2016 HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING
CITY OF AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT
RESTORE RUNDBERG PROJECT

Figure 1: Austin Police Officers Rafael Kianes, Taber White pose with Actor Danny Trejo, Dobie Principle Maggie Araujo, Launchpad Founder David Contreras, and READ Students

RESTORE RUNDBERG: LEVERAGING COMMUNITY

ENGAGEMENT TO REDUCE CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME

SUMMARY:

The Rundberg neighborhood in Austin, Texas has historically experienced a disproportionate burden of Austin's violent and property crime. The *Restore Rundberg* project is a collaboration between the Austin Police Department (APD), neighborhoods and residents in the once disenfranchised Rundberg area of Austin, community and nonprofit partners, government, and University of Texas (UT).

Officers Rafael Kianes and Taber White sought to create sustainable solutions to address those societal factors which tend to contribute to an environment that invites criminal activity and they hinged their efforts on developing community efficacy. Officer Kianes reached out to UT who later performed the research for a grant application through the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Restore Rundberg project had a number of primary components: a Revitalization Team, Mobile Walking Beat (MWB), and various community engagement strategies (see Appendix B slide 2). The MWB focused on community engagement utilizing innovative IPAD surveys to help identify community concerns, reduce language barriers and help improve perceptions. The MWB has made over 16,000 contacts in the area. 67% of contacts were Hispanic matching the demographic in the area thus bridging the gap between tradition police community meetings that showed little multicultural interaction and these MWB mini meetings. Officers learned what the true concerns of the community were and were able to educate the community on ways to make their community safer. Together the community and police were able to collaborate on a new district entitled the Rundberg Educational Advancement District (READ).

During the 15 months of MWB, the targeted hot spots (collectively) experienced a reduction of violent and property crime of 15% and 11%, respectively. The entire Rundberg area experienced a reduction in reported incidents, providing evidence of diffusion of crime, with a reduction in violent crime for the entire grant area of 4.52% and a reduction in property crime of 7%. The violent crime reduction experienced in the grant area, alone, accounted for a 1.27% reduction in Austin's violent crime rate; this is significant, as the City's goal for 2014 was a 1% reduction in violent crime. Moreover, there were no violent crimes reported during the days and hours that the MWB officers were operating in the designated Hot Spots. Only 34% of residents surveyed in 2014 said they felt safe. After a year of MWB that number grew to 74%. Finally, schools in READ resulted in rising test scores and attendance, and a decrease in discipline.

SCANNING:

For decades, the Rundberg neighborhood has maintained status as one of Austin's highest crime areas. Located to the east and west of the state's most traveled interstate highway, the 5.74 square mile densely populated Rundberg neighborhood was spatially defined by the City using geographic boundaries and a variety of demographic characteristics of residents. Austin Police Department UCR data, 2007 – 2011, is detailed in (see Appendix B slide 3). In summary, the entire Rundberg area accounted for a high percentage of emergency 9-1-1 calls for service and 11% of violent crime, 7% of property crime, and 9% of Part II crimes citywide. Violent crime within Rundberg was highly concentrated, with less than 1% of blocks citywide accounting for over 7% of violent crimes citywide.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 30% of Rundberg neighborhood residents live below the poverty level and 19% of households receive food stamps. The racial makeup of the neighborhood is highly diverse, including Hispanic, Vietnamese, Black or African American, White, Latin American, Asian, American Indian, Middle Eastern, and Pacific Islander. Approximately 64% of the population speaks a language other than English (see Appendix B slide 4). Unemployment across the census tracts ranges from 5 to 14%. Median earnings are $21,189, with a majority of residents working in construction, the trades, retail, and restaurants. Of particular note, youth under the age of 18 comprise 30% of the neighborhood's population. The Austin Independent School District (AISD) manages four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school within the neighborhood. According to AISD, 95% of youth attending the six schools (approximately 6,000) are considered economically disadvantaged, 59% have limited English proficiency (over 50 different languages are spoken), and 75% are

identified as at-risk for dropping out of school. In 2012, the schools were not considered strong, with the majority rated as acceptable and one as unacceptable.

