

CVS Theft Project - 2007

Problem:

During the first six months of 2007 there were forty-nine calls for service generated from the CVS store located at 36 E. 7th Street. The offenses included theft, panhandling and disorderly individuals at and around the downtown location of CVS. CVS management estimated that the annual shrinkage ranged from \$70,000 to \$100,000.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police Department, Downtown Services Unit (DSU), and Employees of CVS

Plan of Action:

The major goals were to reduce calls for service at CVS and to improve the image of CVS by showing that it was a safe place to patronize by limiting the number of disorderly individuals in the area.

The members of the DSU and the CVS management met to review store practices that could be contributing to people loitering around CVS and to the shoplifting that was occurring at the CVS. They discussed the problem of alcohol sales and the placement of merchandise that had been the target of the thefts. The employees of CVS agreed to take a more active role in asking disorderly individuals to leave and not congregate at the store. The CVS Management rearranged the Store and changed the layout to give employees a better view of the more commonly stolen items and installed locking cases for some of those items. The Downtown Services Unit and CVS employees agreed to involve the homeless people loitering in the area in a more active role and attempted to get them to assist in improving the area around CVS. The DSU staff also agreed to have directed patrols around CVS during the peak hours of operation.

Outcome:

An assessment of the first six months of 2008 shows that calls for services were reduced by approximately 20%. Theft reports went down from five to two and arrests went from eight to zero. The CVS employees reported that they don't see as many disorderly or suspicious people in the CVS location. CVS management reported that both thefts and merchandise loss were down.

Panhandling - 2010

Problem:

Community members in the Cincinnati Business District and Over-The-Rhine reported feeling unsafe because of being approached and solicited by individuals asking for money. Citizens reported that the experience caused anxiety and decreased their likelihood to frequent the areas where these incidents often occurred. Businesses provided feedback that panhandling had affected the downtown businesses by interfering with patrons.

Between June 2009 and July 2010, there were 84 calls to the police complaining of vagrants, 251 panhandler complaints and 234 calls regarding homeless issues.

Active Participants:

Downtown Cincinnati, Inc., Cincinnati/Hamilton Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Hamilton County Health and Recovery Services Board, Cincinnati Police Department, Jimmy Heath House, Over-the-Rhine Community Housing Network, Recovery Health Access Center, Partnership Center LLD, Mental Health Court, Tender Mercies, Inc., Block By Block, Talbert House and CCAT House

Plan of Action:

In speaking to service providers as well as the panhandlers themselves, it was discovered that some individuals feel that they needed to panhandle to meet their needs and others refused services in favor of living the panhandler lifestyle. This information led the team to develop a “carrot and stick” response to the problem. The “carrot” involved finding housing and other services for those involved in chronic panhandling to reduce the need to panhandle. The “stick” portion of the response involved a strict application of the Cincinnati Municipal Code 723-76 which cleared various homeless encampments.

A public education program was created to reduce the instances where citizens reward the panhandling behavior by giving money. Community members were encouraged to aid the panhandler by giving them the United Way Helpline phone number instead of money. Strict enforcement of laws related to panhandling and blocking sidewalks aided in making the panhandling behavior more difficult.

Once the top offenders were identified, the police worked with outreach workers to ensure that they were connected to services in an effort to get the offenders housing and treatment for the cause of homelessness which include addictions and mental disorders.

Outcome:

Enforcement of Cincinnati Municipal Code 723-78 changed the behaviors of panhandlers. During the program, 71 warnings were issued to violators and 9 arrests were made with a 90% conviction rate. The enforcement of this law has made panhandling more difficult in the Central Business District. The offenders were addressed by assisting many of them to find housing and, therefore, reducing the need to panhandle. The Paths to Recovery Program has housed 35 Chronic Inebriates from the downtown area. The Jimmy Heath House will house 25 more individuals.

DCI's Annual survey will continue to track the progress of this project.

Juveniles, Truancy & Disorderly Conduct – Cincinnati Public Library - 2006

Problem:

The downtown public library had become a central meeting place for young people. Area businesses have complained of disorderly conduct, fighting and blocking of sidewalks by the adolescents and young adults congregating in the area. The problems were both inside the library and outside in front of Garfield Suites, Piatt Park, and the general area.

