



**Old Dover Neighborhood Association
Update on the Safety and Security Initiative
November 2009**

Background

The Old Dover Neighborhood Association (ODNA) brings together residents and businesses with the goal of improving our neighborhood. Over its 20-year existence, the area has evolved from a light industrial wasteland into a thriving residential/mixed-use community. The delicate balance among the government, social service agencies, businesses and residents has been an ongoing and often successful partnership in stabilizing the area.

This year, we have seen a troubling increase in public disturbances, public drinking, drug use, prostitution and crime in our neighborhood. This situation is not acceptable. There have been countless conversations, condo association meetings, and discussions among concerned residents about these issues, many of which involved the Boston Police Department (BPD), city/state government, and social services, particularly the Pine Street Inn (PSI). In order to share these concerns, focus our efforts, and as a call to action, the ODNA hosted two public meetings (August 17 and September 23) to bring all the interested parties together that focused on safety and security. (BPD and PSI presentations and meeting notes are posted on www.olddover.org).

Update

As a direct result of these meetings and the ongoing dialogues, the following actions have been taken:

'Project Pine Street' (commenced in August)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BPD initiative resulting in an increase in police presence and arrests in the immediate vicinity of the PSI and Peters Park
Meeting with State Rep Aaron Michelwitz 10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To apprise him of the issues and request more information on state social services with a particular focus on the lack of transitional support for newly released prisoners who provide particular challenges to PSI
Eyes and Ears Training 10/6 and 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered by BPD at D4 to the neighborhood to address what residents can do to improve safety and security, how to implement a neighborhood watch
Meeting with Lyndia Downey, Executive Director of PSI 10/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSI has offered partial funding for a private detail police presence, discussion around the difficulty handling clients that they cannot place in jobs or housing (i.e. Level 3 Sex Offenders) and the lack of transitional assistance for these people when they are released from prison on to the streets
BPD Monthly Meetings with local businesses (commenced in September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Old Dover Business Association, formed by Sergeant Kevin Power of the BPD, acknowledges the increased rise in crime and its effect on not only the quality of life in Old Dover, but also the stress it is putting on our economy. With that in mind, Sterling Soo Hoo of Richard Soo Hoo Insurance, Duggan Hill of City Lights, and Mike Goldstein from Empire loan are working on forming an official association to help preserve the diversity of the Old Dover Businesses and to work towards improving the overall quality of life and the economy. Initiatives proposed include fund-raising for a police detail, joining a neighborhood watch, and continued support and cooperation with the ODNA.
Better Lighting on Paul Sullivan Way - November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City and PSI have replaced light fixtures, and lamps
Coffee with Aaron Michelwitz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion about installing fencing in areas under the Expressway to

11/7	improve safety
New Signage in Peters Park – in process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Department has agreed to post Crime Watch contact information in the Park

Action Plan

There has been progress already but this needs to be sustained. It is clear that this is a problem that we all own. As evidenced below, there are a number of players that hold sway on the success of our efforts. To the degree, we are successful in raising awareness and participation we will be achieve a zero tolerance policy.

Neighborhood Residents, Associations and Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a Neighborhood Watch to enforce a zero tolerance policy • Create an inventory of private security cameras that might be useful in crime investigations • Create a blog as a resource to build awareness and open communication • Research best practices of like organizations • Leverage our organization with each of the players that follow to achieve our goal
BPD and D4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with the Project Pine Street • Continue with their training programs, encourage more participation in their monthly update meetings, inform residents on how to sign up for BPD alerts, have BPD attend ODNA meetings to update the community • Understand the impact of nearby methadone clinics
Federal Elected Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprise reps of the situation, concerns
State Elected Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with Michelwitz but also reach out to Sonia Chang-Diaz on issue mentioned above, attend his coffees
State – Governor’s Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
City – Mayor’s Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the Mayor apprised through Tabitha Bennett • Pursue an understanding of the impact that cleaning up one area of the City has on adjacent areas
City Councilors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Bill Linehan, new Councilors-At-Large on issues
City Depts -- Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Parks and Friends of Peters Park to ensure the safety of individuals and children
City Depts -- Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
City Depts -- Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open dialogue on moving the bus stop on Harrison (to take clients to Long Island) to E Berkeley
City Depts -- BRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that safety and security issues are a prominent consideration in the Albany/Harrison Study
PSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing dialogue on safety and business disruption issues around the periphery of PSI • Provide support in their efforts to introduce legislation (sex offender issue)
Project Place & other neighborhood social service agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing dialogue in their role as neighbors
GTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss additional lighting on Paul Sullivan Way (doorways at 450)
Other NAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate dialogues with Chinatown, 8 Streets, and Bradford with regard to what they are doing about safety and security
SE News, Courant, Globe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage these resources to increase awareness, recognize successes

As a major next step we are proposing a Neighborhood Watch program and requesting that all the constituencies (buildings, businesses, associations) assign a ‘Captain’ to participate in the this grassroots initiative. We will also distribute the material provided by BPD on how to establish a watch