



November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008  
Steamer 10 Theater, Western Avenue  
2:00 PM

The meeting opened with President Curtis announcing the purpose – to air concerns and ask what we can do as a neighborhood, as well as what we thought should be asked of our local government. The following is a summary of issues discussed, broken into the areas where we believe action needs to be taken.

### **City of Albany**

1. Lighting:
  - a. Increased number of lights/poles.
  - b. Consideration of tree canopies and height of bulbs.
  - c. Methodology for monitoring status of lights.
2. Youth and Families:
  - a. Renewed focus on services to families in poverty.
  - b. Review effectiveness of City and County resources with regards to after school and anti-gang programming.
3. Landlords:
  - a. Legal requirement for landlord's to register with the City.
4. Abandoned Buildings:
  - a. Faster and more substantive progress needs to be made on assessing the number and location of abandoned buildings in the City of Albany, and reconciling the safety issue that they represent.
5. Handguns:
  - a. While we continue to review the results from the Gun Violence Task Force, not enough tangible action has been taken to reduce the number of illegal guns and violent crime due to guns in our neighborhood. Despite the growing concern, violence seems to be on the rise.
6. Quality of life issues:
  - a. More needs to be done to curb gang activity, graffiti, speeding, and improve the quality of our roads.
7. Pros and Cons of a local Social Host Law

### **Albany Police Department**

1. Officers involvement in the community:
  - a. Too few officers live in the City of Albany
  - b. Explore incentives for Police (and other public servants) to live in the City of Albany.
  - c. More community policing needs to take place.
2. Allocation of resources:
  - a. It is perceived that officers in cars are less effective than officers on foot or on bikes.
  - b. Faster police response time for incidents involving crime currently underway.
  - c. Consolidation of precincts has left actual community policing at a loss, citizens do not want to talk to officers that they do not know, and that do not live in, or know much about, the detailed fabric of their community.



- d. It is perceived that officers are more likely to pull a citizen over for a tail light ticket than save them from an assault.
  - e. Efficiency of response times: one story shared described an incident where 2 hours were spent by two officers to resolve a simple noise complaint.
  - f. Faster response time for reported drug transactions, in order to catch perpetrators in the act.
  - g. What is the effect of operation IMPACT funding on our police force?
3. Communication / Dissemination of Information:
- a. Updates have not been adequately transmitted to the neighborhood. Despite requests for information one evening, new information is exclusively parsed out to particular news agencies the next morning – with the community police officers assigned to work with neighborhoods not being given the very information being released to the media.
  - b. Crime mapping should have more detailed information, the same information that would be available should a citizen decide to formally request that information.
  - c. More details about investigations need to be released in a more effective fashion.
  - d. What was the purpose of advertising to everyone (including criminals) “Police Activity in Neighborhood”? Many residents found it degrading and seemingly useless.
  - e. We would like an admission from the Albany Police Department that gang activity is a contributing factor to crime in our City, and more done to address this issue – as well as an update as to what has been done so far.
4. Neighborhood Watch:
- a. Better communication between neighborhood watch and police.
  - b. More resources for community-based neighborhood watch programs.

### Neighbors

1. Bridge the gap between landlords and local homeowners to increase responsibility for property maintenance and safety.
2. Bridge the gap between permanent residents and the transient student population.
3. Help recruit volunteers for neighborhood watch.
4. Promote the purchase of additional lighting for private property.
5. Increase the amount of safety information in neighborhood association newsletters.
6. Continue to develop partnership with area colleges.
7. Establish a weblog for neighbors to share concerns and keep in touch, as well as assist in solving crimes and reporting suspicious activity.
8. Increase involvement of the neighborhood association in the dialogue regarding gun violence in Albany.
9. Partner with Universities to acclimate new Students to the neighborhood, and incentivize a participatory culture within the community.
10. Celebrate the positive aspects of neighborhoods and encourage partnership with other neighborhoods.
11. Strengthen cohesiveness of community via e-mail lists, block parties, annual dinners, etc.
12. Don't give up our streets.