

## February 2008 NONPACC meeting notes

This first meeting of the new year was held, as usual, at Touro Infirmary, with Major (yes, you read that correctly) Bouyelas presiding. He was joined by Lt. Noel and Officers Eddington and Staehle.

The first order of business was the announcement of the Officer of the Month awards for December. The honorees were Officers Michael Lorio and Scott Carroll.

January crime stats for Zone C (in which our neighborhood is located) included 1 aggravated battery by shooting, 2 aggravated assaults, 1 armed robbery and 1 simple robbery. There were 4 burglaries (2 in residences, 1 shed and 1 auto). There were no drug arrests, which may be explained by the following.

Commander Bouyelas responded to my question about the drug dealing at 715 Peniston, saying there are no new developments there. Major Case Narcotics, which had been working this location, had to turn their focus elsewhere in the city. So it once again becomes a problem for Lt. Noel and his officers in the Second District. "We will now address it," Bouyelas said.

The major made a point of saying that, since January 1, there have been 22 days with special events in the city. (That's 22 of 48 days so far this year.) This meant that District II officers were called upon to help out in other parts of the city, leaving the district short-handed. "It affected what we could do," Bouyelas said. "We still have only 116 officers in the district. There has been no change since January of last year." District police had been working 12-hour-days, but as of this Sunday, they will go back to 8-hour-days.

The commander handed out a sheet with the official annual crime statistics for the years 1996-2007. He highlighted a few interesting points. For example, there were 186 armed robberies in 2007, compared to 237 in 2004 (just pre-K) and 696 in 1996. Likewise, the average number of weekly crimes in the district declined from 153.8 in 1996 to 91.4 in 2004 to 69.2 last year and <50 so far this year. His main point was to compare crime in the district before and after Katrina. "The district is back," he said, "though not all the way back." He will make this sheet available to all via one of his email "blasts."

Much of the rest of the meeting was taken up with a discussion (often heated) stemming from criminal activity in the 4700 block of S. Liberty. A valuable result of this discussion, for our neighborhood, is the commander's urging us to "adopt" a criminal, i.e. if a criminal has been identified as being active in our neighborhood, we should track him throughout the criminal justice system. That can be done, online, through the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office: [OPCSO.org](http://OPCSO.org). Julie Graybill has agreed to keep a list such individuals when/if they appear on blasts from the commander.

Finally, the commander will also notify us soon about where and when officers will be walking the beat in our neighborhood.

That's about it for this month.

Tom Jacobsen