High levels of poverty, disinvestment, unemployment, and criminal activity within the neighborhood were indicative of the deep-rooted criminal element, discouraging redevelopment and stifling economic growth. The visibility of open-air drug markets, prostitution, nuisance property, and loitering on street corners, in parking lots, and around homes and businesses contributed to the unrest. Undocumented residents were reportedly fearful to contact the police as witnesses or victims of crime due to fear of deportation or other repercussions.

In 2011, Officer Kianes began working on an innovative approach to the crime in the Rundberg community. This initiative was created to focus on crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) issues, as well as to create strong community connections. Officer Kianes reached out to the UT in 2011 in order to establish a collegial approach to the problem solving efforts. At this same time, the Department of Justice was awarding grants for proposals that involved innovative approaches to areas with chronic crime problems. The Austin Police Department Grant Coordinator Kyran Fitzgerald worked with UT to research and applied apply for the BCJI grant. This initiative was named Restore Rundberg after being awarded the BCJI $1,000,000 grant.

 The goals of the Restore Rundberg project were: to improve public safety; to address social impacts including physical disorder, social economic status and resources, and collective efficacy; and, to ensure the long-term planning and implementation of neighborhood-based revitalization strategies. This would be measured by a 1% reduction in both violent and property crime (see Appendix B slide 5).

ANALYSIS:

The impact of these strategies were examined longitudinally by tracking violent and property crime data through time series analysis and GIS mapping. At the start of Restore Rundberg in 2012, the 5.74 square-mile district accounted for 11% of all violent crime and 34% of all prostitution incidents citywide. Nearly one-third (30%) of Rundberg neighborhood residents live below the poverty level and 19% of households receive food stamps. Approximately 64% of Rundberg residents speak a language other than English. Youth under the age of 18 comprises 30% of the neighborhood's population, and 75% are identified as at-risk for dropping out of school. Cultural barriers between the police and the population, which includes a large number of recent Mexican, Central American, and North African immigrants, have compromised previous efforts to engage residents to assist in crime reduction efforts.

Problem analysis and implementation planning took place over a 16-month period. Using Weisburd et al.'s (2012) approach, three hot spots were selected for innovative enforcement solutions based on police crime data (911 calls and police-generated reports) over a seven-year period, 2007-2013. DR's used data from interviews with police personnel responsible for the area, community meetings and agency contacts, local residents and systematic observations of elements of disorder of the proposed hot spots (see Appendix B slide 6).

The City of Austin held several meetings in order to get community input for the project. Early on officers noticed that at the planning meetings, the Hispanic population who represents roughly 67% of the community was mostly absent. In response, the City of Austin Public Information Officers utilized flyers that were passed out to businesses and sent home with students at area schools. This was unsuccessful and attendance at meetings did not change. In order to address the lack of community representation, officers wanted to find a way to give and

receive information about the community. Officers Kianes and White went door to door inviting community members from the Hot spots to attend weekly community meeting. During these meetings the officers were able to talk with community members about their concerns. During the end of the analyses phase officers created a SARA breakdown for each of the 3 primary Hot Spots identified in the Scanning phase with UT. Officers identified that neighborhood members wanted increased positive police interaction with the community, safe areas for children and reduced criminal activity. The meeting resulted in the creation of the MWB focused on community engagement, continued Revitalization Team and continued mentoring in the schools.