The temporary closing of government square for repairs at 5th and Walnut where the young people used to wait for buses was seen as a critical factor. Pedestrian traffic was increased as they walked to different bus stops. There was a perception of increased loitering at corners and a documented increase in calls for service and increased arrests for crime. It was also determined that many of the young people present during the day were skipping school.

Active Participants:

CPOP Team, Cincinnati Police Department District One, Downtown Ambassadors, Staff of Cincinnati Public Library

Plan of Action:

District One conducted truancy sweeps each week. Initially, nearly 40 truant juveniles were regularly being picked up during a sweep: by the end of the school year, only a few truants were picked up in any given sweep. To discourage loitering, the Downtown Ambassadors spent more time in the area. The Cincinnati Public Library began playing classical music over the loudspeakers in the park and added a security camera to monitor the area. Queen City Metro reviewed the bus stop situation and considered alternatives.

Outcome:

Area business owners and library personnel have commented on the improvements following the response to this problem.

Removing Graffiti – 2008

Problem:

Cincinnati Police Department District One Third Relief Officers and members of the OTR Safety Sector found repeated “tagging” throughout the OTR but most of the graffiti was found on vacant buildings along the Liberty Street corridor and was focused south of Liberty Street, between Central Parkway and Elm Street. The graffiti presented at these locations also had similar and specific marking – the letters “MFK”, “FTK” and “IOK” were most predominant and the same offender (s) was suspected in all of the incidents.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police Department (CPD), OTR Safety Sector Groups and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Plan of Action:

A physical survey of the area was completed by the CPD. The graffiti was located in the targeted area and photographed. Members of the OTR Safety Sector and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful staff removed all of the graffiti. A flash camera was installed to identify the offenders. The community was encouraged to report any signs of graffiti returning to this area.

Outcome:

The community was quick to report the graffiti and since the removal no graffiti had appeared in the areas. The area stayed clean.

Theft From Autos - 2010

Problem:

District One Police Captain recognized that the number of thefts from autos was increasing due to the feedback received from citizens at the community and safety sector meetings in Over-The-Rhine. Statistical analysis revealed a significant increase in the number of thefts from autos in 2010 as compared to the previous four years. There was a 22% increase in the number of offenses through June 19, 2010 compared to the same period in 2009. The overall trend for the previous three years was a 6% increase.

In addition, when officers questioned many of the victims, they noticed a nonchalant attitude and a casual approach to keeping property left in the autos out of sight.

Active Participants:

District One Investigative Unit, Downtown Services Unit and Downtown Citizens on Patrol Program

Plan of Action:

To address the thefts from autos problem, the decision was made to provide a platform of education and awareness to those who frequent the Central Business District. This was done by distributing Theft from Autos crime prevention brochures, parking meter decals and signs in parking garages that read, "Reminder: Do not leave your valuables in the vehicles."

In addition, the Downtown Citizens on Patrol Program volunteers targeted the most frequently reported area for theft from autos. They reviewed the autos using the Vehicle Report Card in order to give owners immediate feedback about what they could see when looking into their automobile. If there were articles left in the automobile that could make it a target for theft, the owner received a failing grade. The owner received additional information as to why the auto was given a failing grade and what needed to be done to assist in reducing this crime problem.

Outcome:

A review of the number of theft from autos through December 31, 2010 shows there was more than a 50% decrease in overall theft from autos in District One in December 2010 as compared to December 2009.

Drug Dealing, Littering and Disorderly Youths Loitering – Bramble & Whetsel – 2005

Problem:

The Madisonville CPOP team discovered that people walking and driving in the Bramble – Whetsel area felt intimidated by the drug dealing and by youth loitering on the corner. Parents of neighborhood students also reported their children were being harassed as they traveled to and from school. Some businesses at this location were allowing illegal and disorderly behavior to take place outside of their businesses. Residents reported that they felt unequipped to handle the problem. Overall, the problem was viewed by citizens and businesses alike as something that the police should handle.

