

# Letter to the editor: Violence not a ‘teen’ problem — it’s a community problem

**Tricia Williams | Submitted**

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What is happening here? A few blocks from the Taste of Park Ridge, 200 teens stand around while a man is attacked in Hinkley Park?

I hope that parents and other adults who interact with teens have taken this opportunity to talk about what happened here and about making good choices in general.

I've heard people say that this is a "teen" problem. This is not a teen or police problem but actually a community problem and we need to work on it together without blaming any one group.

For parents, other adults and teens in our community who would like to address this problem there are some options. The first was the quarterly Police Chief's Roundtable meeting on Tuesday, July 29. This was an opportunity for community members to work together with the police to come up with ideas to address this problem.

The second is the Park Ridge Parent Patrol. The Park Ridge police offer this program, in which adults go out with police from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on weekend nights. It's an opportunity to see up close the issues the police deal with and it also allows teens to see parents and police working together to keep our community safe.

Let's all work together to make sure that something like this doesn't happen again.

Tricia Williams

Park Ridge