

The Bryant Project By Dan Jerde, Area Vice President

I would like to give you an update on what is happening in the Bryant area. The crime is still the same, and we have to assume it is always going to be there. On that premise, the good news is that CWA and Qwest are working together to put things in place to ensure the safety of all the technicians that work in the Bryant.

CWA started looking into all the information around the Bryant by first speaking to the Minneapolis Police Department, the City Council, and by gathering a great deal of information from the internet. After we received all the data from various sources, we then set up a meeting with Qwest Management and advised them of our concerns. Qwest agreed with us that we do have a problem in the Bryant.

CWA and Qwest have been working on how to protect our members that work in that specific area. Here are some examples of what we are talking about, and what has already been done:

1. The Minneapolis Police Department is going to all the garages to talk to the technicians about how to handle situations you may find yourself in, or how to try and avoid being in a bad situation altogether.
2. Different shifts have been set up to get the technicians into work earlier and done with their work earlier.
3. Having stickers posted on all Qwest trucks stating: Qwest employees do not carry cash or personal belongings.
4. Installing lock boxes in all Qwest trucks that do not have them already.
5. Having technicians help one another when they feel uncomfortable in a situation, and/or having the supervisor show up on the job site as well.
6. Qwest is looking into having the one-button call feature (speed dial) added to the cell phones for the technicians who have volunteered to work in the Bryant.

I know a lot of people still think that it is still not enough. But I believe that with CWA and Qwest working as a team, we are headed in the right direction when it comes to the safety of CWA members and all Qwest employees.

I would like to thank the following people from CWA Local 7200 for all their hard work: Mike Nguyen, Jason Gaulke, Rich Lassahn, Greg Perez, Cindy Danley and Dave Barthel.

I would like to applaud Qwest Management for listening to the members of CWA Local 7200 and taking action. I would also like to thank the following people in Qwest Management for all their hard work: Krista Lester, Lori Weaver, Renae Coddington, Dan Fixell and Craig Chaput.

A special thanks to the Minneapolis Police Department 4th Precinct. I know we are not done yet, but it's the first step in the right direction.