



June 14, 2023

Dear 43rd Ward Neighbors,

As a special public safety update, yesterday morning, a robbery occurred on the 2000 block of N Dayton in which an offender displayed a weapon and demanded personal property from a woman walking down the street. This marks the eight reported robbery in our Ward since Memorial Day weekend (Including a incident this morning on the 2200 block of N Lincoln Ave). This robbery spree is unacceptable, and we share the concerns of neighbors who have been calling, emailing, and coming into our office voicing their fear about walking the streets all hours of the day.

Over the last few days, I have had the opportunity to discuss these incidents and public safety generally with our new 18th District Commander Michael Barz. Through our conversations, the Commander and I discussed a shared belief in community policing. In particular, a strategy of community policing can bring more consistent police patrol to our local beats in order to both deter and solve crimes more effectively. The Commander understands the fear of many of our residents right now and is working diligently with Area 3 Detectives to make arrests of the people responsible. Whereas police made an arrest yesterday of a teenage alleged offender who was connected to a robbery south of North Avenue in Old Town, they are still investigating if this offender is connected to some of our more recent robberies in Lincoln Park.

In light of these robberies, Area 3 Detectives and the 18th District have issued two community alerts with relevant information on the crimes and the offenders.

The first alert was issued on June 3rd, 2023, as follows:

**Community Alert
Armed Robberies
018 District**

About the Crime(s):

In each incident, two to three offenders approach the victims on the street, produce handguns, and announce a robbery. The offenders order the victims to give up their personal property before fleeing on foot or in a black/dark-colored sedan. These incidents have occurred in Beats 1811, 1812, and 1813.

Incident times and locations:

- 1300 block of West Fullerton, Monday, May 29th, 2023 in the early morning hours
- 700 block of West North Ave, Wednesday, May 31st, 2023 in the early morning hours
- 700 block of West Webster Ave, Thursday, June 1st, 2023 in the early morning hours

About the Offenders:

- 2-3 Male, African Americans, 5'11 to 6'3, 20-25 years of age, wearing dark clothing and armed in handguns

The second alert was issued on June 13th, 2023, as follows:

Community Alert
Armed Robberies
018 District

About the Crime(s):

In each incident, an unknown offender approaches the victim from behind and strikes the victim in the head disorienting the victim. The offender then takes the victim's property and flees the scene in a white 4 door sedan. These incidents occurred in Beats 1812 and 1813.

Incident times and locations:

- 600 block of W Armitage Ave, Monday, June 12, 2023, in the afternoon hours
- 2200 block of North Geneva Terrace, Monday, June 12, 2023, in the afternoon hours

About the Offenders:

- Male, African American, wearing a black sweatshirt and black pants

Reminders to be aware of:

- Always be aware of your surroundings
- If confronted by the assailant, remain calm
- Remember any unique physical characteristics (scars, tattoos, acne, limps, etc).
- Never pursue a fleeing assailant, provide information to police
- If approached by a witness to the incident, request contact information
- Call 9-1-1 immediately and provide a detailed description of any suspicious people including any vehicle description and license plate information

Please call the Bureau of Detectives (Area 3) at 312-744-8263 with any relevant information.

What needs to be done?

There are several strategies that should be taken in order to turn around some of these crime trends, and it is the top priority of our office to play a part in doing so. Here are a few priorities we are working towards:

A return to community policing. As we continue to write about, a strategy of community policing is one of the biggest priorities of our office and of the community. This strategy would fulfill our desire to see police consistently walking our beats, biking on our commercial corridors, and driving by our parks, schools, and places of worship. In the past, police leadership has remarked that officers assigned to our beats often receive a morale boost after working in our neighborhood due to the expressive praise and thanks the residents of Lincoln Park, Gold Coast, and Old Town show to them. When we know our police officers, we start to build trust and relationships that continue to help keep crime to a minimum. As we approach the hiring of a new CPD Superintendent, I am committed to advocating with my City Council colleagues, Mayor Johnson, and the CPD superintendent to enact these community policing policies.

Recruit experienced and dedicated officers. In the 2023 Chicago Budget, millions of dollars were dedicated to recruiting new officers to fill the gaps that have been created due to retirements and officer departures. In the 43rd Ward, we are protected by the 18th and the 19th Districts, and both have seen the number of officers in their District decrease. These are two of the city's busiest districts with folks coming from all over the city to see Cubs Games, enjoy Lincoln Park Zoo, shop on Magnificent Mile, and walk through the parks and lakefront. While some of these officer vacancies have been filled by officers in city-wide tactical teams, it is clear that a permanent solution for the recruitment and retention of officers is necessary and needs to be a high priority for Mayor Johnson, Interim Superintendent Waller, and the next Superintendent.

Build strong cases against criminals. In the 2023 Chicago Budget, millions of dollars were dedicated to increasing the innovative resources that will work to bring our police force into the modern era. This includes the purchase of more helicopters that have been essential in catching criminals who have committed vehicular hijackings and the installation of cameras to provide clear footage necessary to build strong court cases against the offenders.

Community involvement in policing. Our community is safer and our Police Department is stronger when the community is involved in public safety.. This includes attending local CAPS meetings, joining court advocacy to support victims of crimes and ensuring community voices are heard in the justice system, and attending District Council meetings for the 18th and 19th Districts so they are empowered to build active relationships about policing in our community.

Eyes on the street. Livability and maintenance of the 43rd Ward is a top priority of our office that adds to our community's economic backbone. A strong economic backbone means that residents can walk from the grocery store to the pharmacy, to the bank, and back to their homes all within a few blocks. It also means the parks are busy and full of life during the year. With people on the streets, looking out for one another, this serves as the best deterrent for crime. As your Alderperson, I will continue to cultivate a ward with a strong storefront economy, lighting, and busy streets.

What you can do.

In the coming weeks, there are several public safety meetings that I encourage you to attend.

18th District Council Monthly Meeting (Residents South of Fullerton)

Tuesday, June 27th, 2023

6 p.m.

Lake Shore Park Field House

808 N. Lake Shore Drive

19th District Council Monthly Meeting (Residents North of Fullerton)

Tuesday, June 27th, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Weiss Hospital Auditorium

4646 N. Marine Drive

Both of these meetings serve as an opportunity to meet your newly inaugurated district councilors. The District Councils have immediately become partners to our office, and have several key roles:

- Building stronger connections between the police and the community at the district level, where the community is a true partner in making the neighborhood safer. They can work with the police to solve problems and set priorities. Collaborating in the development and implementation of community policing initiatives.
- Holding monthly public meetings, where residents can work with the police on local initiatives rooted in community concerns and priorities. They can also raise and work to address concerns about policing in the district, and increase accountability.
- Working with the community to get input on police department policies and practices.

As your **Alderman**, I will continue to advocate on your behalf for more resources to our police, the Mayor, and Cook County elected officials who oversee our justice system.

As developments occur, our office will keep you informed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timmy Knudsen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alderman Timmy Knudsen