It was also important to track qualitative data from within the community. In response, officers created an innovative survey utilizing IPADs to retain data and break language barriers during walking beats (see Appendix B slide 7-8). This survey was more like a conversation. The primary question was if the person felt safe. If the answer was yes, officers would use it as an opportunity to hand out information about neighborhood associations and resources available in the city. If the person advised that they did not feel safe, officers would ask why and annotate their responses. These responses were used to create several different categories. From this data, officers were able to learn what the crime perceptions of the community were and from that, they could determine what could be done in order to make the community members feel safer.   This was an opportunity to gauge the effectiveness of the community policing efforts in a way that did not tie directly into crime stats. The main community concerns were the homeless, drug dealing, drug use, suspicious persons, crime (in general), prostitution, and public intoxication.

Residents would sometimes relate specific information that was the cause of their concern. This information included specific houses where drugs were being dealt from or a specific homeless person that would make them feel uncomfortable at their bus stop every day.

These specific instances did not just include criminal behavior. At times the main concern was the large amounts of trash in the neighborhood or that a specific streetlamp was out or so dim that the street was incredibly dark at night. Specialized units were used to address the criminal issues and city services were used to address the environmental issues (see Appendix B slide 9).

An initial response was created during the analyze phase. It consisted of eight officers and a supervisor with the assistance of a transport vehicle, conducting highly visible subject and traffic stops and arresting persons with recent criminal history in (gang, drugs, prostitution, and violence) for all applicable offenses. The focus of the operation was to saturate the area with law enforcement and to ascertain from arrested subjects why they were picking the Rundberg area for nefarious activity. As explained in the analysis section above, this activity did not reduce crime; however, from conversations with offenders, officers learned that 70% were not residents of the Rundberg neighborhood and many felt the area was already "bad" so their activity was not causing additional harm. This was one of the driving factors in the need for rebranding the area (READ). (see READ in Response phase)

Community efficacy refers to the degree to which people trust their neighbors to provide a sense of safety, and to intervene if something problematic happens. This, combined with social cohesion, helps decrease crime rates and creates a community approach to policing which can have a significant impact on areas with poor trajectories in terms of crime and overall disorder (Uchida, Swatt, Solomon, & Varano, 2013).

The three selected hot spots represented areas of concentrated Part I and Part II crimes. The crime problems remained consistent for the seven year period studied. Residents and direct observations confirmed that the areas were unsafe, with all three backed by vacant lots and open fields, persistent drug and prostitution activity, gang activity, litter and garbage, oddly placed pay

phones, drug paraphernalia, poor parking conditions, graffiti, and loitering. Small businesses in the hot spots cater to quick encounters and criminal activity, with in and out access (gas stations, convenience stores, smoke shops, liquor stores). Overall, the three hotspots accounted for 21% of crime in the Rundberg area and almost 12.5% of crime citywide. Approximately 91.5% of perpetrators were male, with over 50% Hispanic. The majority of crime victims (80%) were male, with over 66% being Hispanic. Analysis showed marked difference in the days of crimes occurring (Monday through Sunday) with higher rates on Saturday and Sunday. Overall, crime was occurring every day of the week with some peaks on the weekends, but not at a hugely disproportionate rate when the three hot spots were considered in aggregate. The timing of criminal activity was late afternoon to early morning on the weekends (Friday to Saturday) but during the weekdays, crime was occurring from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In 2013 officers wanted to get a better idea of why violent crime was occurring in these hotspots and if that information correlated with the residents' concerns. Officers read through all violent crime reports for the hotspots and assigned triggers to several possible root causes. A trigger was defined as an element of a crime that potentially attributed to that crime occurring. These triggers included person groups such as the homeless or juveniles, vice issues like drugs or prostitution, and places such as motels and vacant lots. They, then, mapped the data and were able to determine what elements were present, individually or in concert with one another, when violent crimes occurred in the hot spots. Police action was leveraged in concert with community and social services to address the most prevalent elements represented in the findings.

44.44%	Homeless
40.74%	Frequent Offender
33.33%	Drugs
25.93%	Showplace Lanes - Wooded Area
29.93%	Mental Health
25.93%	Hotel / Motel
11.11%	Prostitution

Figure 2: Statistics showed that homeless were represented in 44% of violent crimes.

