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# Police Initiatives, Parking Permits and Community Action

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Update by Sean Brownlee, Vice President  
Del Monte Beach Neighborhood Association

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# Police Initiatives, Parking Permits and Community Action

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## Background

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In November 2012 the neighborhoods of Monterey requested a special, neighborhood specific meeting with the Monterey Police Department and City Hall to discuss increasing crime and noise complaints. This meeting was held on March 6, 2013. The results of this meeting were previously published and are being redistributed with this update. The purpose of this update is to keep our neighbors informed about the initiatives the



Neighborhood Association has taken to research possible solutions to prevent and combat crime in our neighborhood. Many meetings have been held recently, flyers distributed and city officials counseled in order to assist with moving forward towards a safer and more secure neighborhood environment.

## Meeting with the Chief

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In a follow up to the meeting that took place earlier in the month between the neighborhood associations of Monterey and the Monterey Police Department, Chief Phil Penko<sup>1</sup> held an impromptu meeting with the President of DMBNA Rich Lind, VP Sean Brownlee and Block Chair for Seafoam Ave Marian Deering on March 27, 2013. This meeting was held to garnish Del Monte Beach Neighborhood specifics with regard to criminal activity, police initiatives and solutions to ongoing problems.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://abclocal.go.com/kgm/story?section=news/state&id=8392414>

The primary topic of conversation was parking permits and whether the implementation of a parking permit program would be beneficial in curbing crime within the community. The answers, recommendations and long-term solutions were broad reaching and nonlinear. Although certain types of crime have been on the rise throughout the Monterey Peninsula each neighborhood has specific issues and concerns. Our neighborhood is unique in the sense that it gives access to a public beach. Other neighborhoods have issues with the Fairgrounds, noise and traffic and different types of parking concerns whether from businesses to government institutions. Other neighborhoods have parking permit programs as well, but it necessary to understand the differences.

Currently, Del Monte Beach Neighborhood does not have a parking permit program. There are parking regulations in place. On Tide and Beach there are differing regulations from one-half hour after sunset to 6 AM and No Parking from 10PM to 6AM in the parking lots on the corners of these streets. Because our streets are publicly maintained the 72-hour parking ordinance<sup>2</sup> is also in place. The research that has been done to implement a parking permit program for our neighborhood would be from 10PM to 6AM on certain streets. The streets that are currently being examined for this program are Tide, Seafoam, Spray, Surf and Beach.

An implementation of a parking permit program for our neighborhood would be multi-phased in an approval process. The first step is buy-in from our neighborhood constituents. As Chief Penko stated in this meeting it is important to have support from community members. “The more support the better. The council will not do anything without overwhelming support from the neighborhood constituency.” He went on to say, “Do not rush or do anything hasty and divide the neighborhood. We will raise the police presence in your neighborhood and see what results are acquired from this action.” Earlier in the conversation Chief Penko mentioned that our neighborhood gets more patrols on a daily basis than any other neighborhood in Monterey.



If an overwhelming majority of our residents agree that a parking permit program is a good idea and we would like to proceed with the process it would need to be approved by City Council<sup>3</sup>. If approved by City Council, the Parking Division<sup>4</sup> would be responsible for issuing parking permits to residents. It is

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d11/vc22651.htm> (Section K)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.monterey.org/CityHall/CityCouncil.aspx>

important to note though that the parking division would not be responsible for enforcing the parking permits. The police department would be the enforcing arm for these permits.

Police Chief Penko re-stated what he mentioned in the last meeting about the downsizing of his police force and the number of officers he has on duty at different times. During the day, when the majority of calls and incidents take place, there are more officers on duty. At



4:30PM his swing shift comes on duty. There are roughly slightly fewer officers on duty until 2:30AM. From 2:30AM until 7:30AM there are only three officers patrolling and one Sergeant for the City of Monterey. Monterey is divided into three beats and our neighborhood is part of Beat 3. That tells you that we have one officer on duty for these five hours of darkness for our beat. The MPD

also had six Community Action Team (CAT) members in the past. They are now down to only two CAT groups. There is a possibility of creating a new CAT in the coming months. The Community Action Teams patrol areas and create a closer bond between the community and the officers<sup>5</sup>.

