

## Safe Takoma Report, August 2008

Prepared by Safe Takoma, Incorporated on behalf of the

Takoma DC Neighborhood Association

7106 Piney Branch Road

Washington, DC 20012

Contact: Sara Green, Secretary, Safe Takoma Incorporated, 202-829-8802

### Funds Expended

Washington DC, prior expenditures: \$10,949.27

Washington DC, current month expenditures: \$4,650.25

Washington DC, unreimbursed expenses (liabilities): \$58.65

Takoma Park MD, prior expenditures: \$6,627.91

Takoma Park MD, current month expenditures: \$4,650.25

Takoma Park MD, unreimbursed expenses (liabilities): \$16.00

### Funding Balances (August 31, 2008)

Washington DC contribution: \$75,000.00

Washington DC funding balance: \$58,341.83

Takoma Park MD contribution: \$30,876.86

Takoma Park MD funding balance: \$19,582.70

Allocated funding Takoma Park MD, pending release: \$44,123.14

### Status

The Safe Takoma program undertook the following organizational and programming steps in August 2008:

- National Night Out
  - After all the planning and anxiety, the National Night Out event finally took place. Although there were some last minute tasks, and the threat of rain, the event went well. Having the event at the metro station worked out well as we were able to engage many commuters. We began setting up at 5pm, and there was an immediate influx of people around the table wanting to know what we were doing. Most of the commuters embraced the safety whistle idea and eagerly signed up to participate in the program. There were only a

few who refused to provide their contact information and therefore did not receive a whistle. By 6:30 all the whistles, lanyards and key chains were gone. However, Metro police graciously donated what whistles they had. STI collected 175 completed sign-up sheets.

- The police presence and interaction was wonderful! WMATA Capt. Pavlick was there most of the time, with several officers, to include a K-9 and motorcycle officer. In addition, TPCD officers and civilian employees were present distributing safety information. Chief Ricucci was there for most of the event and commented that we did a great job coordinating it. Officer Butler of MPD was also present. The Takoma Park MD Mayor was there and two Council Members also stopped by. STI Board members and Operations Manager was also interviewed by reporters from the Takoma Park cable station.
- Although STI's National Night Out event was not on the grand scale as some others, it was definitely successful.
- Spreadsheet developed with Whistle contact information. We received a total of 175 completed sign ups. Most seem to have provided sufficient contact information for us to follow up.
  - Twenty-nine individuals are interested in joining a citizens patrol. Three individuals already patrol.
  - Twenty-nine individuals would like to arrange a police home safety inspection.
  - Ninety-seven individuals would like to join the AlertTakoma e-mail list. Two are already on the list.
  - Thirty individuals would consider volunteering with Safe Takoma.
  - Fifty-nine individuals are interested in conflict-resolution programming.
- Conflict-resolution training continued at the Takoma DC Recreation Center and the Takoma Park Maryland Recreation Department through August 15<sup>th</sup>. A meeting was held with CR trainers to discuss program outcomes as well as provide suggestions for future programming.
- Faith Wheeler and Ronnie Miller actively participated in weekly meetings for the Truancy Task Force Youth Outreach program held at Coolidge Senior High School.
- Office furniture and equipment purchased. Phone and Internet service also ordered and installed.
- Information for STI directory compiled and being developed.
- Monthly status meeting held with Chief Ricucci. Suggestions for future STI programming ideas and events discussed. These include:
  - Attendance at the Folk Festival scheduled for mid September
  - Periodic walk around neighborhoods (every 6 months to 1 year) to conduct environmental inspection
  - Safety Fair

- State of the City meeting with the city council
- Kids event
- Attendance at the Sunday Farmers Market. Police presence would also be there.
- Possible cable station interview
- Youth program
- Arranged workers compensation coverage.

## September 2008 Plans

- The Board of Directors first-Thursdays meeting is slated for September 4.
- Complete compiling a spreadsheet with Whistle Program sign-up information.
  - Complete questionnaire to conduct Safety Whistle Program follow up.
  - Follow up with those who indicated a willingness to join a neighborhood patrol or volunteering with Safe Takoma or in arranging a home inspection.
- Planned meetings:
  - Meet with MPD-4D Commander Brown on September 10.
  - Participate in a Takoma Park City Council Safe Takoma worksession on September 22.
  - Meet with Takoma Park Police Chief Ricucci on September 23.
  - Participate in a September 23 meeting on Old Takoma public safety with Council Member Josh Wright, Ward 1 neighborhood association heads, and Chief Ricucci.
  - Meet with Thomas Barrett, Director, Joint School of Carpentry, on September 25 to discuss pre-apprenticeship apprenticeship training as part of youth-development programming.
  - Meet with representatives of the Takoma Park Community Action Group to develop youth-development programming.
  - Conduct planning meetings with DPR staff to develop future conflict-resolution programming.
- Complete STI directory.
- Create FY09 budget.
- Develop additional neighborhood safety programming.
- Prepare for participation in the October 5 Takoma Park Street Festival.
- Plan and do outreach for an October 7 Safe Takoma stakeholders/programming meeting.
- Develop, implement, and conduct additional programming per the Safe Takoma Work Plan.
- Carry out regular planning, administrative, and reporting tasks.