

Public Safety Team | *Minutes from 11.3.22 Meeting*



Our Mission & Strategy

This community action program's mission is to watch for and act on solutions that help make our neighborhoods and streets safe. This will be accomplished by: 1) Identifying and surveying the problems; 2) Developing concrete solutions that help reduce death & injury; and 3) Presenting our recommendations to Thom Druffel, D23Metro Council Representative

Lauren Balmer, Thom Druffel, Jim Easter, Rachel Kaiser, Laurie Loughlin, Cam Neal, Stephanie Sephel, Jon & Michelle Sheridan, & Tom Wright

Minutes from 11.3.22 Meeting

Good meeting. Grateful to all who came. Please read through and message back if you find any inaccuracies or further thoughts (PublicSafetyD23@gmail.com).

RACHEL KAISER, ER Doctor with St.Thomas, Active Reservist, and part of a Medical Team Disaster Response/Relief Team shared her story of near misses while jogging. She asked those attending to introduce themselves and share the reason/story for being there.

THOM DRUFFEL, our District 23 Metro Council Representative, provided good insight to the system and how we can effectively work with it. Some other items he discussed includes:

- 1) The importance of understanding and establishing relationship with NDOT and Local Police Precincts
- 2) Budget approved to staff up our police force and increase presence. Won't feel the effect for another year or two.
- 3) Start with low-hanging fruit. Look for small successes like identifying intersections where overgrown foliage obstructs drivers' vision. Call **NDOT** and they will handle it quickly. A recent example is Brookhollow and Jocelyn Hollow.
- 4) NDOT will also paint walker stripes and speed limit on streets
- 5) Updated us on the slow progress of the dangerous intersection at Highway 100/70.

Including a personal near-crash encounter. Thom continues to methodically work the problem by continually and consistently presenting statistics and stories before NDOT.

- 6) Briefly reviewed status of the sidewalk Endowment

LAUREN BALMER, our Public Safety Team Chair, reviewed our mission and strategy. Some other items he discussed include:

- 1) He shared his plan to attend public meetings at our local west precinct, to establish relationships and share traffic concerns of the neighborhood(s).
- 2) Briefly discussed *Vision Zero | Safe Streets in Nashville*: <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/transportation/plans-and-programs/vision-zero> and that he applied for a position on the NDOT Task Force. The Vision Zero goal is to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and severe injuries and at the same time, increase safety, equity, and mobility for all users. Download the **Nashville Vision Zero Action Plan**.
- 3) The Public Safety Team needs to be educated on Metro Traffic systems, processes, approvals, and The Difference between **TDOT** and **NDOT**

Attendee Comments

- 1) Hold pedestrians accountable too: wearing appropriate clothing after sunset; walking on the correct side of the street, facing oncoming traffic,
- 2) Positive reinforcement (along with police enforcement) Calling drivers to higher awareness. Some ideas include:
 - Posting signs along neighborhood streets: "This is a walking neighborhood."
- 3) Would like to learn more on the sidewalk endowment
- 4) Ways we can make a difference now
 - Like Thom said: go for the low-hanging fruit –or– overgrown hedges
 - Call NDOT about painting Walker Stripes on streets. Note: They can also paint the speed limit in large type on the streets
 - Take individual responsibility by obeying laws and observing traffic safety
 - Spreading the word and our team's mission
- 5) Create Communal Communications among neighbors within each Precinct that share information on suspicious cars, speeding cars, and cars that are indifferent to the safety to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other drivers.
 - use social media
 - eCommunications / Newsletter
 - establish a protocol to ensure focused & appropriate exchange

6) Suggestion came in after the meeting: Perhaps setting up a matrix with these key categories and prioritize would help (add actions, costs, and assignment categories later):

- Bicycles and Walkers
- Intersections
- Speed Management
- Sidewalks and Capital Costs
- Lighting, Landscape and Signage
- Construction, Renovation and Demolition
- Security and Safety
- TDOT
- City of Nashville
- Davidson County
- Law Enforcement, Policy and Management
- Case Studies, Exhibits and Documentation
- Ways we can make a difference now:

Our next meeting

will be 10 am, Saturday, December 10, at Paneras on White Bridge Road