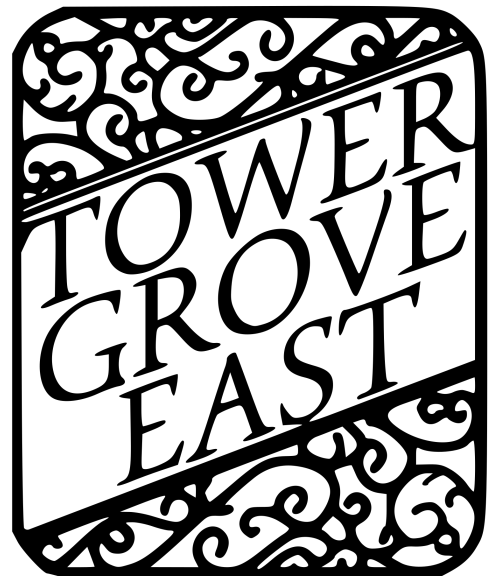


MAY 23, 2023

TOWER GROVE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAY MEETING RECAP



Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association

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Ald. Sonnier talks about short-term rental bill at TGENA membership meeting

Alisha Sonnier spoke about a short-term rental (Airbnb) bill she supports, and committees she serves on, during her first appearance as new Seventh Ward Alderwoman at Tuesday night's general membership meeting of the Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association. The meeting was held at Stray Dog Theatre.

She said she's moving full steam ahead on representing the newly drawn large, diverse ward, which covers seven different neighborhoods, including TGE. Later, she complimented the neighborhood association: "You guys have such strong voices" in representing Tower Grove East.

Sonnier said she is co-sponsoring a bill, with Fourth Ward Alderman Bret Narayan and Board President Megan Green, to set up regulations governing short-term rentals.

"We have no regulations for Airbnbs....Our public safety officials need laws to enforce," she said, adding, "under no means am I anti-Airbnb." But these facilities should be treated the same way as when someone opens a business, she said.

"You should be able to operate and not put others at risk," she said.

Later in the meeting, Third District Police Liaison Kevin Dilg said police are still pursuing information about a shooting earlier this month in the 3200 block of Halliday, allegedly linked to a short-term rental.

Sonnier gave this summary of Bill 33, which she supports:

"This bill requires a permit to operate a Short-Term Rental in the City of St. Louis, requires designation of a Short-Term Rental Agent to respond to concerns regarding the operation of a Short-Term Rental, prescribes an application process and process for the appeal of the denial of a Short-Term Rental permit, as well as process for the revocation of any such permit.

"The bill sets conditions on the operation of Short-Term Rentals.

'The permit processes, procedures and requirements are intended to be codified as Chapter 25.57 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis.

'The purpose of this bill is to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of individuals and the community at large to facilitate and provide reasonable means for citizens to mitigate impacts created by occupancy of Short-term Rental Units and to implement rationally based, reasonably tailored regulations to protect the integrity of the City's neighborhoods."

Sonnier said the bill was introduced last Friday and is now in the transit and commerce committee.

"I will send out communication to let you know so you can show up and make your voice heard. It takes a long time," she said.

Sonnier announced that she [serves on five committees](#): budget and public employees; housing, urban development and zoning; public safety; public amenities, social services, education (health and human development); and a special red tape commission that seeks to reduce bureaucratic challenges for businesses.

Asked for her thoughts on the North-South Rail Line proposed from Jefferson Avenue at Chippewa Street north to Natural Bridge Avenue, she responded: "I think it's important for our public transit system...I think it's good."

She added she wants to make sure there is a relationship between public transit and affordable housing. "I think we need to expand," she said, but it also "needs to be more efficient."

Another questioner said he lives near Utah and Grand and hears gunfire "three to five times a week." He talked about the "general sense of crime and chaos" in the neighborhood.

Sonnier responded that "A sense of safety can be fleeting for all of us." However, "a lot of things are taking place" on the city level. She cited the 8-10 percent raise for police, investment in vehicles and community building efforts. "What I've heard from captains in law enforcement, it is working...People are staying a little longer."

“We know that if crimes are not being prosecuted, we’ve lost a piece of accountability in our system. We do have a new prosecutor,” she said, apparently referring to Gabe Gore, new St. Louis Circuit Attorney who was appointed by Gov. Mike Parson to replace Kim Gardner, who resigned this month. Staffing is “desperately needed” in the prosecutor’s office and regional partners have offered their assistance, she noted.

Speaking about the problems of abandonment and vacancy in St. Louis, she said, “the more people we have, better it is for all of us...There are people who would love us to abandon our city....I want to have hope.” With all these changes, she said, the city needs a little bit more time to see things get better.