The community was concerned that the homeless would be displaced during the response phase. In response, Commander Baker directed a team to be formed that included law enforcement and social service providers that focused on homelessness. The goal was for the problem to be fixed, not moved. This team would respond to homeless encampments, perform evaluations and determine what services may be applicable. Several of the homeless were aided by linking them to veteran's assistance and assisting in navigating the system.

RESPONSE:

Each response was developed by factoring in cost effectiveness, community needs and demographics, gaps in services, perceived levels of trust and efficacy, and the capacity of project staff to realistically meet deliverables and milestones. Consistent with the research to support problem-oriented policing, the cross-sector partnership employed the following responses: a MWB, community engagement and coordination, evidence-based juvenile justice programming with law enforcement participation, and a community-driven Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team.

Mobile Walking Beat (MWB)

In response to the citizen's request for increased positive police interaction during the analysist phase officers created the MWB. The MWB differed from conventional walking beats by not focusing on strict enforcement. The goal of each walking beat officer was to have as many public contacts as possible. The officers moved from hotspot to hotspot to give the illusion that there were many more officers patrolling the streets than there were. Each hotspot was broken up into 4 quadrants, each 2 man team was responsible for a quadrant (see Appendix B slide 10-11).

DR's observed in other operations that when an officer is stat driven, the officer's goal is to get as much activity as possible. If all that matters is that there are numbers in the activity field, the officer lacks direction. The MWB had specific goals and these goals could only be met by observing core issues and then having the enforcement action directed towards those goals.

Because this was a different model than many of the stat driven assignments, Commander Baker, The Restore Rundberg Project manager, directed that training would be required for any officer that would be working on this project. In this training DR's described the project and explained the goals of each operation. Commander attended each training in order to answer questions or concerns and to reiterate that his focus was on community contacts and not stats.

Community Engagement and Coordination

The community engagement response is largely about capacity building. The Austin Police Department uses a grant-funded community engagement coordinator to strengthen relationships between Rundberg residents, police, and other cross-sector partners. The position supports the cross-sector partnership and promotes the three program goals. The coordinator co-locates with the DR Officers and assists with a variety of leadership, public safety, social services outreach, and community development activities by engaging residents in activities and

efforts. In addition, she assists with juvenile justice programming in cooperation with project partners to help facilitate community involvement; facilitate public dialogue and consensus building through social media and other avenues to identify and resolve issues; and, assists in organizing and leveraging community support and resources for the public safety initiatives (see Appendix B slide 12).

Juvenile Justice Programming

During the analysis phase, UT used student data provided by the local district's website and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to confirm the number of school-age children and to assess the academic performance and success trajectory for youth in the area. UT also spoke with school and agency representatives working with youth in the area to better understand issues of concern. Not surprising, the majority of youth in the area are considered "at-risk" given their socioeconomic status, the presence of criminal/gang activity, poor school performance and high dropout rates. Research showed that prolonged exposure to crime creates trauma that can impact a child's life trajectory. Understanding that the hot spot model relies on a variety of components to address crime including increased arrests, situational and targeted prevention strategies and social services, Restore Rundberg paired its approach with complementary social services aimed at youth, testing the hypothesis that youth programs will bridge divides within the Rundberg community. Believing that focusing on children, a group that people are generally concerned about, will give the police common ground in their efforts to engage parents and other adults.

Officers mentored elementary and middle schoolers in small groups. Officers mentored high school aged students in partnership with boys and girls club. Officers White and Kianes became Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) instructors in 2014. Officer Kianes created a leadership course for middle schoolers. To date, Officers White and Kianes have

mentored over 400 students (see Appendix B slide 13).   Officers White and Kianes' mentoring program was published in the VERA Police Perspectives Building trust in a Diverse Nation (see Appendix B slide 14).

Funded by the City's BCJI grant, the Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) is a local nonprofit that provides services for Rundberg youth identified as having involvement in the juvenile justice system or being at-risk for future involvement in the juvenile or criminal justice systems (see Appendix B slide 15-16).

