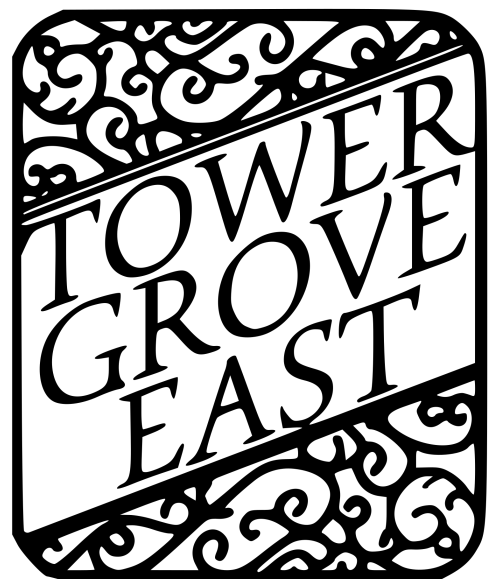


JUNE 27, 2023

# TOWER GROVE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## JUNE MEETING RECAP



# Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association

## JUNE MEETING RECAP

### **DESPITE BITTER FIGHTS, OUTCOMES WERE POSITIVE IN STATE HOUSE, REP. MERIDETH TELLS TGENA MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

State Representative Peter Merideth (D-80) and St. Louis Ward 7 Alderwoman Alisha Sonnier, both of whom represent Tower Grove East, spoke to the TGE Neighborhood Association membership meeting Tuesday evening at Stray Dog Theatre.

Merideth, a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, discussed the recent legislative session, which met from Jan. 4 to May 12 in Jefferson City. "It was an ugly session, rhetorically. The fights were bitter and personal," yet "overall outcomes were remarkably positive and bipartisan," he said. Some bills were even passed by a "governing bipartisan coalition," he said.

Republicans outnumbered Democrats in both houses: 24 to 10 in the Senate and 111 to 52 in the House.

The state is "flush with cash right now" as a result of one-time federal influx of stimulus money. The money went into the economy, and tax income went up, he said. But inflation also increased, which means the state has to spend more to cover increased costs, he said.

He said Missouri has the lowest state funding for K-12 of any state, the lowest paid teachers and state workers and the lowest funding per mile of state roads in the nation. It is the only state that has reduced spending on higher education, until this year, he said; mental health workers also are severely underpaid.

He listed these as budget wins:

- New investments in universal pre-kindergarten/free public education for early childhood and increased subsidies for childcare. Missouri returned to paying for 54 percent of what this actually costs, which is where the state was three years ago.
- Several billion dollars to add a third lane to Interstate 70.

- Expansion of Medicaid coverage for new mothers for a full year. Missouri has had “a pretty atrocious mortality rate for new mothers,” he added.
- Allowing benefits to continue for workers who had previously been bumped off aid because they got a dollar an hour increase in wages. This had bipartisan support, he said.
- Making texting while driving illegal—but as a secondary violation, not the primary cause for being stopped. Missouri became one of last states in nation to pass such a law.
- No action on censorship of school teachers, which basically was a “Don’t Say Gay” law.
- No action regarding drag queens this session.
- Funding of public libraries. Some Republican legislators wanted to defund the libraries, punishing them for suing the state to overturn a book ban the state passed, he said. The Senate restored funding.
- Not approving language that would ban any entity from getting state money if it promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Making car dealers collect state sales tax when a car is purchased. In the past, a car purchaser would have to go to the DMV to pay the sales tax and get a license plate. In many instances, the car buyers never bothered to pay the tax and continued using temporary tags. Merideth said this action should improve the temp tag problem.

Merideth listed these as failures:

- No action on gun laws. He said legislators couldn’t even get a hearing on a bill that was based on the red flag law in Florida, which lets police ask a judge to temporarily bar dangerous individuals from buying or possessing a gun. Over the last 10 years, we’ve had regression in gun laws, he said. “It’s harder to take guns off the streets.”
- No action on sports betting, making Missouri one of the last states to legalize it. He said it would be good for the state to create a legal pathway to do it.

In response to a question, Merideth said he expects there to be a ballot initiative seeking to roll back the state’s total ban on abortion, despite efforts by Republicans to thwart the initiative and shorten the time during which signatures can be collected to put it on the ballot.

## UPDATE FROM ST. LOUIS WARD 7 ALD. SONNIER

Alderwoman Sonnier thanked Merideth for the work he did, especially when he was surrounded by so many Republicans, she said.

Sonnier said her first town hall drew 85 people and called the experience “amazing.” The next one will be Wednesday, July 19, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Hodgen Tech Academy, where the topic will be transit. Childcare will be provided.

