

Tuesday April 10, 2007

Dear Neighbors-

I have asked Andrew to post this information on our community website in order to keep everyone informed. My intent is not to gossip, but rather to keep you all informed in order to prevent further incidents and make our neighborhood a safer place to live.

Shortly after 6 this morning, a neighbor who walks regularly saw four hooded males in a black BMW by the pool. As it was told to me, when she came back around the pool, these men were beating another male. They saw her and stopped, whereupon the victim fled back to the house he apparently was staying in at 14946 Deshler Ct. As the victim was fleeing, four shots were fired in rapid succession at 6:24 am. None of the shots hit the victim, but one entered the upstairs window of one unit in building 5, and another bullet may have pierced the siding above the second story window of another unit in the same building.

911 was called and police were dispatched to our neighborhood. Officer Brent Houck and Sgt. Stephens were the first to arrive. Prior to their arrival, the victim was taken to the hospital by his alleged girlfriend. Her tag number was given to the police, who tracked her to the hospital. She has been cooperating with the police. The victim was transferred to CMC uptown with 7 stab wounds. He is stable, and has given a statement to the police, but is not considered to be cooperating.

The owner of 14946 Deshler Ct. was home at the time of the attack, but according to the girlfriend of the victim, refused to call the police or call for any medical assistance. He left the neighborhood just as the police arrived. Spent bullet casings and one unused bullet were found by the pool.

A loaded rifle was found in the common area bushes by the police behind 14946 Deshler Ct. The police pulled six shells out of the rifle, and were able to lift at least one good print off the rifle. The room mate living at 14946 Deshler Ct. contacted the Sergeant on site by phone and agreed to meet police at the house at 2 this afternoon. The owner of 14946 Deshler Ct. then contacted the same sergeant and made the same agreement.

Shortly after 2 pm, the owner, roommate, another male and a female met with the police and gave statements. They did not allow police to enter the unit, who did not have a warrant. I spoke with one of the officers when they were done, who said that none of the people gave them any pertinent information to help solve this crime, but that it is most certainly a drug related incident.

For the past couple of weeks, we have been noticing increasing numbers of cars stopping for short periods of time outside this one unit, and interesting looking folks coming and going at all times of the day and night. A few neighbors decided to write down license information and descriptions of as many vehicles as we could. The police complimented us on being aware and giving them valuable information.

The police have encouraged us to remain vigilant about the goings on in 14946 Deshler Ct. and any other units that seem to have a little “too much” traffic. Sergeant Stephens stated that we are not to hesitate to call 911 for ANYTHING we find suspicious. They are eager to help us set up our community watch program.

I know it seems to some that we are nosy neighbors, but I know the police were grateful for every lead we gave them today.

You should be able to download a copy of the police report in the next few days from www.cmpd.org. The number for our local police office is 704-336-7800. All tips can remain anonymous.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the community watch, please feel free to contact Chris Hall: kismet@bellsouth.net.