

Newsletter

January 31, 2008

Dear Hurstville Neighbor: Happy New Year!

In November of last year, the initiative to fund the Hurstville Security and Neighborhood Improvement District received over 60% of the votes cast in the public referendum. Since that time, the Board of the Security District has worked extremely hard and, we believe, made very good progress toward a singular goal – to provide our neighborhood with the very best security possible. We have had to await collection and transfer to us of the tax revenues before operations can start, but we expect to begin on February 20.¹

The District

A map of the Hurstville District and a list of the addresses included within the District is attached.

The Board of Directors

Pursuant to the legislative act that created the District, a nine member Board of Commissioners was appointed from candidates nominated by the Hurstville Neighborhood Association, Inc. Board of Directors, which in turn was elected by the residents of the Hurstville neighborhood. All Board Members must be, and are, residents of the Hurstville neighborhood. The District Board meets regularly and all meetings are open to the public.

A list of the District Board members and a short bio is included with this letter.

The Patrol Officers and the Increased Patrol Hours

Our security detail will be led by Chris Abbott, a veteran NOPD officer who has provided security detail to Hurstville for nine years. Chris has recommended a 15-hour per day patrol protocol with fixed hours of coverage every Sunday through Thursday from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. and on Fridays and Saturdays from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The other 10 hours per day of security will be flexible. This is three (3) times as many patrol hours than we have currently. Most days we will have two cars running during the most active evening hours. We will provide extra security during holidays, as appropriate.

¹ By law, the District Board must adopt an annual budget which is approved by the City Council. The Act and the public referendum authorize the District Board to adopt an appropriate parcel fee to be assessed against Hurstville neighborhood parcels with the proceeds used for Hurstville neighborhood security and other purposes authorized by the Act. The parcel fee is capped at \$500 for 2008 and \$525 for 2009 with the maximum parcel fee to increase by \$25 per year thereafter. The Security District expires in 2014 unless extended by another public referendum.

The District Board approved a parcel fee of \$395 for 2008. The fee is included on the tax bill, is collected by the City and is deductible on one's federal tax return in a manner similar to *ad valorem* property taxes. By state law, the City must pay the collected fees into a District bank account within 60 days of collection.

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All Hurstville security officers will patrol in vehicles identified as “Hurstville Security”, with a flashing light displayed at all times. All patrol members will be easily identifiable as NOPD. When two units are operating, they will be in radio contact.

The security officers will respond to the following cell number: **432-8818**.

We have attached short bios of the NOPD officers who Chris Abbott has recruited for our initial patrol team.

The District Board’s Efforts to Date

The District Board has endorsed several themes that we hope neighbors will appreciate, including:

- (1) a full consideration of new ideas and initiatives instead of merely continuing the old;
- (2) an emphasis on significantly increased patrol hours;
- (3) a requirement for competence and accountability as to all patrol officers;
- (4) a recognition of the importance of crime and safety related information – obtaining it timely, using it in the protection of the neighborhood, and disseminating it to the neighbors; and
- (5) a recognition of the importance of patrol visibility.

Among its initial work, the District Board has:

- Engaged a team of veteran NOPD officers to provide over 100 hours per week of armed security detail for the neighborhood (an average of approximately 15 hours per day, 300% of present coverage)
- Met on multiple occasions with Major Bouyelas of the NOPD’s Second District (our NOPD district) to develop a personal relationship
- Established a system to distribute Blast Emails regarding safety and crime received from Major Bouyelas (Please supply your email address on the enclosed Information Card to be included on the distribution list.)
- Established a system of block captains to gather contact information and solicit feedback from neighborhood residents
- Retained the professional management assistance of Shelley Landrieu (who presently manages the Garden District, Twinbrooke and Audubon Area Security Districts)
- Designed and produced reflective decals to identify vehicles owned by neighborhood residents (included with this letter)
- Commissioned a website which is presently under construction and which we expect to be complete before the end of March (www.hurstvillesecurity.com)

And we are not through. Stay tuned for other initiatives, including a crime prevention seminar with presentations by the NOPD Crime Prevention Unit and cooperative projects that

stem from monthly meetings with board members of adjoining Uptown neighborhoods and security districts.

Information Cards, Patrol Number Stickers and Vehicle Stickers

We have enclosed a blank Information Card to be completed and returned in the self-addressed envelope that is also enclosed. Please include contact information for all occupants of your building who desire to receive Security District information. If you have received this letter but do not reside in the Hurstville District, please forward this letter to the people who reside in the Hurstville property that you own and notify us that the building is not owner-occupied.

Two vehicle stickers and a sticker with the patrol number accompany this letter. Please place stickers in the **upper, right corner of the rear windshield** only on vehicles driven by residents of the neighborhood. The sticker can be affixed to a telephone. Shelley Landrieu (contact information below) has additional stickers.

Contact Information

We look forward to working together with you to improve the security of the Hurstville neighborhood. We welcome your suggestions and concerns. Please contact Shelley Landrieu at:

Shelley Landrieu & Associates
hurstvillepatrol@bellsouth.net
504-523-6792/fax 504-894-8926

Enclosures:	Hurstville Map	Information Card
	Hurstville Addresses	Vehicle Decal
	Hurstville Board Members	Telephone Sticker
	Bios of NOPDOfficers	