If parking permits were in place in our neighborhood it would become an area of responsibility for the Beat 3 officer and one “Officer at Large.” To review a map of the patrolled areas please follow this link: <http://www.monterey.org/en-us/departments/police/communityoutreach/mcpiareabasemap.aspx> Police Chief Penko also mentioned that parking is a priority level 3 call and is one that is addressed when it can be.

Again, Police Chief Penko, “Preliminarily, I think it (parking permits) is a good idea and will try to support it. Here’s the thing, if this moves forward, make sure that those in the neighborhood understand that there are cars that are going to be missed. If we issue tickets we will issue tickets to everyone without a parking permit. Guest parkers may be a concern. Issuing citations takes time and the police department would like to minimize the number of calls they receive later on about citations from neighbors within the community.” Having a strong line of communication between the neighborhood association, constituents and the police will prevent loss of time spent dealing with permits alone and will allow them to focus on other crimes throughout their areas of responsibility.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.monterey.org/en-us/departments/parking.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.monterey.org/en-us/departments/police/communityoutreach.aspx>

Several other ideas from neighborhood representatives were raised to Chief Penko. One was the possibility of towing violators of current regulations. The answer was two-fold. First, the police would have to be the towing authority<sup>6</sup>. Second, the police would have to wait with the vehicle until it was removed. This could take anywhere from 45 minutes or longer. With fewer officers on the beat this becomes an issue.

The next question was whether or not a gate could be erected and implemented during the evening hours. The answer was that blocking a publicly maintained street is a City Council issue. The Fire Department is opposed to anything that would hinder their ability to respond to an incident. This includes speed bumps.

President Lind then asked about private security forces for our neighborhood. Chief Penko stated that Cannery Row has seen very positive results since they began using a private security force. So much so, that the Downtown Business Association is now looking into hiring a private security force to assist with their concerns. It is worth noting that Ocean Harbor House here in our neighborhood already utilizes a security firm. A security firm would be able to familiarize themselves with the neighborhood, residents, vehicles and would be more willing to make a citizens arrest. They also have specialized training, are CPR qualified and would not only be a crime deterrent, but could help with medical concerns for those in need.

The next concern raised was Neighborhood Watch. We have a sign at the entrance to our community, but where is the watch? Neighborhood Watch is a community-focused group. If we want to have an active Neighborhood Watch we need to work on this as a community. This means getting to know your neighbors and communicating with them. A community that is active and knows who their neighbors are is more likely to connect with them in preventing crimes.



Finally, the idea of working with CNRSW Police<sup>7</sup> (NPS Police) to aid in enforcement of regulations was raised. The CNRSW Police transit through our neighborhood to access the government facilities that border our properties. If there was a memorandum of understanding between MPD and the NSA (Naval Support Activities) it would be possible for the CNRSW Police to contact MPD when they see violations of regulations. Currently, CNRSW Police do not have the authority to enforce any regulations outside of federal

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d11/vc22651.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.nps.edu/Adminsrv/police/>

jurisdiction. Both NSA and MPD are researching this MOU and results will be forthcoming.

## The Path Forward

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Your neighborhood association is actively pursuing a solution to reducing the increase in crime that is afflicting our society. It is our desire to ensure that our neighborhood is safe, our families are happy and we can all coexist in harmony. Better means of communication are being created and implemented. We have a Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/DMBNA1>

A Twitter Account: <https://twitter.com/DMBNA> and we have recently launched a website: [www.dmbna.com](http://www.dmbna.com) that will be a source for all things relating to our community. There will be new email addresses for all of our elected officers to ensure continuity for the future. We have implemented the use of Dropbox, an online file sharing system, to more easily communicate and to keep records current as well as store historically important documents.

By active dialogue with all of our neighbors we can gain a better feel for the direction we need to move. This neighborhood has a long history of important accomplishments. We would like to see that we maintain the high standards that were set before us while concurrently forging a path to community cohesiveness.