The CPOP Team developed and conducted a series of surveys that included residents, businesses and the individuals that had been identified as the source of the problem: those hanging out on the corner. Those people hanging out on the corner provided valuable information to the team, saying that they felt that “no one minded” their hanging out on this corner. Those who admittedly were engaged in drug dealing at this location said they viewed this activity “as their livelihood”, and they felt that “no one really cared” about them. They also felt that the police could not arrest them for standing on the corners, and they had someone looking out for the police so that they would not be caught.

The CPOP Team determined that there were a number of factors involved in solving this problem, some of which were “root cause” issues such as a lack of jobs, lack of recreation, and lack of parental control.

Active Participants:

Madisonville CPOP Team consisting of Madisonville residents, Community Police Partnering Center, Cincinnati Police Department District Two

Plan of Action:

The CPOP Team began their response by working with the store owners in the area to encourage them to stop selling products single cigarettes and items that were used as drug paraphernalia, and to discourage loitering and to begin taking better care of the area outside of their stores. The CPOP Team also ordered nine additional trash cans to help curb the litter problem. They requested and received donated plants from Home Depot. The plants were placed in large flower pots. Volunteers were solicited from the area businesses and residents to assist with watering and maintaining the plants. The CPOP Team also participated in a series of clean-up projects to show how the area could look while attempting to reduce crime by improving the environment. One business applied a fresh coat of paint to the outside of its building. Upon request, the City of Cincinnati replaced a street light that had been shot out.

To offer some positive activity, the Madisonville community began to address some of the “root causes” by partnering with UMADAOP to sponsor Black Family Day at the Madisonville Recreation Center. This day long event included residents, the police, free child care, food, door prizes and entertainment. Seminars were held throughout the day to address community concerns, and provided an opportunity for neighbors to talk to each other as well as to the police.

Outcome:

After the plan of action was implemented, loitering at Bramble and Whetsel was reduced. Store owners refrained from selling certain items that were popular with drug dealing. Many of businesses in the area began keeping their areas litter-free. During the follow up interviews with the youth, both resources and community expectation were shared. The entire CPOP Team and other residents reported feeling less intimidated by youth hanging out on the corner than they did before participating the this CPOP effort. In a follow up survey, 55% responded that improvements in the focus area were either excellent or good; they noticed a significant reduction in the number of drug deals and they felt less intimidated while traveling in the area of Bramble and Whetsel.

Drugs Sales on Kennedy Avenue - 2005

Problem:

For far too long, the people who lived and worked near Kennedy Avenue had complained about drug sales. Residents said it was not safe for kids to walk to and from school, for neighbors to catch the bus, and they felt uncomfortable in their own homes! The Kennedy Heights CPOP team collected information through citizen observation window surveys and an interview with the owner of a drive-through convenience store located on the corner of Kennedy and Woodford. The owner of this store shared some valuable observations, one being that the drug dealers sat for hours on Kennedy Bridge and used the cracks below the bridge to hide their drugs, instead of keeping them on their person. When a buyer would come around, the dealer retrieved the drugs from beneath the bridge and made the sale.

Active Participants:

Kennedy Heights CPOP Team consisting of Cincinnati Police Department District Two, Kennedy Heights Citizens on Patrol, Residents of Kennedy Heights, Community Police Partnering Center

Plan of Action:

The CPOP Team decided to “take back the bridge”. First, the Team communicated the methods of drug sales to police officers working in the area so they would have an understanding of what behaviors to look for near the bridge. District Two police and Citizens on Patrol then implemented direct patrols of this area. Next, they worked with the City to trim back trees that were providing comfortable shade spots for the drug dealers sitting on the bridge. Then, they worked with the City to install a fence underneath the bridge and clear out debris that provided cover for the illegal activity. The Cincinnati Police Street Corner Unit held training for landlords on how to prevent and remove drug sales from rental property. The centerpiece of this CPOP initiative was the creation of concrete bumps using plastic Easter egg molds and then glued to the bridge, creating a very uncomfortable seat for those used to sitting on it. This Kennedy Heights CPOP effort is notable for the resolve of those citizens who were determined to take back this bridge that had been a problem for the community for so long. CPOP would put up the concrete bumps: the drug dealers would knock them off, but CPOP kept coming back and re-applied more bumps – usually more than the last time! This activity was about a lot more than just bumps, however – the team used the “bump parties” as a community building exercise – cooking out on the grill, handing out drug treatment and prevention materials to vehicles passing by, writing drug free messages on the bridge, thereby, demonstrating that there is power in numbers.

