yard and three on the public sidewalk across from Rhoton house. Mrs. Rhoton was witness to all five incidences. In her written response to the commissioners, she fails to note that her dog attacked Jobe dog, biting its ears and throat not letting go.

-Many cars have been observed running stop signs and speeding through the neighborhood.

-Parking violations continue. Of special note is the top of Ridgeside Road where cars park on both sides of the street, creating a single lane of traffic.

-Several incidences of teenagers hanging out in the park and at the pool house late in the evening have been reported. Ridgeside 'R' stickers were not on any of the cars.

-Beer cans left as litter in park.

-Dog kennel/animal rescue still begin operated at house on Crescent Park. As many as 13-18 dogs have been noted to be in residence at this one address previously noted for noise violations.

Recommendations to commissioners:

- increase security patrol, especially during dark hours (preference would be for nightly patrol every night all night long)
- install security recording cameras at entrances to neighborhood

- implement lighting proposal for entire neighborhood
- enforce citations for traffic violations
- create islands at large intersections to deter running stop signs
- send warning notice to neighbors regarding being on the lookout for dangerous and loose dogs
- install speed humps on Hilldale (requested by residents on Hilldale)
- give parking violations to street parkers
- check for license of dog kennel/animal rescue owner
- study gating the city.

The committee also requests a written clarification and guidelines regarding enforcement of law by the city commissioners and by the East Ridge Police that provide security for city of Ridgeside. This document should cover such things as but not limited to: can the ER police arrest someone committing a crime in Ridgeside, can speeding tickets be given, can parking tickets be given, etc. It is recommended that Ridgeside look at other communities/independent cities within Hamilton Co., such as Lookout Mountain and Signal Mountain, regarding law enforcement issues.

All residents are encouraged to report crimes and safety and security issues to the Ridgeside commissioners and to attend the quarterly meetings noted on community directory. While the Safety and Security Committee is very interested in addressing these issues, we do not have voting rights on the commission and cannot make changes to the operations of the city of Ridgeside. We can only make recommendations to the commissioners. We understand your frustration when you call a member of the Safety and Security committee and expect action to be taken. Action can only be taken by the commissioners of the city. Please come to commission meetings and see your city at work.

The committee also requests that notice be given to all residents regarding community meetings where important issues such as lighting, gating, parking, etc. are being decided by the commissioners. It is not our impression from talking to many home owners that lack of attendance at these community meetings implies lack of interest and input on the part of residents.

The committee recommends that Halloween be held on Monday, October 31st, 2005 from 5 to 8 p.m. with extra fulltime police patrol from 5 to 9 p.m. Lt. Bob Davis of the East Ridge Police Dept. has offered to assist. The rate is \$20 per hour. His telephone number is 867-5784. Lt. Davis will expect a check made out to him be available on that same evening. Notices should be sent to residents of Ridgeside regarding this arrangement and encouraging them to turn off lights and lock doors at 8:00 p.m. Consideration should be given to having Halloween next year for two hours only.

Residents have also expressed continued interest in having fire protection service from the city of Chattanooga fire department two blocks away vs. current protection from the East Ridge Fire Department approximately 7-9 miles away. Residents express interest in paying more for this service to have closer protection services.

