

Report From CAPS Meeting 01/26/10

Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months at the Ambassador East Hotel. Our sincere thanks to GCN Director Mario Stefanini, who has facilitated these meetings for more than a decade. GCN Director Jim Kinoshita attended the most recent meeting held on January 26th. Here are highlights of Jim's report:

Residents noted that taxi drivers regularly run through the stop sign at 45 E. Goethe. The police are aware of this issue and they continue to monitor this area.

Concerns remain about the traffic patterns near The Latin School. Between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., many people are parking their vehicles in "tow zones" on Burton, between Clark and Astor. They are not receiving parking tickets or being towed. We were informed that the "traffic flow officers" are not supposed to give tickets nor have cars towed, as their primary focus is on the safety of the children that are crossing the streets. Writing tickets and towing cars would divert their attention from their main purpose. The precinct will have officers look at the above allegations.

Several other neighbors discussed the noise, disturbance and traffic issues within the entertainment zone near North State Parkway and Division. On weekends the noise and disruption from cabs and patrons leaving the bars/restaurants takes place at 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. as these establishments close. Neighbors object to honking cabs, loud patrons and litter. Neighbors wanted to highlight this problem now so that solutions can be developed in advance of the warmer weather when the situation typically worsens. One resident also reported that an area merchant often accepts and unloads merchandise shipments on Division Street after 10 p.m., which is not prohibited.

Also discussed was the danger posed by high-speed drivers turning right from LaSalle onto inner Lake Shore Drive (heading south). Chuck Eastwood, from Alderman Vi Daley's office noted that changes will be made to this intersection in 2010.

Sergeant Wu noted that the main goal of CAPS is to solve chronic, everyday problems in and around the neighborhood. Neighbors can contact Officer Schenk or Sergeant Wu at the 18th District, 1160 N. Larrabee, Community Policing Office at 312-742-5778, CAPS018district@chicagopolice.org.