

11/8/12 Feedback from CDAPD Town Hall Meeting & Block Watch Q & A: This quarterly meeting provided information about burglary arrests and crime prevention tips. The following is my best accounting of the discussion and observations that transpired.

- Current crop of burglars that have been caught seem to mainly be addicts that are going after people's prescription drugs or are taking jewelry, guns, and small items that can be pawned easily (probably in Spokane) in order to buy narcotic drugs
- Police believe that some of the current burglars used to be functioning addicts that have lost jobs due to the poor economy and now turn to crime to maintain their habit
- Citizens in attendance seemed to take the stance that police were doing as good a job as can be expected catching the bad guys, but are upset about the short or easy sentencing received in the court system
- Chief of Police Longo said that they will hold another Town Hall Meeting (sooner than the normal quarterly meeting) and will invite Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, and City Attorneys, in order for them to get first hand feedback directly from the citizens (let me know if you are interested in attending this meeting: LandingsWatch@mainthing.com)
- Police are using new and different methods of patrolling hardest hit areas. Additionally they are staking out some areas using plain-clothed detectives in unmarked (plain, older, and unremarkable – sometimes shabby) cars
- At least three people (or families) were in attendance, that have been victims of recent burglaries. These folks were understandably the most upset

In the 5 or 6 meetings of this sort that I have attended this was by far the most animated with an attendance of 40+ (usually only about 10 folks show up for these). Finally, here is a good reason to leave the police work to the police. A concerned citizen at the meeting told a story about how he noticed a car near his home with one person sitting in it for a long period of time. He approached the car and knocked on the window and asked if the person needed help. The guy said "no". Not to be deterred, the citizen continued asking questions of the driver until finally the 'undercover detective' produced ID and explained that he was working a stakeout. One of the police lieutenants at the meeting then suggested to the audience (again) that if you see something suspicious – call them first.