Sonnier said she has been overwhelmed by requests of support, some of them from people who want her approval for a project so they can take it to the neighborhood. Instead, she said, she wants developers and others to go to the neighborhood first and then contact her for possible support.

She said she and Ward 6 Alderwoman Daniela Velazquez plan to cooperate on traffic calming efforts. “We have enough traffic studies and plans,” Sonnier said. She expects to get capital funds in August, of which \$60,000 will go to each of the neighborhoods in her ward. That won’t go very far, she said, because each speed bump is \$7,000.

Sonnier said she is compiling every request for traffic calming, noting that she’s seeing locations that come up frequently.

Sonnier noted she is on the Abortion Action board and said “I’m very passionate about reproductive justice.”

Citing recent problems involving Airbnbs, including a murder, she said she is co-sponsor of legislation to regulate short term rentals in the city, where there are no such regulations now. Sonnier added that she does not plan to accept meetings with lobbyists. They can lobby her in a committee meeting, she said.

She would like to see a rental registry similar to short-term oversight. At present, she added, there’s no way you can determine whether a property is rental in the city. Some landlords are circumventing Ameren bill registration, which involves automatic notice to the city of rental status, she said. She is also interested in a tenant bill of rights. Sonnier said 56 percent of city residents are tenants.

Sonnier added that there have to be conversations about how every public subsidy of a development should provide a public good. A project in itself should contribute to the

public in order to be subsidized, she said. If it's a luxury project, it should not get a subsidy.

She wants to engage in conversation with developers, she said.

## UPDATE FROM THIRD DISTRICT LIAISON POLICE OFFICER DILG

In other business at the meeting, Third District Liaison Police Officer Kevin Dilg said intensive traffic law enforcement will take place in the TGE area soon. A recent High Visibility Traffic Enforcement Initiative along South Kingshighway yielded 164 tickets, which were about evenly divided between moving and seatbelt violations, he said.

Regarding July 4, Dilg said the city police department will have a major staffing commitment for the parade and fireworks downtown. As for what residents should do, he advised: "Don't do anything different than you would on any other day. If you need police, call us." He noted it is illegal to set off fireworks in the city.

If people are shooting guns, call the police as you would any other day, he said.

## MONTHLY REPORT FROM TGENA TREASURER JANA SCHMERSAHL

Accounts Activity from last General Meeting, 5/23 through today, 6/27:

### **Betty Lewis account (for neighborhood donation deposits) \*7393**

- Revenue totaling \$43
  - Received one household one-year membership of \$18
  - Received one contribution of \$25
- Account balance is \$7,057.14

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

- Expenses totaling \$52.15
  - GoDaddy.com website domain annual subscription \$31.16
  - one monthly Zoom subscription fee of \$15.99
  - bank statement fee of \$5
  - Deposits of cash totaling \$157
  - Sold TGENA swag for \$79
  - Received one household one-year membership of \$18

**TGENA JUNE 2023 MEETING**

- Balance transfers from Venmo:
  - ▶ Orchard on Virginia \$50
  - ▶ Garden plant sale \$10
- Account balance is \$19,900.77

**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

The Board will be voting on investments and allocations at our next meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **NEXT MEETING**

July's TGENA membership meeting is canceled. Our next meeting will take place **Tuesday, August 27th, 2023 @ 7PM - Stray Dog Theatre + Zoom**

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### **CRIME STATS PROVIDED BY OFFICER DILG**

DISTRICT 3 - NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY CRIME AND ACTIVITY REPORT

<b>Neighborhood</b>	Tower Grove East
<b>Date of Report</b>	June 26, 2023
<b>Prepared By</b>	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**

<b>Current Year</b>	161
<b>Last Year</b>	141
<b>Percent Change</b>	14%
<b>Trend</b>	<b>Up</b>

**Part I Crimes 28 Days**

<b>Current 28 Days</b>	27
<b>Previous 28 Days</b>	22
<b>Percent Change</b>	22 %
<b>Trend</b>	<b>Up</b>

**Current Part I Crimes (28 Days)**

<b>Murder</b>	0
<b>Rape</b>	0
<b>Robbery</b>	1
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	2
<b>Burglary</b>	1
<b>Arson</b>	0
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	5
<b>Larceny</b>	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

**Current Part I Crime Additional Information**

**Robberies:**

(1) 6/11-2700 block of S. Grand-Report of a business robbery at that location in which 2 suspects took merchandise at gunpoint. One suspect was arrested. The other suspect is actively wanted.

**Aggravated Assaults: (2)**

5/29-3100 block of Shenandoah-Report of a domestic assault at that location in which the victim was choked by the suspect. Suspect identified.

5/29-3100 block of Arsenal-Report of a domestic assault in which the victim was struck with a pistol by the suspect. Arrest was made and firearm recovered.

