

The Chelsea Insider

CONNECTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO PUBLIC SAFETY

January 2024 Edition | Serving residents of Atlantic City from Texas Avenue to Annapolis Avenue



Pictured from left to right: Yoely Quezada (CEDC Outreach Coordinator), Michelle Green (CEDC Clean and Safe Coordinator), Anh Pham (CEDC Data Analyst), Victor Moreno (CEDC Board Member and Chelsea Resident), and Officer Jose Ruiz (ACPD).

WELCOME

WE LISTEN. The Chelsea community wants a safe and vibrant community. We know that trustworthy information is critical. This newsletter is designed to inform you of crime facts, public safety activities, and how to be a part of the positive changes. Achieving our public safety goals depends on everyone getting involved, which can be sharing information with your neighbors, reporting crime and suspicious activity, or participating in a cleanup.

Each newsletter edition, released monthly, will focus on topics such crime and public safety information; code enforcement and how blighted properties contribute to crime; graffiti and its negative impact on property values; at-risk individuals and social service programs that are available to help; details on Chelsea EDC's free Ring Doorbell camera program; how to report streetlight outages; and how surveillance cameras have solved crime in Chelsea.

Chelsea EDC appreciates the strong partnership with Atlantic City Police Department.

Chief James Sarkos stated "Working together with the community development organizations will make our neighborhoods stronger. We offer many ways to report crime and suspicious activity, including anonymously, to make it as easy as possible for residents and businesses to contact us".

CRIME STATS

Welcome to our "Crime Stats" column – your essential source for safety insights tailored to Chelsea! In 2023, Chelsea EDC diligently tracked crime and safety data exclusively within our district. In our initial 5-month analysis, Chelsea experienced 80 serious crimes over 137 days, including 24 unarmed assaults, 8 armed assaults, 14 burglaries, and 15 motor vehicle thefts, for an average of 0.58 per day or approximately one every 40 hours.

Currently, our Chelsea EDC public safety team is collaborating with the Atlantic City Police Department to craft a comprehensive analysis of crime in Chelsea for 2023. In February, we'll provide a complete "year in review" for 2023. Stay tuned to get informed for a safer Chelsea.

CHELSEA ACTION

Public safety has been a top priority for Chelsea EDC. Since 2021, Chelsea EDC has taken the following actions:

- Hired two off-duty police officer shifts weekly at a total cost of \$100,000.
- Hired neighborhood ambassadors who reported 60 incidents monthly for a period of six months, at a cost of \$30,000.
- Hired social service agencies to assist at-risk individuals to enter programs and find housing at a cost of \$86,000.
- Installed 13 surveillance cameras connected to ACPD surveillance in five (5) high-risk locations at a cost of \$30,000.
- Installed 65 Ring Doorbell cameras and provided annual subscription cost at a cost of \$7,000.
- Reported 83 broken or missing streetlights to the City and Atlantic City Electric with monthly updates on repair status.
- Worked with property owners to install No Trespassing signs, allowing police to issue tickets for unauthorized use of (mostly vacant) properties.
- Removed graffiti from 45 areas in the neighborhood.

CHELSEA STRATEGY

To ensure we are using our resources wisely, we hired Bluestone Services in April 2023 to help set public safety priorities. Led by retired Pleasantville Police Chief Sean Riggin, the team conducted public surveys, gathered crime statistics, and made recommendations for actions. Some of their findings:

- 50% of those surveyed said that crime impacts every decision or most decisions in the Chelsea district.
- 77% of those surveyed said they received their information about crime from a friend, either in person or on-line.
- 69% of those surveyed said that police in uniform would make them feel safer.

Bluestone also worked with ACPD to gather crime data, informing us that between January and May 2023, 80 major (Part 1) crimes were committed in the Chelsea neighborhood, averaging one crime every 40 hours.

At the end of the three-month study period, Bluestone recommended we expand the free Ring Doorbell Camera program, connect the community by sharing information, and identify ways to measure our success. We have taken steps to address the study's findings, including reducing the unhoused population in Chelsea to create public spaces that feel safer, and creating this newsletter so that you have a reliable source of information.