Outcome:

As a result of this effort, Kennedy Heights citizens built a better relationship with the management of the corner carry out store; people who were previously afraid to simply catch the bus at this location are now feeling safer to do so again, and most importantly, the Kennedy Bridge is now free of drug activity!

Elder Abuse - 2008

Problem:

During the preceding 10 years, there had been 582 calls for service to the Westside HealthCare Nursing Home and Assisted Living Center; 124 were for patients walking away from the nursing home; 129 for violent mental patients and 67 for disorderly persons. Cincinnati Police Department District Three had also received numerous complaints of offensive living conditions and disorder. During a review of the number of calls for service, a Cincinnati Police Officer perceived that the real victims appear to be the residents who had little ability, if any to communicate that they are being victimized.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police Department, MM/RD, Jobs and Family Services, Pro Seniors, City Manager, Cincinnati Fire Dept., Cincinnati Community Development, Buildings & Inspections Division.

Plan of Action:

Cincinnati Police Officers conducted an initial walk through with an administrative search warrant. It was discovered that some of the residents were forced to live with up to three in a room, no heat in the winter, withholding of medications and incontinence products, no access to fire escapes, critical smoking hazards, including within rooms readily combustible furniture and sheets and/or pure oxygen, and rodent and insect infestation. Based on this visit, the Ohio and Cincinnati Departments of Health, Ohio and Hamilton County Ombudsmen, Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services and several other federal, state, county and local agencies participated in notifying the residents that due to the Owner's inappropriate behavior, the nursing home was no longer eligible to receive Medicaid and that they would need to move to another facility. MMRD, Pro Seniors and Hamilton County Job and Family Services assisted in working with the residents in making the necessary changes.

Outcome:

All of the residents have been relocated. The facility is closed. Calls for services have been reduced.

Noise Complaint Calls (Sunoco Station) – 2007

Problem:

The Sunoco Station located at 6415 Madison Road is the only gas station/convenience store in the area that is open 24 hours. Customers allow their car stereos to be played at loud volumes throughout the late night and early morning hours. The customers also congregated during the late hours causing additional problems.

A sample of the noise complaint calls that were received from September 2006 to September 2007 was reviewed. The analysis indicated that 60 calls came in between the hours of 10:00 pm and 2:00 am. The majority of the calls were made by one resident in the area who lived in the residence behind the station.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police Department District Two, the Sunoco property manager and employees

Plan of Action:

A Cincinnati District Two Police Officer contacted the resident who made the complaint calls for more details on his view of the problem. The Officer and the Sunoco staff met to discuss the problem and possible solutions. Management had previously posted signs requesting customers to turn off their car stereos, but the signs were ignored. The suggestion was made to generate a flyer to be passed out to customers explaining the City's stricter Loud Noise Ordinance, the increased mandatory fines, the possible seizure of vehicles and Sunoco's "No Tolerance" policy: If a customer leaves their loud car stereo on when they are approaching the store window to make a purchase, they would be refused service. The flyers were also posted around the station. Management and employees agreed to try this approach and the resident was encouraged to continue monitoring and reporting loud stereo incidents to the police.

Outcome:

Thirty days after implementation of the project, there was only one noise related call for service from the Sunoco location. From November 1, 2007 to December 30, 2007 there was a 45% reduction in total calls for service. Noise related calls for service decreased by 64%.

