

**DRAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MEETING**  
**CRIME & SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 6:30-8:00pm**

**I. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)**

- a) Introduce Members of the Planning Committee

**II. Update on Rental Sub-Committee (10 min)**

- a) Landlord survey
- b) Committee to begin meeting in late August
- c) Opportunity for two committees to collaborate

**III. Discuss Strategies to Address Neighborhood Crime and Safety Issues (45-60 mins)**

Some ideas mentioned during our discussion last month...

- Education of residents, landlords, tenants, businesses, Drake staff & students, etc.
- Utilize available resources: NBSD, Crime-free Multi-Housing, and others

What are other strategies for addressing current crime and safety issues?

**IV. Next Meeting Date, Time and Location (5 min)**

The meeting began with Kyle giving a brief update on the Rental Sub-committee. Sadie Hildebrand is leading this subcommittee who are actively attempting to engage landlords and renters in the neighborhood. Staff has prepared a list of approximately 500 landlords in the Drake neighborhood that currently hold rental certificates. A letter was sent to these landlords inviting them to complete an online survey and ask if they would be interested in becoming more involved in the neighborhood association. To date about 30 survey responses have been received with approximately 15 of those landlords indicating that they would like to be involved in the neighborhood.

Because much of the property complaints and criminal activity in the Drake neighborhood involves rental property and/or landlord-tenant issues there is an opportunity for the Crime and Safety Committee and the Rental Subcommittee to collaborate. Bill C. indicated that he is also serving on the rental committee. Others are welcome if interested. Kyle indicated that Sadie planned for the rental committee to begin meeting in late August.

The landlord survey indicated that there were several landlords that were not aware of NBSD, because of this the committee suggested that an informational brochure be sent to the complete list of landlords to be followed by a workshop or informational session.

The committee discussed the importance of NBSD in the Drake Neighborhood and would like to see the City make a commitment to retaining the program for many years into the future.

Bill mentioned that the DNA will be sending a board member to future meetings of the Housing Appeals Board (HAB) when there is a property within the Drake Neighborhood on the agenda.

This will allow the DNA board to provide input to the HAB on problem properties and landlords that continue to plaque the Drake neighborhood.

Inspector Moore mentioned that he has requested that the City's Forestry Division trim street trees along 22<sup>nd</sup> Street south of University. These trees are blocking the streetlights, which is fostering a rise in unwanted and illegal activity along this street. The trimming of trees and increased police patrols should help alleviate these unwanted activities.

Next the committee picked up on the discussion from last month of prostitution and alcohol related problems in the neighborhood. It was asked if staff could map the prostitution arrests in the neighborhood to get a better feel for where the problems are concentrated. Kyle will work with Sgt. Mulford to do this before the next meeting. A map of the existing map probation area was also requested.

The committee continued to discuss the possibilities of looking at improvements to City and State Codes relating to housing and alcohol licensing. They noted a lack of communication between the State and City when issuing beverage licenses has caused problems in Drake and elsewhere. Other cities such as Iowa City and West Des Moines have made code and policy changes to address similar problems in their communities. Another committee member mentioned that the State regulations allow cigarette sales to count as grocery for tracking the ratio of grocery to liquor sales. Removing cigarettes from the grocery side or increasing the percentage of grocery sales and decreasing the percentage of alcohol sales were two ideas the committee felt could improve the situation. These larger policy and code improvements fall outside the typical neighborhood planning process but the DNA can pursue these issues by partnering with other neighborhood groups. Monica from EFR mentioned that EFR staff may be able to assist the neighborhood association in researching and drafting code/policy changes.

Next Crime and Safety Committee meeting will be August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Drake Security Office.