

## **SASY Neighborhood Association Council Meeting**

### **Union Triangle Neighborhood Crime and Traffic**

14 Aug. 2014

#### 1] Introduction:

- Jason's backstory of our Neighborhood.
- My Name is Mia Brodersen and I have lived at 2810 Union St. for 15 years now. I am here tonight to address the increase in crime, drugs and traffic in our immediate neighborhood. I am referring to the triangle from Milwaukee St. at Starkweather creek to East Washington, and East Wash to Clyde Gallagher with our border to the east being Starkweather creek.

#### 2] Crime

- I will begin with the 20-30 person "gang related" fight last fall that travelled from Hermina St. down Union St. wielding any fashion of weapon they could get their hands on. Including ripping metal downspouts from gutters to use against each other. The 911 line was so busy with call for this it was difficult to get through.
- The Stabbing and murders on East Washington and Union St. in May, which was addressed briefly at the Eastside mental Health forum, although tragic and avoidable was clearly someone with mental health issues.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> a new tenant moved into 2755 Union St. bringing with a man with a 27 year history of violent felonies. I witnessed open and blatant drug deals on the corner of Oak and Union during the day on July 4<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup>. On July 31<sup>st</sup> this man intimidated two neighbors and assaulted a third, and stood in my driveway at 12:30 pm threatening myself and my next door neighbor for calling the police on him. He was arrested on Aug 1<sup>st</sup> and since been released on a \$200 dollar signature bond.

- On July 10th there was the drive by “gang related” shooting on Marquette St. at 3pm. When there are usually up to 6 children playing on that corner. One of our neighbors had to yell at his young daughter to get down who was playing on their front screened in porch.
- Also in July there was a house break in on the 200 block of Oak St. during the day, a neighbor called in after seeing people kicking the doors in.
- On July 15<sup>th</sup> after the meeting at the Salvation Army the police and paramedics took someone away from Reger Park and then we heard the gun shots fired from the shooting near the Worthington St. area.
- On Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Again my next door Neighbors and ourselves were compelled to call the police after someone was in our driveway and had tried to enter their front door and was in their backyard.
- The most recent being the shots fired on the night of Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> in the 2900 block of Union St. waking many neighbors up to call 911.
- This does not even list all of the smaller less dangerous instances that are disturbing to see in the neighborhood that don’t warrant a call to the police.

### 3] The Drugs

- In addition to the dealings on the corner of Union and Oak that I mentioned previously we have found used needles on our curb, a foot away from where my curious seven year old plays with sidewalk chalk, as well as finding them with more frequency in Reger Park.
- I am also finding more used condoms as well as the little twisted empty drug baggies and new this year the tiny about an inch or so empty zip lock drug baggies in Reger Park. I had a Neighbor on Marquette St. complain to me that she has seen exchanges of sex for drugs at night in Reger Park. This backs up to many of our homes.

#### 4] Traffic

- Drew Hanson has organized some meetings addressing the traffic issues on Milwaukee St. which I would like to thank him for, and he has some coming up in sept. for anyone who is interested.
- We would also like to address the traffic hurling down Union St. and looping through to Hermina. As well the traffic coming up Marquette from the Mobil Station, turning down Union St. and looping thru to Hermina. These do not appear to be residents or people visiting residents majority of the time.

#### 5] East Side Shopping Center

- The increase of the intimidating panhandling in front of Walgreens, as well the increase of disturbances at the library. Many of which the police have to be called for.
- I feel the uptick in negative activity in the shopping center corresponded with the arrival of the McDonalds.

#### 6] Our proposals

- The end of Union St. Blocked off at Clyde Gallagher or looking into making that a “play street”
- Increased police visibility
- Bright lighting in the playground at Reger Park, and clearing of some of the vegetation along the back for better visibility.
- A Community Garden and potlucks at Reger Park for more of a neighborhood presence.
- Regular contact with a neighborhood police officer or police liaison
- Active and involved role in the Worthington Neighborhood Association, since we share some of the same problems and concerns. I really feel we can learn from what has worked for them.

#### 7] Questions

- What can SASY do to improve the safety within our neighborhood
- Can we become members of SASY and form a committee to work this triangle with in SASY or do you feel it is best to split off?

- How do we get more of a police presence and knowledge of a strategic plan?
- Are there business representatives from the Business's in our triangle? : Eastside Shopping Center, the Mobil, Trixie's Liquor, The Malt House, the Hair salon on Milwaukee? If not I would be happy to engage them.