The “CAT” that Reclaimed Price Hill - 2009

Problem:

The Price Hill Will Safety Community Action Team (Safety CAT) was formed following the tragic shooting of a high school student in the community. The shooting occurred in a high traffic area of the community; an area frequented by business patrons, young people attending neighborhood high schools and neighborhoods residents enjoying a high school football game, school play or other neighborhood event. In response, Price Hill residents, members of the Cincinnati Police Department, and City and County officials came together to develop a strategy to assist Price Hill residents in reclaiming their community. Out of this partnership the Price Hill Will Safety Community Action Team was formed.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police Department – District Three, Price Hill Will Safety CAT, Hamilton County Prosecutor’s Office, Price Hill Will, Hamilton County Probation Department, Elder High School, Rees E. Price Academy, Roberts Paideia Elementary School, East Price Hill Improvement Association, Price Hill Civic Club, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Plan of Action:

Since they were formed, the objective of the Safety CAT has been to achieve an overall reduction in crime resulting in a safer more livable community for Price Hill residents and businesses. Crime statistics indicated illegal drug activity drove much of the crime committed in Price Hill. This criminal activity caused lifetime residents to flee the neighborhood, leaving abandoned buildings in their wake. These abandoned buildings led to decay and blight and the criminal activity left many remaining residents reclusive and feeling unsafe outside of their own homes. Because drug activity was the nucleus of the problem, many of the activities of the Safety CAT focused on disrupting drug markets.

The Safety CAT has sustained numerous strategies to disrupt drug markets in Price Hill and enhance the neighborhood’s quality of life. These strategies included: continually working with the police to identify “hot spots” or high crime areas; biweekly safety walks in these “hot spots”; forming block clubs to increase visibility and police reporting; organizing the community through picnic and street parties; adopting classes at the elementary school for youth engagement, and promoting the “Walk Your Block” initiative to create positive activity on the streets and help the citizens help themselves in cleaning up their neighborhoods. The Safety CAT also participated in Price Hill Court Watch, a program whereby a team of individuals advocated for Price Hill at court hearings and clarified the impacts of drug related offenses on the community to the prosecutors and judges in hopes of higher penalties. Furthermore, the Cincinnati Police Department hosted five week long series of training seminars to give knowledge and power to the residents and to teach them how to keep themselves and their community safe and free of drugs.

Outcome:

Due to the inception of the Price Hill Will Safety CAT in late 2004 and the relationship forged with the Cincinnati Police Department and many other partners, there was a 19% reduction in drug crimes from its highest point in 2005. Other crime indicators have also declined since the 2005 peak, with a 48% reduction in weapons offenses and a 2% reduction in aggravated assaults. Along with crime reductions, economic development was evident due to the efforts of the Safety CAT in reclaiming the neighborhood.

Bringing many partners to the table provided an opportunity to enlist a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience to develop and deploy a comprehensive safety strategy. This collaboration of experience and knowledge has worked to develop a single plan with a range of strategies focused on the single goal of making Price Hill a safer and healthier community. All of the combined energies have reduced crime, improved the community's economic outlook and produced an overall improvement in neighborhood quality of life.

Unlicensed Automotive Repair Shop in Neighborhood - 2010

Problem:

An unlicensed automobile repair shop located at 3359 Fyffe Avenue in Westwood had generated a number of calls for service to the Cincinnati Police Department. A review of the calls for service and interview with the residents revealed that there was a perception by the residents that a large volume of stolen cars was being taken to this location and cut up. The residents referred to this location as a "chop shop". There was also a perception that large quantities of drugs were shipped through this business. There were reports of disorderly adults and juveniles. There were also reports of cars parked illegally and of individuals loitering, drinking and abusing drugs. There were several complaints of individuals driving recklessly and squealing their tires. This had been an on-going problem between the shop and the neighborhood for five years.

Active Participants:

Westwood Community Council, East Westwood Community Council, Westwood Citizens on Patrol, Cincinnati Police Department, District Three.