Last Saturday, Sonnier walked the neighborhood with Association President Danielle Langeneckert. “You are all active. You show up, you e-mail your testimony. You do the work on your own. That is something that is not present in every community. I certainly appreciate it,” she said.

IN OTHER BUSINESS AT THE MEETING:

Rachel Greathouse, representing New Earth Farm Compost, a St. Louis urban farm focused on composting for residents and businesses, urged neighbors to consider taking part in its composting service. It offers options for weekly pickup (\$31 a month), biweekly pickup (\$21 a month) and drop off (\$12 a month) of composting materials. It even accepts meat and dairy items in addition to green waste, she said.

In return, the service provides finished compost twice a year to members. She urged attendees to go to the [company’s website](#), and enter “TGE” to get one month’s service for free. The code expires June 30.

Henry Brown, Neighborhood Improvement Specialist, said he can help with neighborhood issues such as cars needing to be towed, trash not being picked up and fallen trees. Under the new ward reduction, there are fewer alderpersons, so it’s best to contact him instead of Alderwoman Sonnier, he said. His e-mail: brownh@stlouis-mo.gov

Asked for an update on tree stump removal, he said he has been pushing city officials three times a week but they are understaffed. He said he has heard that Dumpster replacement is taking place ward-by-ward, one ward per week.

Orchard on Virginia representative Susan Herzberg said trees are starting to have fruit. This summer, the orchard plans to present programs, including a crochet class and activities for children.

Safety Chair Lane Forman urged auto owners to buy a catalytic converter lock and take other safety precautions, including not storing a gun in a car.

Beautification Chair Ralph Noyes thanked the 18 neighbors who helped to pick up refuse from 32 blocks during the April cleanup. Alderwoman Sonnier took part by cleaning up Compton next to Roosevelt High School, he said.

Regarding replacements for trees that have been removed, he recommended contacting Forest ReLeaf of Missouri or the city forestry department.

New Communications Chair Brandon Corbin said he plans to update the website and operate on a consistent schedule.

Ways and Means Chair Bill Gilbert and President Langeneckert said we will have five dates assigned in July and August, during which we will need five to seven volunteers to man food booths at Busch Stadium. The effort will earn income for TGENA and replace the yearly volunteer work at Fair St. Louis, which no longer is providing booths as it had in the past.

Information about how to volunteer will be coming out soon on e-mail and social media.

Membership Chair Bryan Brown said he was able to enroll new members and sell swag from a table set up at the recent community garden plant sale. The plant sale drew a large turnout and final numbers will be announced next month.

Tower Grove Park Liaison Larry McCarthy said construction will start soon on a basketball court, which will be built close to Arsenal and east of the main drive, near the Turkish Pavilion.

Becky Reinhart, executive director of DeSales Community Development, thanked those who donated around \$6,000 to the organization during the Give St. Louis Day. DeSales continues to work to combat vacancy and abandonment. She said it looks like DeSales may be able to acquire title to a certain property on Victor.

DeSales is looking for volunteers and coaches for St. Louis Redbirds Baseball; will start work on rehabbing property that had been renovated in the '90s, and needs renovation again; will pursue a letter of support for low-income housing; and is helping to raise funds to maintain the median strips along South Grand.

Third District Liaison Officer Dilg presented his monthly crime report (See attached) and said the police department is working on improving the prompts that have been installed on the non-emergency phone line (314) 231-1212 to free up call takers for emergency calls. The prompts are in English, Spanish, Bosnian and Vietnamese. If you're having problems getting through, please let him know, Dilg said.

Meanwhile, police are looking to put a speed trailer in different areas of the neighborhood. These are signs that post how fast you driving in comparison with the speed limit. If you have a location to recommend, please contact Dilg, he said. His e-mail: kddilg@slmpd.org

He noted that new Police Chief Robert Tracy will be living nearby in Compton Heights.

