

**MIDTOWN MUSEUM DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
(MMDNA)**



**Notes of the eighth meeting held on Wednesday 29 April 2009 at the Fairfield Inn and Suites 2520
N. Central Avenue, Phoenix Arizona from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.**

1. Introduction and welcome

Margaret Dietrich welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Keynote Speaker Philip McNeely: Phoenix Environmental Sustainability Program
Manager**

3. BLOCK WATCH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

3.1 Report from Community Action Officer Al Knecht

Officer Knecht reported that it had been a quiet month with not much crime reported. He advised the group that there would be a targeted program in May to tackle the Homeless and Transients in the Central City Precinct area. People picked up during this time will be given information about the wide range of services available to help people who have become homeless.

3.2 District 4 Annual Crime Summit April 4 2009

Julia Tourville attended this event on behalf of the MMDNA (District 4 starts at Thomas). The event was hosted by Vice Mayor Tom Simplot and the guest speakers included Mayor Phil Gordon, Attorney General Tony Goddard, and Tim Hampton, Police Commander for the Maryvale precinct. Key areas for discussion included:

- Identity theft – and how to prevent it;
- Consumer fraud, including “Con Men” targeting areas with offers of mortgage assistance
- Drug activity, including use of vacant properties for “Drop Houses” and drug manufacturing
- Graffiti and other vandalism
- School Resource Officers (SROs) to be more proactive in dealing with truancy
- Property theft
- Good (two way) communication with Neighborhood Associations and other community groups to pass on information about crime issues in the local area.

More information about Consumer Fraud can be found at the Attorney General’s web site www.az.gov

Mayor Gordon emphasized the importance of making sure that everyone fills out a census form. Funding for the City of Phoenix is based on the number of residents and therefore needs to be as accurate and comprehensive as possible. **More information about the next census can be found at**

More details from the Vice Mayor’s office can be found at <http://www.phoenix.gov/district4/index.html>

3.3 Villas Del Coronado Block Watch

The first Block Watch meeting for Villas Del Coronado was held on April 15 2009. Officer Deb Iodice, the **City of Phoenix Block Watch Coordinator** led the discussion and explained the purpose of Block Watch. Block Watch encourages neighbors to get acquainted, look out for one another by reporting unusual or criminal activities to the police. It helps people to work together to solve problems and reduce neighborhood crime. These actions promote safer surroundings and help maintain or improve the neighborhood quality of life.

Officer Iodice emphasized the need for residents to share information quickly about issues concerning safety in their community, and to get to know what is “normal” for their area. She distributed City of Phoenix Police Department information leaflets about Block Watch, Burglary prevention, Vacation Security and Bicycle safety.

She also discussed the possibility of setting up a Neighborhood Patrol in the area, at a future date. Neighborhood Patrols enables citizen volunteers to become additional eyes and ears for the Police Department and be active partners in crime prevention. Citizens use non-confrontational methods to observe and report suspicious or criminal activity. The minimum qualifications are that participants must reside in the City of Phoenix, be over 18 years old, possess a valid driver license or state ID card and complete a mandatory 8-hour training program. More information is available at www.phoenix.gov/POLICE/bwonpa1.html or (602) 495-0440

The Block Watch Program Coordinator for the Central City Precinct is Officer Doreena Wiegert can be contacted on doreena.wiegert@phoenix.gov Telephone: (602) 495-5005. Officer Iodice can be contacted on Deborah.iodice@phoenix.gov

The Villas Del Coronado are looking for a Block Watch Coordinator to organize Block Watch events for the community and residents were urged to contact Ron Dickson (President of the Condo Association)

3.3 Tapestry on Central Block Watch

This community would be holding their first meeting with Officer Doreena Wiegert on May 7 2009 and a report will be given at the May MMDNA meeting.

3.4 Other Block Watch and community safety issues

The Willo Neighborhood had reported a significant increase in the number of property thefts from garages and patios. All MMDNA residents were reminded of the importance of:

- Keeping valuable items secure and out of sight
- Have a strong padlock and hasp on storage areas and backyard gates
- Consider low voltage lighting around the house all night long
- Keep their eyes open for suspicious behavior.

The City of Phoenix also has a “Block Watch for Businesses” called “Safebiz Network”. This is an important component of safety in the Midtown Museum Neighborhood because of the high number of businesses. The Safebiz Network can help businesses with:

- Crime alerts and crime prevention information

- Communicate with businesses
- Safety/Awareness training
- On site inspections
- Presentations/seminars
- Information resource.

More information is available at www.phoenix.gov/safebiz

4. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Margaret reported that the Association's funds stood at \$134.70.

5. **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The next social event would be held on XXX

It was noted that the Hilton Inn and Suites at 10 E Thomas were offering Mother's Day Special Offers on accommodation, and a Mother's Day Buffet from 10.30 to 3.00pm on Sunday May 10. For more information go to XX

6. **WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT**

There had been a lot of discussion about the new website, generously funded by Bob and Linda. The format and content of the site had been agreed and the new site would be hosted on GoDaddy.com. The importance of the new site was emphasized and everyone was looking forward to having an easy to navigate, and attractive web presence.

7. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the MMDNA would be held on Wednesday 20 May 2009 at 6.30 pm at the Phoenix Midtown Holiday Inn 212 W. Osborn with a Happy Hour at 5.30 pm. The Keynote Speaker will be Senator Ken Chevront who will talk about the challenges facing small businesses.

It was agreed that there would be no MMDNA meetings during the months of July and August

The dates of the meetings for the rest of the year were agreed as follows, noting that they would be held on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month to avoid clashes with a number of homeowner association meetings. All meetings would start at 6.30 pm and the venues will be agreed ASAP

- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Check out our website for last month's **Meeting Notes** and other items of interest to the neighborhood
www.midtownmuseumdistrict.org