Chelsea EDC is hard at work on your public safety needs, meeting quarterly to review our progress and set new priorities. We are eager to conduct another round of public safety surveys in the Spring and learn if our collective public safety efforts are making Chelsea feel safer.



Pictured from left to right are two of our Chelsea EDC detailed officers: Officer Mark Pincus and Anthony Alosi Jr. from Atlantic City Police Department.

Meet Our

Public Safety Team

Anh is an immigrant from Vietnam and proud Chelsea resident with a profound passion for community service and recently graduated from Stockton University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Anh joined Chelsea EDC in August as a data analyst, lending her unique talents to project management for our public safety and beautification initiatives.



ANH PHAM



AHMED AHMED

As a highly visible member of the Chelsea EDC team, Ahmed encourages community connections with both residents and business owners on a daily basis. During his time at Chelsea EDC, he has strengthened the neighborhood's sense of security by implementing the Ring Doorbell Camera initiative – creating a small but effective community with "eyes on the street" at all times. Ahmed also oversees our weekly neighborhood clean-up events and works to ensure that code violations in Chelsea are being addressed.

Growing up the child of a U.S. Air Force officer, Michelle learned to appreciate the value of diversity firsthand through living on bases around the world. After serving with the Atlantic County Courts Family Division, she joined the Atlantic City Police Department in 1994, excelling in the patrol division, Special Investigation Section, and General Investigation Section. She was also on the Hostage Crisis Negotiation team and Critical Incident Stress Managements Team. As a retired officer, she brings her law enforcement expertise to the team as the Clean and Safe Coordinator, addressing code violations and enhancing the quality of life in Chelsea.



MICHELLE GREEN

George, a life-long and dedicated Atlantic City resident, devoted 35 years to Atlantic City Public Works, ultimately retiring as the Superintendent of Beach and Boardwalk. His extensive experience and robust relationships with Public Works and CRDA have been invaluable in his role with Chelsea EDC since 2021. He has actively contributed to areas such as beautification, code enforcement, public safety, and merchant support, highlighting his commitment to enhancing the community's well-being and aesthetics.



GEORGE TITTERMARY

Become a proactive citizen and...



Ways to report Safety Concerns/Emergencies

Emergency Number	911
Non-Emergency Number	(609) 347- 5780
Anonymous Tips	Text "ACPD" and your message/tip to 847411
Neighborhood Coordination Officers for Chelsea Residents	Ward 4: Ward4@acpolice.org Ward 5: Ward5@acpolice.org Ward 6: Ward6@acpolice.org



2024 Calendar

For more information, www.ChelseaEDC.org/Calendar

JANUARY

Homebuying Class
CEDC's Open House

FEBRUARY

Homebuying Class

MARCH

Homebuying Class
Community Clean-Up

APRIL

Arbor Day Tree Planting
Community Clean-Up

MAY

Chelsea's Got Talent
Community Clean-Up

JUNE

Global Grooves
Community Clean-Up

JULY

Taste of the
Neighborhood

AUGUST

Public Meeting w/
Empanada Tasting

SEPTEMBER

#TheBestEmpanada
Challenge

OCTOBER

Empanada Party with
Winners Announcement

NOVEMBER

Sandwich Trail

DECEMBER

Tree Lighting
Celebration

Chelsea EDC is a non-profit organization established in 2019 to increase economic opportunity in the Chelsea neighborhood of Atlantic City. Since then, we have been asking what would make the neighborhood better. Your answers make up 44 strategies outlined in the Chelsea 10-year Plan. In 2021, we started putting the Plan's strategies into action through exciting community events, impactful beautification and public safety programs, significant grants for homebuyers and businesses, local business marketing and promotion, and connecting residents with career opportunities. We hope you noticed our work and even participated in our programs!

For more information, www.ChelseaEDC.org/Plan

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Fulton Bank



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