

To: Honorable Mayor Adrian Fenty
Chief of Police, Cathy Lanier
Honorable Councilmember Jim Graham

From: Robert Sullivan, President, LeDroit Park Civic Association
Dina Lewis, Public Safety Committee Chair, LeDroit Park Civic Association

Cc: Reverend Jesse Jackson

Re: Safety Concerns in LeDroit Park

Date: July 20, 2007

On behalf of the LeDroit Park community, we look forward to your attendance at the Civic Association Meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 to discuss crime in our community. As you are aware, the LeDroit Park Market ("Market") at 1901 4th Street was robbed at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, July 10. The brutality of the robbery is alarming. To alert the community to this crime, the LeDroit Park Public Safety Committee ("Committee") in association with the LeDroit Park Civic Association ("Association") has posted the video captured by the Market's security cameras at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7QgKzwEJJs>. We invite you to view it prior to the meeting.

Just as concerning is the increase in crime that has occurred in LeDroit Park since October 2006 (see attached timeline of reported crimes from October 2006 to current). To address concerns about the increase in crime, late last year the Association lobbied to get a police crime camera installed at the corner of 4th and T Street, NW. After being told that this area of LeDroit Park did not qualify for a police camera, the Committee took it upon itself to raise the necessary funds for the installation of a security camera. The ANC provided the Association with a grant of \$2,000 and Councilmember Graham has pledged \$500. Of the remaining \$2,000, *individuals* in the community have donated and over \$1,500 has been raised. As is evident, the community has demonstrated a concerted effort to help mitigate criminal activity on its streets.

While your attendance at the meeting means a great deal, it is our hope that we will leave the meeting with a Safety Action Plan in place to address LeDroit Park's crime issues. Below are some measures the Association and Committee, with input from community members, believe would not only assist in reducing crime, but demonstrate to the community that the MPD and the Mayor's Office have made LeDroit Park a safety priority. The Committee recommends the following:

- a MPD commitment that at least one officer on each shift will be required to patrol LeDroit park for the duration of the shift. The committee believes that visibility is mandated and therefore would like to see police patrolling by car and patrolling by foot.
- MPD to check in at the Market once per hour (rotating; not same time every hour).
- Other PSA 305 patrolmen should also be required to check in at LeDroit Park Market at least once per shift.
- Assign a staff member in MPD and the Mayor's Office charged with monitoring safety efforts in LeDroit Park and serving as a direct contact for the Association and the Committee.
- The Civic Association will install a privately-funded crime camera at the intersection of 4th and T Streets NW. Our intent is that, when a crime occurs in the area, MPD will be able to access the videotape to identify the perpetrators.

The Association and Committee appreciate your concern and attention to this matter, and look forward to discussing this proposal with you on Tuesday.

Chronology of Events—LeDroit Park

(Note that this list is a representative sample rather than a comprehensive documentation of Association and criminal activities)

2007

July

10—LeDroit Park Market robbed at gunpoint; employee and patron pistol whipped 1900 block of 4th Street NW

6—Board of Condemnation condemns 321 T Street NW

4--- T STREET NW,300 block, 1:58 p.m. July 4. Two men in a vehicle approached a pedestrian, and one showed a handgun and demanded money. The pedestrian complied. The men fled.

June

12—Three muggings over the course of 2 hours in 300 block of T Street NW; one suspect questioned and released; no opportunity for victims to identify suspect

7—Suspected vacant properties are currently being verified via letters to listed owners

6—Windows Café robbed, owner pistol whipped, 100 block of Rhode Island Avenue NW (5D)

May

31—1907 3rd Street NW posted as Dangerous by Fire Department

25—Leroy Story pleads guilty to Market robbery

22—Shooting, 200 block V Street NW, playground of Gage Eckington Elementary sprayed with gunfire

20—Robbery, 600 block Florida Avenue NW

19—Robbery, Windows Café, 100 block Rhode Island Avenue NW (5D)

