

October 15, 2007

RE: Impact statement for the offender _____

To: the County District Court and the Honorable _____,

Words cannot describe how grateful we as the neighbors of the ___ block of 9th St are today to be able to describe and articulate to the court our frustration and how disruptive our lives have been these last 4 years. Thank you for this opportunity to let us share this impact statement.

In order to really understand the impact of what has happened on this block, some history is in order.

The ___ block of 9th St is a residential area made up of mostly families, children and grandchildren. Some of its families have lived here up to 90 years. Most neighbors know each other and/or keep to themselves, but always are respectful. Until recently, the history of this block has been a quiet one.

Over the last 4 years, with one particular house, and more specifically one particular person, the quiet has changed to loud, and the respectful to disrespectful. The offender, who comes and goes to the street where his grandmother lives, has literally changed the complexion of the neighborhood. For the most part, we now live in fear of the offender and his friends. Hardly a day goes by on this block without some sort of a disruption caused by the offender and his short-term traffic friends. We have experienced:

- A lot of short term traffic coming and going into the offender's house and/or meeting him on the street. The offender walking back and forth between his house and 4th Ave talking on his cell phone and acting suspicious.
- Loud car stereos blasting day and night, vibrating our windows and announcing the offender's arrival on the block.
- Vehicles being worked on in the street which resulted in garbage, oil, anti-freeze, car parts, empty beer bottles, etc... left all over the area. The offender and his friends use the street as a big "hang out." Often times, vehicles pull up and exchanges are made. Sometimes the person working on a vehicle with the hood up will reach into the engine area and take something out and an exchange is made.
- Drinking alcohol on the street.
- Firecrackers that leave the ground being shot off.
- A pitbull running loose into neighbor's yard after cats that were on a leash.
- The offender shooting a squirrel dead with a long gun.
- Shooting pellets or buckshot into siding of neighbors house (50+ holes).
- The offender continually driving fast in the neighborhood (w/o a license).
- After a neighborhood meeting recently, the offender was upset the block was shut off and literally tried to hit a lady moving the cones.
- Verbal threats, vulgar language and intimidation (cannot list these threats on paper because The offender will know exactly who they are).

We have had neighbors try their best to be-friend the family with food, clothes, and other items they felt the family needed in order to in-directly build a relationship of respect with the offender. All attempts have failed.

Neighbors have expressed a wide variety of emotions regarding the offender; fear, anger, depression, intimidation, horrified, etc... The house two doors down from the offender has changed hands 3 times in the last 5 years. A lady living across the street from the offender for 50 years finally sold because she was terrified. Two female renters who recently moved in next to the offender more recently just moved out because of the disturbances and that the offender scared the "heck" out of them.

Because of all this history we as a group have recently started up a neighborhood block watch with City Police Officers. The neighborhood watch has caused neighbors to "get to know" each other on our block. We now look out for each other and our properties. Starting this block watch was a good way for all of us to work together to find a solution. However, the problems still exist. One probation officer has spent time with our group and has been very helpful with the offender.

The offender's grandmother has said the offender only stays at her small 2 bedroom house one day a week...even though we know it is more. The offender has said he stays with a couple girlfriends around the Twin Ports area. We as neighbors and block watch members request that the court place a condition of probation on the offender that he cannot come to the block. We know that this may seem harsh, but cannot think of a better way to solve the on-going problems.

Case history from 2007; The Judge ordered a condition of probation for a previous offender to not go back to the involved block. This was the home of her kids and ex-husband. Since this has been in place, according to the Neighborhood Officer working that area, the problems have ceased.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your consideration of our feelings.

Sincerely and respectfully,

9th St Block Watch

*This letter represents our membership of 45 citizens.