Treasurer Jana Schmersahl presented her monthly report:

Accounts Activity from last General Meeting, 4/25 through today, 5/23:

Betty Lewis account (for neighborhood donation deposits) *7393

- Revenue totaling \$1,259
 - Received three individual one-year memberships of \$10 each
 - Received three household two-year membership of \$34 each
 - Received one household one-year membership of \$18
 - Sold a TGENA t-shirt for \$20
 - Garden sales around neighborhood yard sale \$1,089.00
- Account balance is \$6,979.99

Large account (for expenses, cash and check deposits, Venmo transfers) *6058

- Expenses totaling \$205.70
 - Reimbursement to Beautification chair for April neighborhood cleanup \$41.71
 - Payment to Murray Print Shop for postcards sent in December \$143.00
 - one monthly Zoom subscription fee of \$15.99
 - bank statement fee of \$5
 - Deposits of cash and checks totaling \$610
 - \$10 cash from TGENA koozie sale
 - Balance transfers from Venmo:
 - Orchard on Virginia \$40

TGENA MARCH 2023 MEETING

- Garden plant sale \$560
- Account balance is \$19,855.92

CD renewal date Sept 28, 2023

- Current balance \$21,141.07, earning 0.025% interest

CD renewal date Oct 12, 2025

- Current balance \$8,639.67, earning 0.045% interest

And two TGENA members won free tickets to a Cardinals game, courtesy of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 27th, 2023 @ 7PM - Stray Dog Theatre + Zoom

CRIME STATS PROVIDED BY OFFICER DILG

DISTRICT 3 - NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY CRIME AND ACTIVITY REPORT

Neighborhood	Tower Grove East
Date of Report	May 22, 2023
Prepared By	Officer Kevin Dilg

Disclosure: The data in this report is for informational purposes only. It does not reflect the official crimes that are reported by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department and should not be considered as such. It is only to be used as a guide to inform citizens of the activity that is occurring in their neighborhood.

Part I Crimes Year to Date

Current Year	126
Last Year	110
Percent Change	15%
Trend	Up

Part I Crimes 28 Days

Current 28 Days	19
Previous 28 Days	31
Percent Change	39%
Trend	Down

Current Part I Crimes (28 Days)

Murder	0
Rape	0
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	1
Burglary	1
Arson	0
Vehicle Theft	3
Larceny	14
Total	19

Current Part I Crime Additional Information

Aggravated Assault:

5/7-3200 block of Halliday-Report of a shooting at that location.

Burglary:

Report of a garage burglary at that location in which tools were reported stolen

Vehicle Theft:

(1) Honda

(1) Kia

(1) Hyundai

Vehicle thefts are down by 81%

Larcenies:

(2) from motor vehicles. (1) involved the report of change being taken. (1) involved the report of vehicle being ransacked but nothing taken.

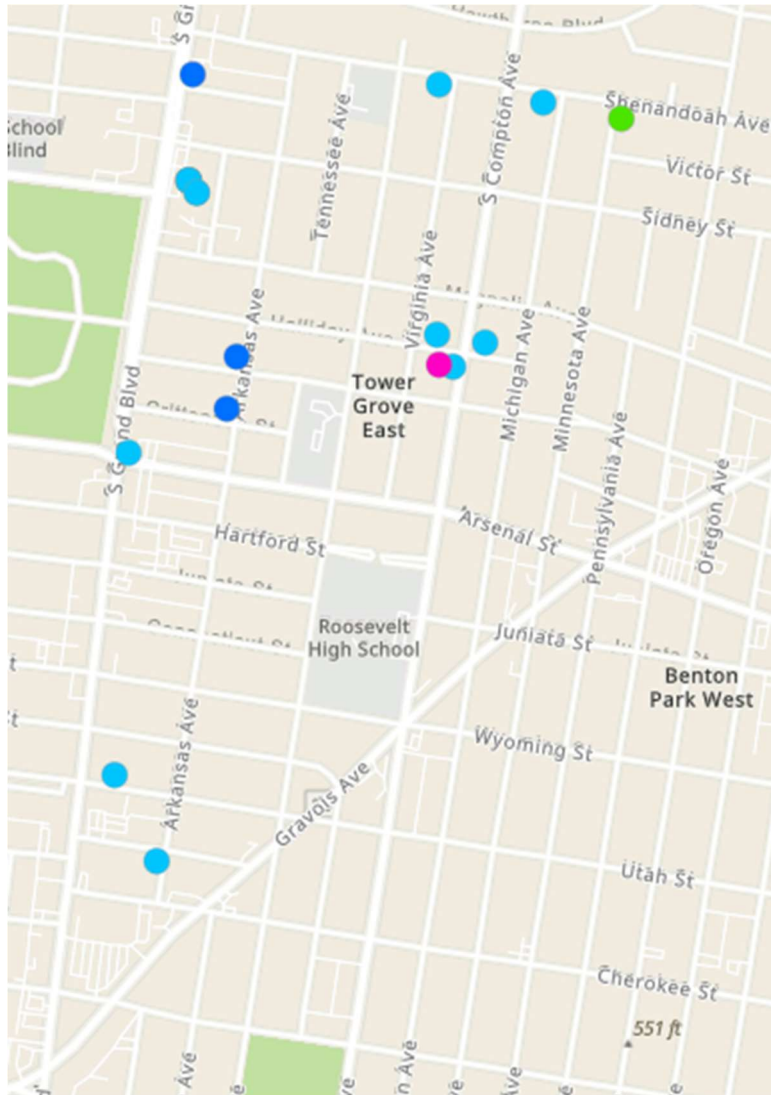
(2) involving motor vehicle parts. (1) involved the report of a catalytic converter being taken.

