EAST HYDE PARK/KENWOOD COALITION

Emergency Meeting Called by Alderman Hairston
June 23, 2014 – 6:30 pm
Montgomery Place
5550 S. Shore Drive

Notes

Goals and Objectives

The purpose of the East Hyde Park/Kenwood Coalition (the “Coalition”) is to bring together the various voices that represent the residents of the community to ensure that the City understands that:

- There are issues that face East Hyde Park/Kenwood that result from the heavy use of the Lakefront
- The City needs to invest at both the operational and capital levels to keep this neighborhood an attractive and safe place for both its residents and visitors

Attendees:

- Alderman Leslie Hairston, 5th Ward Alderman
- Commander Jim Jones, 3rd District CPD
- Alonzo Williams, Lake Front Supervisor, Chgo. Park Dist.
- Lorenzo Chew, Security Chgo. Park Dist.
- Sargent Ware, Chicago Police Dept. 2nd District
- University of Chicago Police Officer

At least four Coalition members attended including Mary Foote, Vera Wilkinson, Joe Peterson, Jake Young and David Myles in the hospitality room and overflow room where a remote monitor and audio was available to those in this room. Local media was present along with a WGN camera crew.

Alderman Hairston called this emergency community meeting earlier in the day in response to the prior evening’s shooting and murder that occurred Sunday June 21st at approximately 7:15pm in the Park District’s Iowa Building located at 56th and Everett Drive. According to the police, this was a targeted shooting at close range killing a reported gang member and shooting and wounding his relative who survived. A third person was also present in addition to the shooter who fled the scene. No arrests have been made as this incident is being investigated by the CPD detectives. Numerous questions from community residents were asked and answered.
The Chicago Police Department outlined their manpower assigned to the Lakefront which includes 7–9 bike patrol officers from 56th South on the Lakefront (3rd Police District); 7 bike patrol officers from 31st – 56th Street (2nd Police District) that work nightly until 2 am. The 2nd District also assigns beat car (Shore Drive area) and two (2) overtime cars (4 officers) that patrol Jackson Harbor and Promontory Point. The police mentioned that social media can quickly organize a “flash mob” and asked residents to **immediately call 911** when large numbers of persons converge in any area and the police will respond.

The University of Chicago conducts joint operations (w/CPD) conducting “seat belt checks” in the vicinity of 56 & 57th and Shore Drive and have “blue light” posts (not manned) at the 56 & 57th Street tunnels to the Lakefront. There are 10 U of C bike patrol officers and a beat car assigned to east Hyde Park near the METRA tracks. {After the meeting, I asked the officer what determines where the University creates manned post as witnessed on several street corners. Answer: Post are assigned security personnel only *on the campus* where data indicates historical hot spots.}

The Chicago Park District stated that groups larger than 50 persons are required to have a Park District Permit to assemble. The District asked for neighbors to **call 911** when large numbers of persons converge in a park or when loud music is played and the Police are instructed to request Permits or to disperse the crowd if a Permit(s) isn’t produced. The Park District was asked if the Parks could be closed earlier than 11 pm and the response was “yes”. {Following the meeting, I emailed Alonzo and asked what legally had to happen to close the Lakefront park earlier than 11 pm.}

Alderman Hairston is drafting language for an Ordinance to be introduced to City Council to ban guns in the parks and to designate the parks “Safe Zones” and to tighten the offenses for crimes committed in the parks. She plans on introducing this ordinance at Wednesday’s Council meeting that will go to Committee for Hearings before returning to the Council for action. If such legislation passes, signs will be posted in the park warning of the Gun Ban and Safe Zones. The Alderman mentioned that surveillance cameras currently exist at the MSI and near the pedestrian tunnels that are being reviewed as part of this criminal investigation. She offered to review these camera angles to see if the Iowa Building is properly included for future surveillance.

Here are some links highlighting the incident:

**From DNAinfo Chicago**


**From HP Herald**


Notes by: David Myles