

Hello Midtown!

7/7/21 marks the one month point of our Midtown Strategic Plan (MSP), and it is time for another update on our progress.

First, however, I must acknowledge that the long, hot holiday weekend was very violent with two homicides, including a death-by-firearm at the BP on Verona Rd.

I cannot comment on the investigation beyond that it is being actively and tirelessly worked by our Violent Crimes Unit (VCU—and a big thank you to VCU for their ongoing work. Importantly, I also want to thank and acknowledge the service of the first responding officers to a very difficult scene. As is often the case, those officers went towards the danger, and did as they are trained to do under very trying circumstances. Beyond those officers, I also want to thank the many officers who volunteered to stay late the following night in order to provide extra patrol and stability in order to prevent further violence.

Many of Madison's parks are experiencing problems; over the holiday weekend I was made aware that there was a major disturbance/fight at James Madison Park involving dozens of people on the evening of 7/3, and that Brittingham Park experienced significant quality of life issues involving concerns that have manifested throughout the summer including noise (plus extensive use of unauthorized fireworks), alcohol, illegal parking, and littering. Over the last several weeks, Midtown personnel have spent a lot of time at Brittingham Park trying to mitigate problems.

I mention the above for two reasons—first, these are important issues that require MPD's involvement (and for major criminal events like a homicide, an enormous number of people dedicate time and energy); and second, by extrapolation, significant events require the diverting of resources away from some of our strategic plan goals. I expect that we will continue to face challenges throughout the summer which will impact our ability to be proactive.

However, for the period of time between 6/21 and 7/7, I am very appreciative of the outputs and efforts of my team. During this time period officers were involved in over 20 traffic enforcement efforts throughout Midtown (focusing on our identified hot-spots); 39 community policing efforts at area parks, residential neighborhoods, and special events like Meet & Greet with MPD Pride at Vilas Park, Neighborhood Picnics, and, of course, Coffee with a Cop; we were also involved in 18 efforts to prevent theft-from-auto and stolen cars involving education, increased visibility, and KOPER patrol in those areas that our data indicated were most vulnerable. Between 6/14 and 6/30, Midtown personnel logged approximately 87 hours of proactive crime work, 71 hours of proactive traffic, and 49 hours of community engagement.

We will continue to work proactively towards our crime and disorder priorities, and build on our community engagement efforts. We ask you to:

1. Call when you see suspicious, illegal, or dangerous behavior—we can't always respond (or respond immediately), but we cannot help if we don't know!
2. Report traffic concerns at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/reportaproblem/trafficeenforcement.cfm>
3. Let me know if you'd like an officer to attend your community event
4. If you are interested in more information, or would like to have me or someone from my team attend a community meeting, please let me know

Thank you, be well, and take care.

Captain Freedman, Midtown District