Plan of Action:

The CPOP Team set the goal of controlling access to off-street areas, eliminating blight and removing abandoned vehicles in the area. The automobile shop was being operated without proper licenses from the state and city. It was the team's goal to either bring the shop up to standards or to close it. The use of continued enforcement from the city, state and federal authorities eliminated the desire of the repair shop tenant to continue to be at this location. Citizens helped by identifying the activities at the shop when city personnel was unavailable (after-hours). The shop was in a transitional zoning area and had legally transitioned back to residential zoning. The owner of the shop was cited regarding the shop zoning violations and was ordered to cease all commercial activities at the location. Citations for parking infractions were also issued on an ongoing basis by the Cincinnati Police Department. After a detailed investigation by the State of Ohio and the City of Cincinnati, the tenant was arrested on numerous charges relating to his illegal purchasing, theft of and cutting up of vehicles. The City of Cincinnati erected a barricade to prevent solid waste from being dumped on the east end of Fyffe Avenue.

Outcome:

While the number of people directly affected by the illegal automobile repair shop was less than 20, the closing of the shop and arrest of the tenant dramatically affected the Westwood and East Westwood neighborhoods. The crime that emanated from this location was felt throughout both neighborhoods. The problem has been completely eliminated!

Neighborhood Theft - 2008

Problem:

The Bond Hill community experienced an increase in theft related crimes in the areas of Carolina Avenue, Paddock Road, Laidlaw, Oakdale, Regent and Matlock. The types of crime in this area were Aggravated Burglary/Burglary, Breaking and Entering, Theft (Grand, Petit & License Plates), Tampering with Coin Machines, Criminal Damaging, Vehicle Theft and Vandalism.

Active Participants:

The Community Urban Redevelopment Cooperation (CURC), Cincinnati Police Department District Four, the Bond Hill Business Association, the Bond Hill Community Council and the Community Police Partnering Center.

Plan of Action:

The plan of action was to inform, educate, and train the community stakeholders, residents, businesses and support organizations on how “**not to become victims**” of theft related crimes. Cincinnati Police Department and the Community Police Partnering Center met with many of the Community Stakeholders to determine their role in addressing this problem. The staff of the Community Police Partnering Center created a Bond Hill Business Crime Survey. This survey was given to many of the residents and business owners. Results from the survey reflected the need to educate the businesses and residents on how to modify their physical environment. The tool introduced to the community was Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). The first CPTED training was held at a Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation (CURC) meeting. After learning about CPTED, CURC became involved in the needs of the community as a whole and quickly began implementing CPTED principals along with the Bond Hill Business Association and the Bond Hill Community Council. Additional areas addressed by CURC were blighted properties, abandoned buildings and vacant lots with the ultimate goal to change the face on crime in this area of Bond Hill. Free property and business CPTED assessments were also conducted. A Landlord and Crime Prevention Training was conducted by the Cincinnati Police for property owners and residents. The Bond Hill Business District purchased nine large signs to be placed throughout the Bond Hill community. The intent of the signs was to project community pride and a sense of ownership.

Outcome:

Property related theft decreased 70% from September 2007 to April 2008.

Chronic Nuisance Complaints – Apartment Building – 2009

Problem:

This problem involving a multi-unit dwelling on Reading Road in North Avondale was identified by the North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA) and District Four police officers. NANA perceived the building to be a problematic location due to the disorderly persons that frequently trespassed and loitered on the property. Long term tenants of the building were reaching out for help in rectifying the deteriorating conditions by calling the police and bringing the matter to the attention of community leaders. The high number of calls for service brought the address to the attention of the beat officers that responded to the runs and then reported the conditions of the building to the Neighborhood Liaison Unit (NLU). The NLU began an analytical review of the building to see what plan of action could be implemented.

Active Participants:

North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA), Cincinnati Police Department District Four and the property owner.

