

Community Meeting Announcement

Saint Paul Police respond to call by Payne Phalen residents for a meeting to address recent crimes in area.

Thursday, August 15, 2013

6:30 PM

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church 1115 Greenbrier

The meeting is convened by the Payne Phalen District Five Planning Council so that residents can directly meet with St. Paul Police and the Ramsey County Attorney to acquire accurate information, raise questions or concerns, and generate solutions in response to recent crime incidents in our neighborhood.

Two recent violent crime incidents have shocked our Payne Phalen neighborhood. Both are reportedly tied to gang-related street fighting by large groups of youth and young adults in the area. In mid-July, Vincent Allison was shot and killed after a large group fight in the area of Payne and Case avenues. According to police, on Sunday, August 4th, resident Ray Widstrand was severely injured in a beating near Preble and Minnehaha Avenue, where a large group of young adults were reported to be fighting in the street. Reports indicate Mr. Widstrand was walking near his home when he was attacked. (A recent newspaper report on beating victim Ray Widstrand is found at [Pioneer Press](#)).

On Thursday, the Saint Paul Police Department will be presenting information and responding to community concerns in light of these recent violent crimes and alleged gang related activity.

- Obtain accurate information and updates about recent violence in our neighborhood.
- Learn of planned responses by police and prosecutors in response to recent incidents.
- Raise your questions and concerns. Get answers.
- Help generate community-level solutions to protect our neighborhood and keep the peace.

District Five expects top level leadership from the Saint Paul Police Department, the Ramsey County Attorney and other agencies to be present Thursday night to address community concerns. The Council thanks Eastern District SPPD Sr. Commander Joe Neuberger who quickly responded to help establish the meeting. District Five first learned of the August 4th, 2013 assault at Minnehaha and Preble from the published story in the Pioneer Press (Saturday, August 10th, 2013).

Hmong and other language translation will be available. If you are bringing neighbors who will likely need language translation - please give us a call at 651-774-5234 so we can have adequate language support services on hand. District Five will offer a children's activity table for young children (in the meeting room).

To quickly mobilize this community meeting - D5 neighbors are asked to support outreach efforts for this quickly noticed meeting. Flyers to be distributed can be picked up at the District Five office at 506 Kenny Road, Suite 130, Saint Paul, MN 55130. Call us at 651-774-5234 with questions or if you can volunteer to flyer.

RESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR CRIMES IN PROGRESS:

There is no refuge for crime or violence in Payne Phalen. Help keep the peace. Make the call. All residents are asked to call 911 immediately to report crime in progress or to report developing situations which can lead to crime.

Questions about the meeting - call Leslie McMurray (District Five) at 651-774-5234 or e-mail d5-director@visi.com.

To reach the Eastern District Saint Paul Police at 722 Payne Avenue - call 651-266-5565.