(1) involved the report of stolen license plates

DISTRICT 3 - NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY CRIME AND ACTIVITY REPORT

Current Part I Crime Map

Neighborhood: **Tower Grove East**

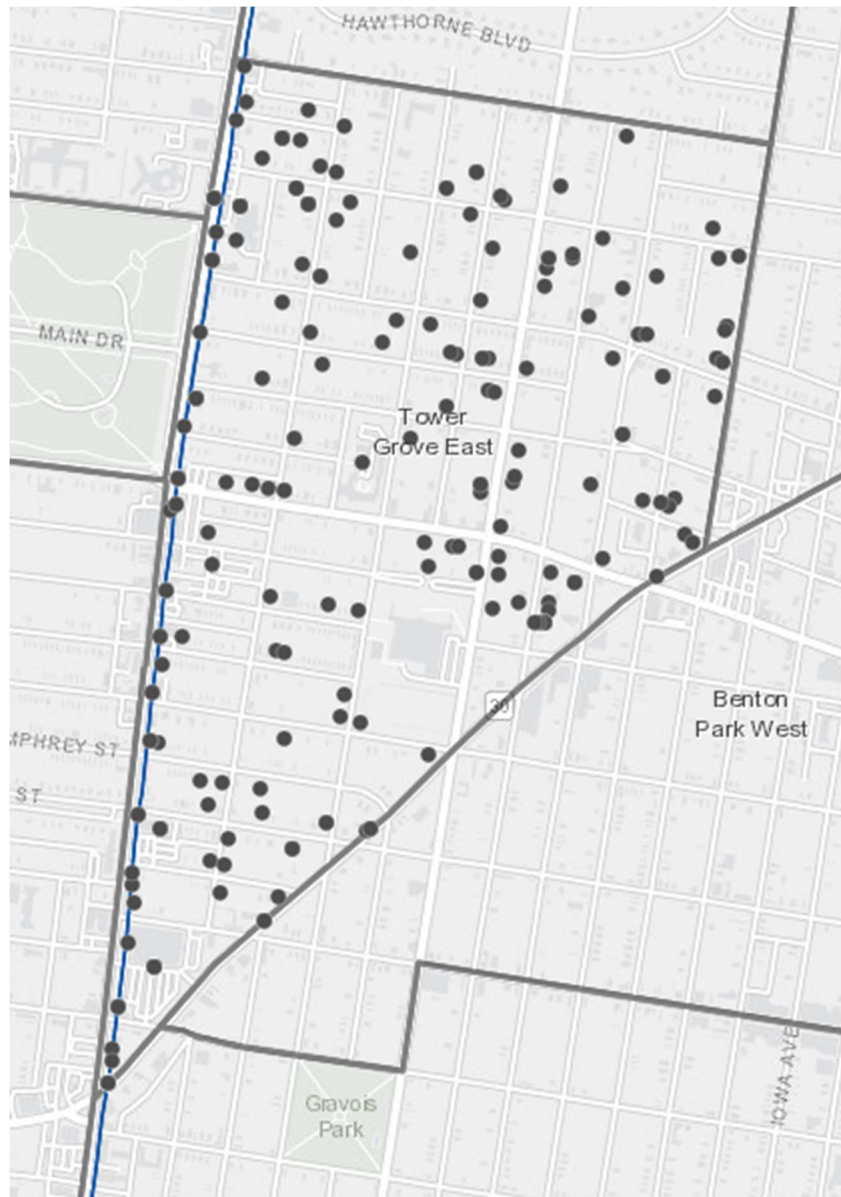


Legend	
Yellow	Murder
Orange	Rape
Red	Robbery
Pink	Aggravated Assault
Green	Burglary
Gray	Arson
Dark Blue	Vehicle Theft
Light Blue	Larceny

Directed Incidents-Past 30 Days (AKA 911 Calls)

Total	268
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Directed Incident Heat Map-Past 30 Days



Self-Initiated Activity (SIA)-Past 30 Days

Total	113
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SIA Heat Map-Past 30 Days

