

**Short North Safety Meeting**  
**August 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 – 5:30pm-7:00pm**  
**Location Meeting: Virtual**

**City Staff Present: Kate Pishotti, Deputy Chief of Mayor’s Office – Bob Stewart, Assistant Director of Public Safety – Deputy Chief Knight - Deputy Chief Bodker - Commander Weir - Officer Hauenstein-CLO  
Officer Hall-CLO - Officer Lutz - Heidi Carr, Assistant City Attorney - Emerald Hernandez-Parra, Assistant Director Dep of Neighborhoods - Katherine Cull, Neighborhood Liaison**

**Neighborhood Leaders Present: Betsy Pandora, Short North Alliance – Bobby Thaxton, Short North Civic Association – Jenny Frankart, Italian Village Society**

<b>1.</b>	Introductions of City Staff	<b>Deputy Chief, Kate Pishotti</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p>Deputy Chief Knight provided updates on Short North policing since last meeting held by Council President Hardin. An overtime funded interdiction program has been created in partnership and funding by Short North Alliance. Overtime Officers will be placed in the Short North area to provide additional officers (2 sergeants/5-6 officers) during peak crime times (Friday/Saturday from 11pm-4am).</p> <p>The Short North Crime Interdiction Pilot Program began last week will respond to things like disturbance calls and violent crime and are able to respond much more quickly.</p>	<b>Deputy Chief Knight</b>
<b>3.</b>	<p>Deputy Chief Bodker discussed crime stats comparing numbers from 2019 &amp; 2020 to this year. The top 3 CPD calls for the Short North Area in 2019 &amp; 2020: 1. Disturbance 2. Burglar Alarms 3. Suspicious persons. Top 3 calls for service from CPD in 2021: 1. Disturbance 2. Burglar Alarms 3. Hang-ups</p> <p>Citywide, as of 8/25/2021, there have been 139 homicides, 937 felonious assaults, 1251 robberies and 466 discharged fire arms.</p>	<b>Deputy Chief Bodker</b>
<b>4.</b>	Deputy Chief Knight Discussed update from ATV/Dirt bike ordinance: In coordination with CPD helicopters due to city’s non-pursuit policy, CPD has had a nearly 100% apprehension rate. 8 riders have gotten away, 7 have been identified. More than half apprehended have been armed.	<b>Deputy Chief Knight</b>
<b>5.</b>	Attorney Carr discussed the community concerns surrounding noise in the Short North. Carr has been working with Short North Alliance in identifying problem bars/restaurants and is working with City Council to make updates to City Code. Carr is currently sending letters to bar/restaurant owners warning them of the noise complaints her office is receiving.	<b>City Attorney, Heidi Carr</b>
<b>6.</b>	Emerald Hernandez, City of Columbus’ Homeless Advocacy Liaison educated attendees on how the city remedies homeless encampments and how 2020 had paused and since backlogged the remediation of encampments. She stated that the homeless systems are 6 month to 1 year behind general population.	<b>Assistant Director, Emerald Hernandez</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p>Betsy shared concerns she is receiving from business owners and residents of the Short North. Concerns have changed from quality of life issues to violence/threatening incidents. There is a feeling of carelessness among some business owners and people that visit the Short North.</p> <p>Betsy brought up rethinking police precinct boundaries due to need/population size, along with the development of a task force for stakeholders to gather regularly to discuss these current topics.</p>	<b>Betsy Pandora, Short North Alliance</b>

<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p>Bobby discussed how Short North has changed in the past 20 years that he has lived here, with the past few years being difficult to enjoy.</p> <p>Bobby states that scooters continue to be a safety issue and there is no enforcement with the scooters when they are on the sidewalks.</p> <p>Bobby expressed frustration with lack of follow up with 311</p> <p>Bobby seconded Betsy's request to have Short North under one police precinct and have one CLO.</p>	<p><b>Bobby Thaxton, Short North Civic</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p>Jenny expressed agreement with everything that Bobby and Betsy stated. Jenny would like to see power back in the hands of the residents, along with seeing businesses/residents/law enforcement work together to maintain safety in the Short North/Italian Village area.</p>	<p><b>Jenny Frankart, Italian Village Society</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p>Knight responded to requests of precinct redistricting, CPD is not opposed to the idea but redistricting does take time to re-change cruisers, update information online, etc. Knight discussed positives of having two precincts in one area as there are two deputy chiefs for the area and officers daily cross precincts to respond to calls.</p>	<p><b>Deputy Chief Knight</b></p>
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p>A member of the public asked about the correlation between individuals committing crimes and using scooters. Commander Weir stated that CPD is aware of this correlation and they are looking into this.</p> <p>Since July 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 plain clothes and uniformed officers has been deployed to the Short North/Italian Village due to the increase in break-ins. This trend has moved up to University area.</p> <p>Another member of the public talked about the noise coming from SeeSaw bar. Commander Weir stated that noises can often appear louder than it really is in dense areas as noises bounce off the building.</p> <p>He advised when residents are experiencing noise disturbances to call CPD, give their name and state that they are a victim of the noise and to file a report. He advised it is better to give your name as the court system does not give as much weight to anonymous complaints.</p>	<p><b>Commander Weir</b></p>