

Holly Hills Improvement Association General Membership Meeting, Sept. 22, 2008

Report from Holly Hills Public Safety Officer Bottini:

District 1 crime report – Year-to-date:

10 homicides this year

Burglaries up

Larcenies down (Things stolen off person outside of property)

Vehicle thefts down

Arson down

Total crime down 13% from last year which was down 19% down from the previous year

Crimes in Holly Hills – Year-to-date

No homicides no rapes

7 fewer assaults

Person crime down 63%

6 more burglaries – 37 for year

71 larcenies

Vehicle theft down

Total crime down 6.3%

Mobile surveillance signs – crime prevention measure

The captain is very proud of the report – he is very pro-active, encourages his officers to aggressively question suspicious persons; Graph of crime shows peak in 2006.

No progress on gutter thefts. Arrests but no prosecutions – calls from scrap yards – but circuit the circuit attorney's office isn't prosecuting because they have no witnesses. In one case a woman whose gutters were stolen got description of the car, the car showed up at a scrap metal place, the guy admitted it, but wouldn't sign a confession so circuit attorney's office won't charge. Scrap yards are trying to help.

Questioners asked – if write the address on gutters so at least they can be returned – Bottini: "It can't hurt."

Guest Speaker Dan Rechten – retired police officer now working at Circuit Attorneys office. He answers fraud hotline – 314-612-1412. Email is rechteind@stlouiscao.org

If it seems too good to be true, it is. He has different talks he can give to any group in the city. He also offers fraud alert email – don't get anything but fraud alerts .

Emphasized: Check your credit reports – get one every four months from one of three bureaus – get one free each year from each bureau.

Check bank and credit card statements immediately – request to have statements sent online

Mail bills inside at post office

Lock bills and sensitive info in locked file cabinet

Opt out of customer service programs – no more courtesy checks, credit card applications

Don't carry sensitive documents on your person

Carry billfold in your strong hand front pocket. If you carry expensive purses, you make yourself a target

Never carry any document with your social security number - Medicare cards have social security numbers – Mo and federal law allow you to black out all but last four digits – medical providers must accept them

Shred any docs that have any sensitive info - People will go through your trash

On checks use first two initials only – include minimum of info

Sign your credit card

Don't ever keep PIN with debit cards

Keep a list of credit card numbers/expiration dates in locked location

Never respond to an email requesting sensitive information – don't ever click on the link provided.

Don't use debit cards online - Only use debit cards when you swipe it yourself –no federal liability limit on debit cards

Delete unknown or questionable emails – keep virus and spyware updated – look for “https” in web site address line – means site is secure

Report from Board of Aldermen President Lewis Reed

Working on regional coalition on the environment – air quality issues. Bring the region together to look at the environment with St. Louis County – NOT St. Charles County

Board of Aldermen passed cyber-harassment law – had been illegal to harass by phone or letter, but email wasn't included - Unanimously passed.

Half-cent sales tax - \$1 million for crime prevention – address crimes committed by kids under 18 – how to combat – look at successful national programs – don't need to reinvent the wheel. Some of the most heinous crimes committed by kids.

Community reinvestment – what banks get our tax dollars. Banks that lend here, we want to put our money in those banks. To put your tax money to work. Made pitch for local control of police department.

11th Ward—Matt Villa – Agreed with Lewis Reed about local control of police. Police are afraid of messing with their pension – city was sued by police and fire – was required to fund to 100%, which is unheard of. We have to pay for it but don't have a say in it. It's definitely a backwards system. It's certainly not fair to the city taxpayers.

Tow lot scandal- city's own tow lot now handling – those types of practices don't go on.

Semis on Foodland's lot all the time? Matt will check into it.

13th Ward—Fred Wessels

Reiterated residents can get The Club for \$11

Flooding from Ike - This area has gotten its money's worth out of MSD from recent upgrades.

Increased number of police officers in 1st district by 20 percent over last 15 years.