

## SOAR INSIDER

An important update for you



## Neighborhood Safety Update

On Thursday August 6th, SOAR President Deborah Gershbein and Safety & Security Chair Bob Johnson met with Alderman Brendan Reilly, Alderman Brian Hopkins, Chicago Police Department 18th District Commander Jill Stevens, Sergeant Chris Schenk and Mike Riorden, President River North Residents Association to discuss what can be done to stop the increasing crime in Streeterville and River North. Both neighborhoods are experiencing the same disturbing illegal and criminal activities. Fortunately we learned that there are many plans and initiatives in place to address our concerns: the need for more police presence, increased crime, late night street parties, Divvy bike issues, hotel occupancy problems, and motorcycles.

We are in constant contact with CPD and our Aldermen and plan to have monthly follow up meetings like this one. At this point in time, the safety of all who live in, work in and enjoy the Streeterville neighborhood is our number one priority.

### MEETING SUMMARY

The following is an outline of Commander Stevens and the District's plan to curb the increase in violence and lawlessness in the neighborhood.

#### Crime

Commander Stevens has requested and received two platoons of 50 officers from the recently created Critical Incident Response Team to supplement patrol officers in response to recent criminal activity in Streeterville. They will work the afternoon and evening watches. In addition she has requested and will receive additional bike patrols, canine officers, and mounted officers when not assigned to protests. The Commander has also re-established foot patrol officers on specific streets.

#### Police Presence

There will be a joint surge mission on weekends with the adjoining 1st District (Loop) to show a police presence on certain hot spots in both Districts. This will involve multiple police cars moving through an area.

#### Divvy (Lyft) Bike

Aldermen Reilly and Hopkins have both put pressure on Divvy to address the issue of stolen bicycles and resulting criminal activities. Divvy has presented a three pronged plan involving credit card checks, zip codes and stronger locking devices on the docking stations. If these changes don't work, the Alderman said they will require Divvy to replace all of the docking stations with new theft proof units at their expense. We realize the bikes on the sidewalk are also an issue that we still need to deal with.

#### Motorcycles

The Illinois State Police (ISP) has a motorcycle contingent. Commander Stevens has requested ISP to attend a roll call and instruct CPD officers on specific methods and laws to curtail illegal motorcycle activities on Lake Shore Drive. Alderman Reilly reminded the Commander that he had a law passed last year that made "straight pipes" illegal. This is an issue SOAR has been addressing for many years and will continue to do so in the future.

#### Hotels

At a recent meeting with the Hotel Management Association the Alderman told the hotels they had to have a security guard in the Lobby with a clipboard to check off the names of the people who registered the room. Only two persons per room will be allowed. They will have only two key cards issued to the named occupants. The hotels were notified that the occupant's friends were entering the hotels through the fire exits and that the hotels needed to address this issue. Sgt. Schenk said the Community Policing Team is visiting the hotels to advise management of their obligations.

#### Late Night Street Parties, Illegal Drinking and Drugs, etc.

At the request of Alderman Reilly (42nd) and Alderman Hopkins (2nd) the Commander has placed no parking restrictions on specific residential streets from 11pm until 6am. SOAR requested the Commander look at increasing that initiative to include additional Streeterville streets. Residents have asked us to include Pearson, Delaware and Walton Place. Officers stopped a subject and recovered a loaded Glock handgun and made an arrest on the 200 block of East Delaware Place as a result of a recent request by Alderman Hopkins for special attention to the area.

#### NEXT STEPS

We will continue to provide alerts, updates and details as we receive them. We realize that this is just a start and there is much more that needs to be accomplished. This is a work in progress, but please know that our Aldermen and the CPD 18th District are working overtime on our behalf to address all of the issues that are affecting the quality of life and safety for Streeterville residents. SOAR is continuing to advocate on behalf of the neighborhood and will not stop until we are once again one of the safest Neighborhoods in the City of Chicago.

#### REMEMBER

**If you see something, say something and call 911!**  
**It is important to call 911. The police don't know what is going on if we don't tell them. We are the eyes and ears on the street!**