



THE GRAMERCY PARK BLOCK ASSOCIATION

Police stealth attack vehicles: Bicycle patrols come to 13th

By Nelson Williams Jr.

The officers at the 13th Precinct have a new secret weapon that allows them to sneak up on the bad guys. Believe it or not, it's called

a bicycle. And, like several precincts across the city, the 13th has put a whole fleet of them on the streets in order to curb crime.

If you haven't seen them, that's the whole idea. Ac-

ording to patrolman Scott Kimmins, who's been on the coveted bike detail since it was implemented last month, sneak attacks are easy when you're on two wheels.

"I'll literally ride up and

stand behind a guy rolling a joint in the park," says Kimmins, who spends much of his time patrolling Union Square, Stuyvesant Square, Madison Square and Albano parks. "The bike makes me very stealthy."

When former 13th Precinct commanding officer Michael Darby decided to start a bike unit, he went to the community for the \$5,000 needed to put 10 bikes on the beat. It didn't take much to convince local businesses and politicians that cops on bikes would make their community a safer place to live and work.

"An officer can cover a lot more territory by bike," says Councilman Andrew Eristoff, who donated the money for one of the bikes. "Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village and the parks are tailor-made for that type of patrol."

Kimmins concurs. While he once could only canvas each park on his beat once or twice a shift on foot, he now hits each one as many as a dozen times.

It's made an immediate impact, according to Detective Owen Hughes, the 13th Precinct's community affairs officer. "In the 13 years I've been on the force, I've never seen our parks look better," he says. "We're patrolling them 24 hours a day now."

In addition to Eristoff's contribution, The Korean Businessmen's Association and The Chinese Business Association each chipped in two \$500 bikes. Donating one bike each were The 14th

Street-Union Square Business Improvement District, New York Eye & Ear Hospital, the National Arts Club, the Gramercy Park Block Association, and the Edwin

Gould Foundation.

When you see a representative from one of these organizations, thank them for helping make our community safer.



Arlene Harrison, President of the Gramercy Park Block Association, with new 13th Precinct bike patrol.