Plan of Action:

The analysis showed that over one third of the total calls for service were due to poor property management, i.e. drug use/sale, trespasser and assault calls, which confirmed the perceptions of NANA and the patrol officers responding to the radio runs. Pre and post ownership analysis indicated that since the current owners took control of the property, the three aforementioned calls for service increased more than 8%, 46% and 500%. This information prompted the NLU to thoroughly investigate the lease practices of the owner/property manager. While partnering with the property owner, suggested responses included: proactively seeking helpful information concerning police activity at the location, attending a landlord training program, engaging in an apartment managers association, conducting credit checks and verifying income sources and criminal background checks of prospective tenants, installing an on-site surveillance system, conducting tenant surveys, securing exit and vacant apartment doors, having appropriate lighting throughout the building, and restricting parking to tenants only. Implemented responses by the property owner included daily trash clean up inside and outside of the building, repairing doors to increase building safety, and repairing all exit signs in the hallways. Other upgrades included interior and exterior painting, landscaping and unit repairs. Criminal checks were implemented that resulted in lease infringements. 13 residents were evicted, thus removing much of the negative activity from the building.

Outcome:

Since the implementation of the property owners' response, calls for service to this building declined by 31%. The three types of incidents that topped the list during the analysis (drug use/sale, trespasser and assault calls) all declined during the assessment time frame, with an amazing 100% reduction in calls regarding drug use/sale. The police officers working in the area spent less time responding to problem calls at this address, allowing them to focus their attention on other neighborhood safety concerns. Even though it is impossible to predict the amount of harm that will be prevented, it is safe to say that this building is certainly setting a trend as a safer environment in the North Avondale community.

Bridging Gaps Within The Hispanic Community – 2010

Problem:

In 2009 issues of unreported personal crimes occurring with increased prevalence in the Carthage community was brought to the attention of the District Four Neighborhood Liaison Officer. These crimes were taking place in Hispanic sections of the community where residents had a culturally biased fear of mistreatment from law enforcement and government.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police District Four Neighborhood Unit and Su Casa

Plan of Action:

The Police Department took positive steps to reach the community, first by arranging for Su Casa to teach District Four Officers the Spanish language. The pilot program offered voluntary conversational lessons to eight officers once a week for ten weeks. A second class was conducted with five additional officers learning enough Spanish to communicate effectively. To ensure that the CPD Officers were better equipped to work with the Hispanic Community, a Citizens Police Academy training course was developed specifically to address the Hispanic populace. This training was held once a month over the course of one year.

Outcome:

This project was initiated in April, 2010. By April, 2011 Carthage experienced a fifteen percent increase in crime. This increase was not due to an increase in occurrence, but reflected an increase in reporting of each occurrence by victims within the Hispanic community. Success has been demonstrated through the development of trust between residents and police. Trust continues to grow between residents and police because the communication barriers have been reduced.

Youth: Disorderly Conduct, Fighting, Assaults, Trespassing - 2005

The Problem:

Physical altercations after school on or near Aiken High School were becoming common place. Area residents and business owners/managers were upset that many of these fights were on their private property. In addition, many expressed alarm over the masses of uncontrolled students. Local residents were avoiding the area, resulting in a loss of commerce for the businesses located there.

Students were using cell phones to call and/or send text messages to line up allies to take part in what varied between shouting matches and shoving to full blown fist fights. From January 2004 to December 2005, there were 339 calls for service and 219 arrests including 26 arrests for assaults. Virtually all of the arrested suspects were Aiken High students that did not live in the community of College Hill.

Active Participants:

CPOP Team – parents, teachers, principal, Cincinnati Police Department District Five, School Resource Officer (SRO), College Hill Citizens on Patrol and Aiken High School Security Team

Plan of Action:

Aiken High School implemented a policy prohibiting students from carrying or using personal cell phones during school hours.

The CPOP Team recommended and the school implemented a dress uniform policy to help identify Aiken students from non-Aiken students.

The SRO in conjunction with the CPD beat officer rerouted traffic as needed to prevent violent situations from erupting. In addition, police patrols were implemented during after school hours as needed.

The Aiken High School Security team worked inside the school to maintain order. A video camera was used after school to help monitor the area and to identify problem individuals.

Citizens on Patrol provided extra eyes and ears by monitoring the streets around the school.

Outcome:

The plan of action was instituted without problems. The uniform policy has been very effective in helping identify students as they exit the school property. There is still the challenge to prohibiting students who behave in a disorderly and violent fashion from returning to Aiken High School.

