

SUBJECT: APD

Fox 5

Police identify suspect in murder of prominent community leader

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA - Police have identified a suspect and have an arrest warrant following the murder of a well-known Atlanta community leader.

Investigators said Eric Banks, 17, is considered armed and dangerous and anyone with information on his whereabouts is asked to call 911.

Police believe Banks shot and killed Barney Simms last Saturday outside the victim's southwest Atlanta home.

The 70-year-old man was found dead in the front yard. Police said his Lexus was missing and the front door of his home was open. That same Lexus was recovered Sunday by East Point Police.

Simms was well-known in the Atlanta area with ties to numerous community organizations including Chairman for the Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services, Co-Chairman of the Board for the Walter and Andrew Young Family YMCA in southwest Atlanta and the Antioch Urban Ministries.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/122417422-story>

SUBJECT: APD

CBS 46

Special task force created to help combat rash of business burglaries

By: Aiyana Crystal

ATLANTA (CBS46) -

The Atlanta Police Department is taking a definitive step towards combating a recent outbreak of smash-and-grabs throughout the city by creating a special task force.

The launch comes on the heels of the latest incident where nearly a half-dozen men ransacked an upscale shop in Buckhead and made off with nearly \$100,000 in clothing.

Not long after that incident, crooks shattered windows of Dolce and stole several thousands of dollars of merchandise before hitting other nearby businesses.

Business burglaries have become a regular occurrence that police have had to deal with and with that in mind, they've created a special task force to help them in their efforts.

At least 10 federal, state and local investigators will be a part of the unit.

The announcement of this new force is expected to take place at 11 a.m. Thursday morning and Major Paul Guerrucci, Atlanta's gang task force commander, will be one of the officials involved.

Guerrucci is also expected to speak on issues related to the task force.

<http://www.cbs46.com/story/31720373/special-task-force-created-to-help-combat-rash-of-business-burglaries>

SUBJECT: APD

WHAS 11

Police: Thieves use FaceTime in high-end store robbery

By: Adrienne Haney

ATLANTA — Police say 40 seconds was all it took for a group of alleged robbers to make off with more than \$100,000 in stolen clothing.

It happened earlier this month at the Moda 404, a men's boutique in Buckhead, an affluent Atlanta neighborhood. The shop is so exclusive that customers have to be buzzed in to get inside, but police say that didn't stop the group of suspects from pulling off the take-over robbery.

Surveillance video captured the incident in great detail. At around 8:30 p.m. on April 6, police say a black-colored Dodge Challenger pulled up to the store and one of the suspects was buzzed into the store by a clerk.

The clerk told police that the suspect appeared to be shopping before striking up a conversation about a particular brand of jeans. Meanwhile, a second suspect is let into the business. He can be seen on surveillance video browsing the store with his cellphone out, allegedly using FaceTime to point out items for the thieves to target.

"It is our understanding that they are watching the video and identifying items that they need to take," said Sgt. Warren Pickard of the Atlanta Police Department.

Moments later, the clerk says the first suspect tells him he is heading to the bank to withdraw money to make a purchase. As he exited the business, surveillance video shows him holding open the door for a group of suspects, who rushed into the store and began snatching clothing from the racks. Time stamps from video shows the entire incident took less than a minute.

During the robbery, police say one of the suspects pulled out a gun and ordered the clerk and another customer to the ground.

The suspects make several trips in and out of the store to collect clothing, putting the clothes in a vehicle that was backed up to the door.

After the incident, the clerk called 911.

Police say the seven suspects appeared to be wearing gloves and were trying to conceal their faces.

"We think that they have participated in smash and grabs. It's just one that they do while the business is actually open," Pickard said.

Police say even though they have made 10 arrests, smash and grabs still plague the city's high-end clothiers.

<http://www.whas11.com/news/crime/police-thieves-use-facetime-in-high-end-store-robbery/131012835>

SUBJECT: APD

Fox 5

Man shot during SW Atlanta robbery

By: Staff Writer

Atlanta - The Atlanta Police Department says a man was shot in SW Atlanta during a robbery at Donnelly Ave SW and Allegheny St SW.

Police say the suspect is described as having an afro, wearing beige pants, and possibly left in a 2012 black Dodge Charger. The second suspect has a dark complexion, short dreads, wearing a red hoodie or shirt with grey pants and red shoes.

The investigation is ongoing.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/117760085-story>

SUBJECT: APD

11 Alive

Police officers move into formerly blighted homes

By: Julie Wolfe

ATLANTA - More than half of sworn officers in the Atlanta Police Department don't live inside the city of Atlanta. Neighbors are desperate for more community policing. They're frustrated with blighted properties bringing down their communities.

There's an innovative solution putting down roots in Edgewood. Police officers are moving into those properties.

The neighborhood three miles east from downtown Atlanta has been deemed "high need" by Atlanta Police crime statistics. Not a great label. But it's also been recognized as having "the presence of community stakeholders willing to collaborate to increase police presence" and a high "probability of successful stabilization".

That distinction made Edgewood eligible to host the city's first Secure Neighborhood home renovation. The Atlanta Police Foundation and the Atlanta Police Department are working with the new program to help police officers purchase homes in strategic neighborhoods. The goal is to increase police visibility and enhance engagement with community members.