**Burglaries: (1)**

6/14-3500 block of Humphrey-Report of a residential burglary in which items were taken from a garage.

**Vehicle Thefts: (5)**

Up by 150% (5 vs 2)

(2) Kia

(1) Chevrolet

(1) Nissan

(1) Mazda

**Larcenies: (18)**

Up by 20% overall(18 vs 15)

(4) from motor vehicles (down 20%)

(5) motor vehicle parts (up 66%)

(1) from a building (even)

(3) other-(bicycle theft, package theft, credit card theft)

(5) shoplifting (even)-Family Dollar and T-Mobile

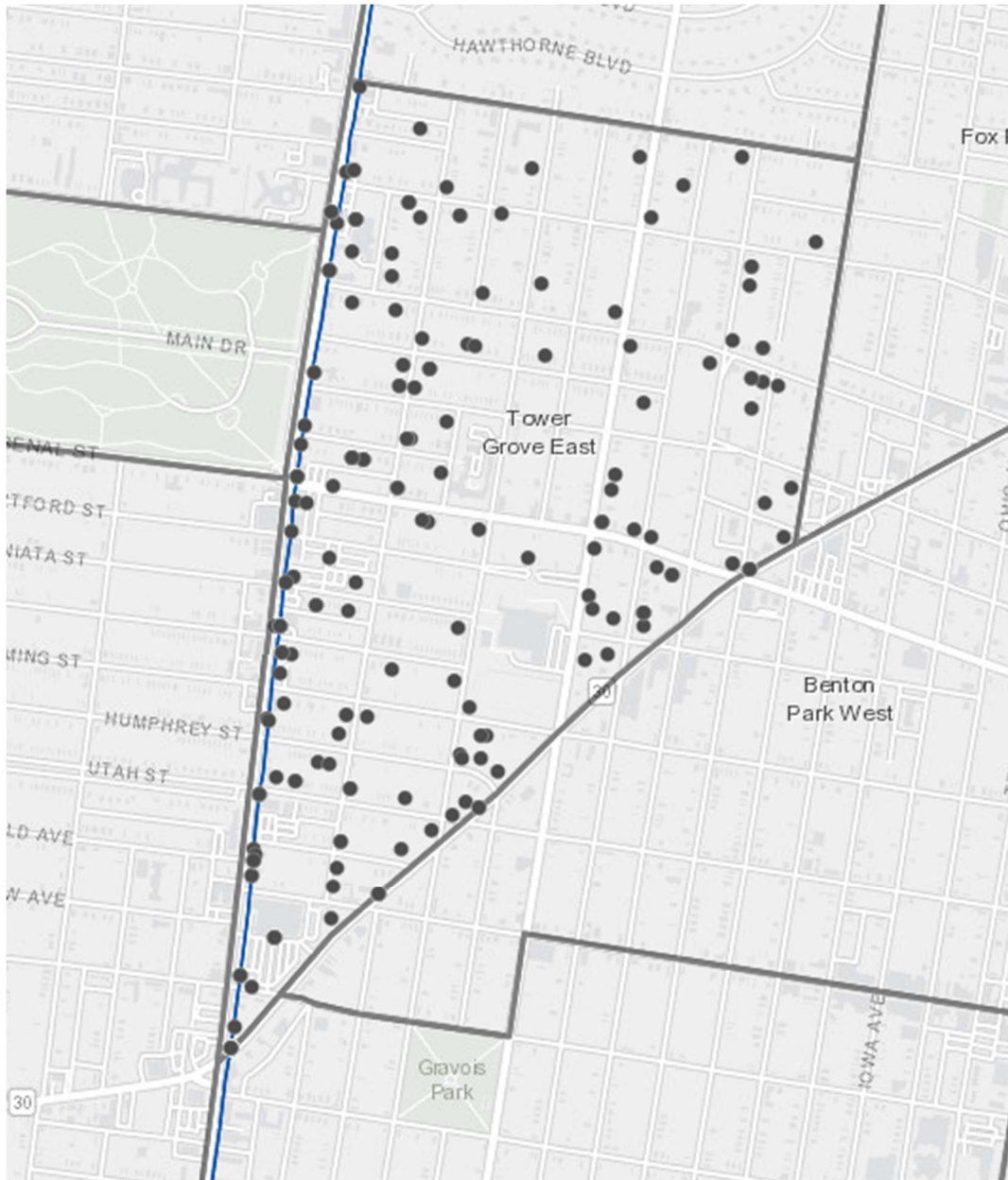


DISTRICT 3 - NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY CRIME AND ACTIVITY REPORT

Directed Incidents-Past 30 Days (AKA 911 Calls)