Drugs in the Neighborhood - 2009

Problem:

Knowing that violence and drug sales are often linked, Cincinnati Police Department District Five officers located a national problem-solving best practice out of Sheboygan, Wisconsin called "Neighbors Against Drugs (NAD)". The premise of NAD is involving the grassroots community to curb neighborhood drug dealing. NAD recognizes that volunteers from the community provide the best avenue for abating neighborhood drug houses and offers a civil anti-drug remedy for abatement actions.

In early 2009, a problem drug house on Dane Avenue in Northside was identified to implement this strategy. This particular address had recorded incidents of individuals overdosing from drugs, with one person found dead on the property the year before due to a heroin overdose. The Northside community was tired of seeing this problem and decided to implement the NAD strategy beginning with this address.

Active Participants;

Northside Community Council, Cincinnati Police Department District Five, Northside Citizens on Patrol and Community Police Partnering Center

Plan of Action:

A neighborhood kick-off event for Northside Neighbors Against Drugs was held in April, 2009 to publicize the program and involve more residents in the implementation of the program. The kick-off was a success, as people from around the neighborhood showed up to support the effort and get information about how they could be involved.

Following the kick-off, drug diaries were given to each resident who wished to participate on the block around the identified problem location. The residents were given a week to complete the drug diaries and return them to the police. Pre-surveys were then conducted door to door to determine if all community members were experiencing the same problems as a result of this drug house in the neighborhood. Once this survey was completed, police and community members went out late at night and placed anti-drug signs in the yards of all houses and businesses within one block of the drug house, excluding the suspected drug house. Contact was then made by the police with the suspected drug dealer to make them aware of the problems that community members had alleged. The media was also brought in to aid in the investigation. A news article was aired on television in order to broadcast the blighted activity and discourage further activity. The landlord of the property was contacted and made aware of the situation. The neighborhood requested that the landlord take immediate action against the tenant and gain control of their property. It was made clear that unwillingness to comply would result in the property being evaluated as a Chronic Nuisance, and letters being sent to the landlord from the police department.

Outcome:

As a result of the pressure put on both the landlord and the tenant of this problem house by the NAD program partners, the individual who had been living in this house has been removed, and the problems that had occurred at that location have left along with the tenant. In this instance, the suspected drug dealer was arrested on August 2, 2009. The drug dealer was officially out of this house on September 1, 2009. In 90 days, The Neighbors Against Drugs Program was able to dismantle a drug house that had caused crime and disorder problems in the Northside community of over four years.

Metal Theft - 2007

Problem:

The Community of Northside had experienced an increase in metal being stolen from vacant and occupied properties. There were 25 metal theft offenses between 2006 and 2007. The metal (copper) was being traded in for cash at local scrap yards.

Active Participants:

Cincinnati Police Department District Five, Northside Citizens on Patrol, Community Police Partnering Center

Plan of Action:

In response to an increase in metal theft in Northside, CPD District Five teamed up with various neighborhood organizations and community stakeholders to develop and implement a strategic response that would effectively decrease the rate in which copper was stolen from homes in the community.

The property owners were asked to either paint the copper pipes in their homes green or to allow local volunteers to paint the copper for them. After painting the pipes, the owners placed a sign in their windows, announcing that their copper was marked and the owners were working with law enforcement. District Five officers and other community groups assisted in the painting project. Ninety-eight property owners painted their metal pipes and placed the signs in their windows.

Cincinnati Police contacted the local and regional scrap yards and informed them of this project and asked for their support. The scrap yard owners were reminded that any illegal activity would be aggressively pursued by the CPD.

CPD, the Community Police Partnering Center and Northside Citizens on Patrol teamed up to develop a better ordinance pertaining to the sale of scrap metals. They also worked together and created a flyer for Building and Inspections to pass out in this area with all licenses that are issued.

Outcome:

There were three breaking & entering reports regarding copper theft from May 6, 2008 through October 6, 2008 in Northside. None of those properties that were broken into had marked their copper. Since then only one property was broken into that had their pipes marked. While some of the pipe had been cut, none of the copper was removed from the property.