Officer Michael Costello says he's ready to have frequent visitors at his Edgewood home. "I want to meet everybody," he said. "I want to help as much as I possibly can. That's why I became a police officer. Not just to go arrest people.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/police-officers-move-into-fomerly-blighted-homes/121318183>

SUBJECT: APD

Reporter Newspapers

Atlanta police cameras get Sandy Springs Council support, questions

By: John Ruch

The Sandy Springs City Council voiced support for the recent expansion of an Atlanta Police camera network into its city at an April 5 meeting. But the council also had policy questions about the surveillance cameras, whose existence was revealed by Reporter Newspapers before the Sandy Springs Police Department informed council members.

“This thing actually moved a lot faster than we thought,” Sandy Springs Police Chief Ken DeSimone told the council during a presentation that revealed new details of the “Operation Shield” cameras. The details included the locations of nine cameras installed in southern Sandy Springs.

The Atlanta Police Department runs a massive and ever-growing network of thousands of public and private surveillance cameras that feed into a downtown command center. APD now aims to expand the cameras beyond its borders, with Sandy Springs as a pilot program, according to DeSimone. Sandy Springs already has many cameras—52 for traffic management and 62 for park security—but they are not tied into APD’s system, DeSimone reported.

“[Atlanta Police] Chief [George] Turner approached me about collaborating more closely than we already do” and bringing in the cameras, DeSimone said.

Under the deal, APD and the nonprofit Atlanta Police Foundation paid for the Sandy Springs cameras and installation, and will cover maintenance for three years at an estimated cost of \$40 to \$50 per camera per year. Sandy Springs is covering fees for storing recorded video data, which is an estimated \$4,300 to \$5,900 a year depending on the storage method.

SSPD said yes to the cameras for various reasons, DeSimone said, including deterring crime and helping APD chase cross-border suspects. He also said the cameras could help with crime investigations, monitor traffic for Chastain Park events, and generally strengthen the city’s partnership with APD and the Police Foundation, which he said has local residents on its board.

DeSimone presented the new cameras as a 90-day pilot program to see “does it make sense to expand” and to integrate with other Sandy Springs systems. That would include allowing their feeds to be viewed in Sandy Springs Traffic Management Center, a room with a wall of video screens. Currently, only APD, not Sandy Springs Police, can view the camera feeds directly.

DeSimone said the pilot program also should answer such questions as, “What are the rules on expansion?...How far north do we go with it?”

Council member Andy Bauman’s district is home to the new cameras. He said that criminals “don’t recognize our municipal boundaries” and that resident response to cross-border cameras has been “very, very good.” He noted the system’s popularity in Buckhead, where Atlanta City Council members frequently fund its expansion.

But Bauman said he's also heard "privacy concerns" from residents who want "assurances these aren't cameras pointed into bedrooms." DeSimone said the cameras only view public areas, and in an interview, he said they do not have facial recognition or other technology for singling out people. The chief also told the council that the sheer size of Atlanta's system makes it impossible to watch all of the cameras all of the time.

"It's sort of like trying to watch 32 basketball games at the start of the Final Four and trying to call a foul in one of them," DeSimone said.

Council member Gabriel Sterling was concerned about video recordings—which will be stored 14 to 30 days—being treated as public records. The council already is grappling with such concerns with its police body camera pilot program.

"I don't want WSB coming and being able to get firsthand [images] of horrifying things," said Sterling, but city attorney Wendell Willard responded that the videos likely are public records.

Council member Ken Dishman, who represents northwestern Sandy Springs, said he thinks there is a "great opportunity" to expand the system north and possibly citywide.

Council member John Paulson said he is also a "big fan" of the idea, but also questioned the planning and strategy for it. "Have we thought through where this is going?" he asked.

"I'm sure we'll continue to add to the system," replied City Manager John McDonough. But he was unable to be specific, saying it likely would not be "dozens and dozens" of cameras, but adding, "I suspect it might be substantially more than the Public Works system we have now."

"It's a good question and we'll have to give some thought to that," McDonough said.

Council member Tibby DeJulio asked about the usefulness of camera systems and whether suspects have been captured by watching the existing traffic cameras. "Have we cracked any cases?" he asked. DeSimone cited one case of bank robbery suspects being recorded, but said the traffic cams are generally too low-resolution to be as useful as the new Atlanta cameras.

Mayor Rusty Paul said the Atlanta cameras and the body cameras are both an "evolving policy area" the city needs to think more about.

Atlanta police camera locations in Sandy Springs

While the Sandy Springs Police Department previously declined to say where the Atlanta Police cameras are located, DeSimone presented a map of them at the April 5 City Council meeting.

The locations appear to be:

1100 block of Crest Valley Drive

Crest Valley Drive at Jett Road

Crest Valley Drive at Northside Drive

Kenbrook Way at Windship Place

Mount Paran Road at Powers Ferry Road

Powers Ferry Road at Carol Lane

Powers Ferry Road at Rebel Trail

Roswell Road at Forest Hills Drive

Roswell Road at Mount Paran Road

<http://www.reporternewspapers.net/2016/04/06/atlanta-police-cameras-get-sandy-springs-council-support-questions/>