—Stolen auto, 200 block of V Street NW

18—Assault with deadly weapon, 200 block of V Street NW

—Burglary, 200 block of W Street NW

16—Burglary, 400 block of Elm Street NW

—Burglary, 200 block of V Street NW

14—Burglary, 400 block of V Street NW

13—Burglary, 200 block of W Street NW

12—Theft from auto, 300 block of Oakdale NW

8—Shooting, 200 block of W Street NW

6—Assault, kidnapping, 1900 block of 2nd Street NW

3—ANC approves \$2000 grant for private crime camera

2—Assault with deadly weapon, 2100 block of 4th Street NW

1—Home robbery, 1800 block of 4th Street NW

April

30—Stolen auto, 5th & T Street NW

22—Captain Kucik transferred

7—Car vandalized, 300 block of T Street NW

March

- 14—Planter thefts, 547 Florida Avenue NW
- 6—Assault with deadly weapon/gun, 200 block V Street NW

February

- 28—Theft from auto, 200 block of W Street NW
- 27—Mayor Fenty attends Civic Association meeting and responds to questions about Public Safety; Civic Association approves ANC grant application for private crime camera
- 26—Assault with deadly weapon, 400 block of W Street NW
- 25—Robbery/gun, 1900 block of 3rd Street NW
- 23—Robbery/knife, 200 block of W Street NW
- 20—Arson, 2100 block of 4th Street NW
- 19—Theft from auto, 300 block of Bryant Street NW
- 15—NSID arrested 4 individuals for PWID Narcotics and recovered an AK-47 Assault Rifle with ammunition and a BB gun, 400 block of W Street NW
- 5—Warrant issued for Leroy Story arrest
- 2—Car break-in 1900 block of 4th Street NW

January

- 21—Series of 4-5 robberies in and around 400 block of Elm Street NW
- 16—Report of drug activity outside barber shop at 511 Florida Avenue NW; focus Mission unit reported and found no activity
- 12—Mugging by four young men, 200 block of T Street NW
- 10—Theft from home, 400 block W Street NW
- 8—Charges dismissed against Leroy Stroy (arrested for LeDroit Market robbery) because arresting officer did not show
- 6—Adopt a Block program assignments made
- 4—Assault with deadly weapon (gun), 2000 block of 4th Street NW
- 3—Burglary, 200 block of W Street NW

2006

December

- 31—Market robbed overnight; arrest made (Note: The perpetrator was arrested on December 6 for a similar robbery at Windows Café and released)
- 28—Home Invasion Robbery, 1800 block of 4th Street NW
- 27—Assault with dangerous weapon/Gun, 200 block V Street NW
- 19—Councilman Graham's office receives Abandoned/Derelict property list for DCRA coordination
- 14—Public Safety Committee meeting
- 13—Market robbed overnight
- 7—Petition for crime camera at 4th & T Streets NW started; fundraising for privately-funded camera begins
- 6—200 block of V Street NW selected for placement of city crime camera
- 4—Market robbed overnight; car vandalized on same block
- 4—Sexual assault suspect arrested

November

- 28—Sexual assault while armed, b/w 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., 400 block of Warner Street NW
 - Sexual abuse while armed, 4:30 p.m., 400 block of Elm Street NW
 - Sexual assault, 4:20 p.m., 400 block of T Street NW
- 27—Sexual assault, 5:25 p.m., 500 block of U Street NW
- 26—Market windows damaged by BB gun
- 21—Windows Market robbed (1st & Rhode Island Avenue—Fifth District)
- 20—Murder, 400 block W Street NW
- 20—Public Safety Committee Meeting; MPD report; Abandoned and Derelict property list started
- 13—Assault with dangerous weapon, 200 V Street NW
 - Assault with intent to kill armed/gun, 200 W Street NW
- 11—Market burglarized overnight; property damaged
- 10—MPD sign-in book established at Market
- 10—Public Safety listserv started
 - Drug house ID'd in 500 block of T Street NW; arrests made
- 9—Town Hall Meeting on Public Safety; police presence and city crime camera requested
- 4—Market burglarized twice in same weekend; property damaged
- 2—residents meet with Jim Graham to describe recent incidents and request assistance

October

- 30—Public Safety Committee created
- 13—LeDroit Park Market robbed at gunpoint; proprietor beaten