

German Village Society Safety Committee Meeting with Precinct 11 Police Officers
Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Present (7): Dan Glasener, Committee Chair; Officer Robin Medley, 11th Precinct Community Relations Officer; Bill Boys, recording the Minutes; four community members.

Chair Dan Glasener called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

Officer Medley:

1. Handout: Columbus Div. of Police paper issued by the Community Liaison Unit, "Know Your Neighbor; Know Your Neighborhood." It included notes about (1) Reporting Suspicious Persons and Activities, (2) Personal Safety Crime Prevention Tips, including being streetwise and safe; when jogging or bicycling; and if you are a victim of a crime. **[A PDF copy of this 2-page handout is attached. If it can be included or linked to when these Minutes are published, that would be good.]**
2. Handout: 11th Precinct Bi-Weekly Crime Stats (5/15/18-5/23/18). When these become available he also posts a notice on the Next Door German Village webcast. Residential burglaries (there were 21 in this period) have always been higher in this precinct than in others because it is a target-rich precinct with close-together homes close to the street and not far from major arteries and interstate highways. Officer Medley advises using an ultraviolet marker, which he can give you, to mark all your portable property that a thief might take so that if it's recovered a prosecution can be pursued if the perpetrator is apprehended. He added that thieves are smart about hiding stolen items near where they were stolen so that if they are apprehended there's nothing on them to pin them to the theft. That's why you may sometimes see police looking through trash and recycling bins or into shrubbery near homes where a theft has been reported.
3. Officer Medley advises keeping a list of everything that's in your purse or wallet so that if it is taken you know what has to be replaced, what banks or credit card companies need to be notified, and what other agencies need to be advised. (For example: one person forgot that her library card was in her purse. The thief used it to steal 20 videos from the library, which the library charged to her account for replacement.)
4. Thieves have particularly been targeting detached garages, usually breaking in through the walk-in door, not the doors for the vehicles; and they are particularly stealing mountain bikes at present. The police are aware of the issue and are deploying appropriate resources.
5. In response to a question on whether or not to leave lights on in and around garages he recommends lights NOT be left on inside (it allows thieves to look inside), but LEFT ON outside (so they can be seen or videotaped as the case may be).
6. In response to a comment that one person obtained very good safety advice from a police inspection of the vulnerability of her home, Officer Medley said these are typically offered to business owners, but homeowners can also request them. Contact him.
7. In response to a question about one person's inability to find a public record of a crime report that had truly been filed on the Police website, Officer Medley said that

any slight variation in spelling, or omission or inclusion of suffixes like “Jr.” can prevent one from finding the public report of the case. It’s not a very user-friendly system, he agreed. It can take up to two weeks for reports to appear because they have to be entered into the system solely by a police officer.

Chair Dan Glasener stated that the next meeting will be in September, and encouraged inviting more of our friends and neighbors so that we show the police by our attendance and participation in these meetings that we are definitely interested in working with them to keep our neighborhood safe.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Bill Boys