Total	274
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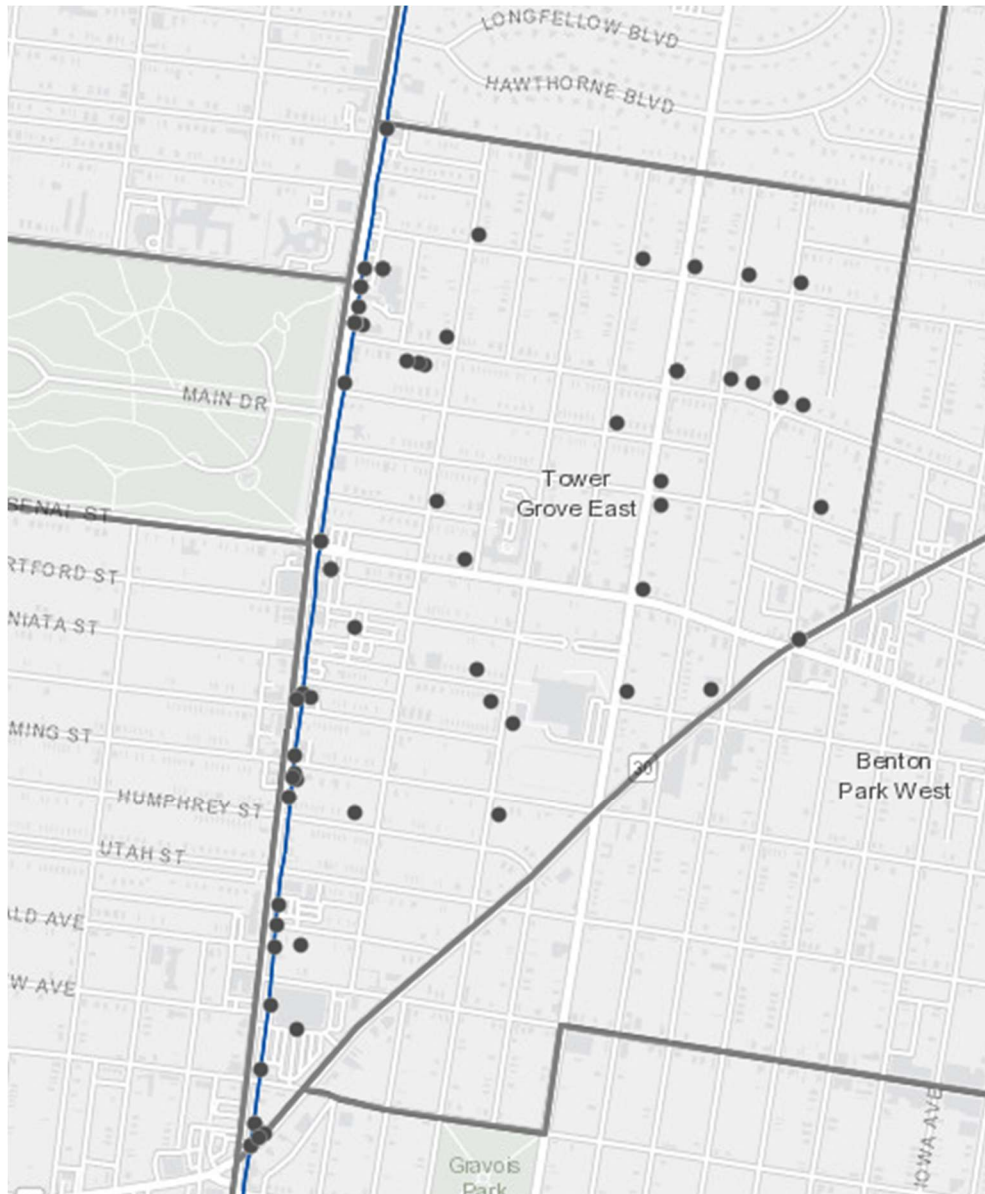
Directed Incident Heat Map-Past 30 Days



**Self-Initiated Activity (SIA)-Past 30 Days**

<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>
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**SIA Heat Map-Past 30 Days**





## St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (OFFICIAL)

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Yesterday we conducted a High Visibility Traffic Enforcement Initiative along S. Kingshighway, Hampton, and S. Grand. A total of 164 tickets were issued during 73 traffic stops. Of the tickets issued, 83 were for hazardous violations, such as speeding, violating an electric signal, improper lane usage, prohibited turns, etc. and 81 were tickets for non-hazardous violations such as expired plates, no insurance, seatbelt violations, suspended or no operator license, etc.

We will periodically conduct these High Visibility Traffic Enforcement Initiatives at various locations throughout the city. Drive safe St. Louis and remember that traffic laws are in place for the safety of EVERYONE!