## Ways to Communicate

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The police department keeps and summarizes a daily log of all crime reports taken by the Monterey Police Department. In most cases, the identity of the victim has been removed to protect his or her identity. The Daily Police Log is removed from their website after three months of posting. The log can be found by following this link:

[http://www.monterey.org/en-us/departments/police/getinformed/police\\_log.aspx](http://www.monterey.org/en-us/departments/police/getinformed/police_log.aspx)

A review of the police log for the past three months has been conducted and all results listed relating to our community have been listed in the appendices.

Remember, if you have an emergency call 911. If there is a non-emergency related matter you can call the Monterey Police

Department at their non-emergency number: 831-646-3914. Simply ask for dispatch and relate your concern. It is helpful to gather as much detailed information as possible before you make the call. The make, model, color and license plate number of a vehicle and the description of the occupants (color,

approximate age, what they're wearing) is crucial in assisting officers. If no one calls the police they will not come. From suspicious activity to theft to disturbances of the peace it is imperative that the police are called.



If you see activity that warrants police action, but is on Naval Property (Sewage Treatment Facility and surrounding areas) call the CNRSW Police at 831-901-6115.



**DMBNA Police Logs (Dec 22, 2012 - Mar 21, 2013)**

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Incident</u>
1	1/5/13	10:33	MPD towed a red 91 Toyota pickup for registration expired over 6 months in the 200 block of Dunecrest Ave.
2	1/6/13	14:47	MPD documented a verbal disturbance in the 100 block of Spray Ave.
3	1/12/13	9:07	Party in the 100 block of Surf Way reports finding a bicycle abandoned in his driveway.
4	1/12/13	21:00	Victim reports receiving annoying phone calls while on Surf Way.
5	1/18/13	13:09	Victim in the 100 block of Spray reports theft of two firearms from his unlocked vehicle in an unknown location and unknown time between 1/16/13 at 1800 hours and 1/18/13 at 1130 hours.
6	1/18/13	13:09	Suspect in the 100 block of Spray was in violation of a court order by having not surrendering firearms within a 24 hour period as required.
7	1/19/13	23:58	PONCE, GILBERTO, RAYMOND, male/22, DOB 02/14/1989, 5'08", 240lbs, blk, bro, was arrested on 1/20/13 at 0018 hours for delinquency of a minor and providing alcohol to a minor in the 100 block of Tide. PONCE was released on citation from MPD jail.
8	1/23/13	10:15	Victim business reports theft of 2 drills, a grinder, a suction cup, and 2 panels of copper siding, from Spray Ave.
9	1/23/13	10:15	Victim reports theft of 2 drills, and a grinder valued at \$410 from Spray Ave.
10	1/29/13	17:01	Victim in the 100 block of Surf Way reported theft of a Trek Soho bicycle from his carport.
11	1/31/13	23:56	Victim was shot while in the 100 block of Tide, investigation continues.
12	2/9/13	20:47	MPD aided, in the recovery of two dogs trapped underneath a residence on Surf Way.
13	2/16/13	11:40	The City of Monterey Public Works Department reported graffiti vandalism at Beach and Tide.
14	2/22/13	16:09	Victim reports theft of 2 checkbooks and a wallet from his unlocked vehicle while it was parked in front of his residence in the 100 block of Tide Ave.
15	2/28/13	10:15	Report of suspicious circumstances on Dunecrest Ave. regarding a male subject claiming to be an employee of PG&E walking around a residence.
16	3/2/2013	22:21	[JUVENILE] was cited and released to his mother after being found in possession of mortar type projectile fireworks and 3 large bottles of vodka while on the beach in front of the 100 block of Tide
17	3/10/13	14:43	Subject reports finding a black Apple iPhone 4S on 03/08/13 at approximately 1330 hours on Del Monte Beach.
18	3/11/13	8:56	City of Monterey Harbor Master, reports a bonfire to have damaged a dredge pipe that runs along Del Monte Beach. Total estimated damage is \$5000.
19	3/20/13	20:44	Victim in the 100 block of Surf Way reports theft of vehicle while parked at his residence. Vehicle returned on 3/21/2013.