In 2014 Officer Kianes created the Rundberg Educational Advancement District (READ) project to more effectively coordinate activities, family/parent services and resources within Rundberg neighborhood public and charter schools. The district name is intended to rebrand the area, discouraging those living outside the Rundberg area from contributing to the ongoing cycle of crime. The main area of focus includes five schools located within a very short distance of each other (see Appendix B slide 17). The R.E.A.D. Team meets regularly and volunteers assist with communications, youth resources and beautification projects. All Restore Rundberg youth stakeholders participate in the R.E.A.D effort. Primary coordination is the responsibility of the DR's Officers, the Community Engagement Coordinator and CARY. The R.E.A.D. project component is moving toward a community-driven model to better position activities for long-term sustainability. Over the past 2 years READ has hosted several large scale events including thousands of volunteers. These events focused on improving the aesthetics of the area along with connecting at risk youth with youth resources (see Appendix B slide 18-32).

Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team

The Revitalization Team is a key cross-sector partner and acts in an advisory capacity for Restore Rundberg, with Team meetings providing regular forums for community discussion. The

original Team (pre-analysis), which included five members, operated with the mission of ensuring that Rundberg crime solutions would include community engagement and the connections necessary to lead the area towards successful long-term revitalization. Following a series of meetings with community leaders and engagement experts (analysis phase), a community-driven revitalization structure was created, and the membership was increased from 5 to 14 members.

Team membership is comprised of two City staff members (APD and Neighborhood Planning Representatives), three neighborhood representatives, two education representatives, and three minority population-specific representatives, as well as individuals who represent the immigrant and faith-based communities, economic development, affordable housing/homelessness prevention, and community health (see Appendix B slide 33). Team members guide revitalization efforts.

The Team focuses on eight priority areas: the revitalization of key properties, healthcare, after school/youth services, code compliance, homelessness intervention, housing affordability, economic and workforce development, and prostitution prevention and intervention (see Appendix B slide 34).

ASSESSMENT:

At the beginning of the Restore Rundberg Project, the neighborhood of Rundberg was statistically the largest crime hot spot of Austin. According to 2012 crime statistics, the 5.74 square-mile district accounted for about 5% of total residents but about 12.58% of all violent crime. The original three hotspots accounted for 21% of all crime within the Rundberg area in 2012. A stated goal at the start of the project was to reduce the relative percentage of violent crime within the grant area by 1%. During the 15 months of MWB, the targeted hot spots

(collectively) experienced a reduction of violent and property crime of 15% and 11%, respectively including a 44% reduction in violent crime in Hot Spot 2, as compared to the 15 months prior to the intervention. The entire Rundberg area experienced a reduction in reported incidents, providing evidence of diffusion of crime, with a reduction in violent crime for the entire grant area of 4.52% and a reduction in property crime of 7% (see Appendix B slide 35-36). The violent crime reduction experienced in the grant area alone, accounted for a 1.27% reduction in the City of Austin's violent crime rate; this is significant, as the City's goal for 2014 was a 1% reduction in violent crime. Moreover, there were no violent crimes reported during the days and hours that the MWB officers were operating in the designated Hot Spots. Significant improvements were also realized when officers examined how safe residents felt in the grant area: When MWB officers conducted the surveys in 2014, results indicated only 34% of residents felt safe in their neighborhood while survey results from 2015 indicated over 74% of residents felt safe in their neighborhood (see Appendix B slide 37).

Results from the administration of a standardized community survey reveal that residents living in the three hotspots, where MWB has been deployed since April of 2014, report significantly higher scores on perceptions of police, collective efficacy, and neighborhood attachment when compared to their counterparts living in other areas of Rundberg not receiving community policing. This buy in lead to significant community efficacy accomplishments: Two separate plots of land have been set aside for community parks and two new schools have been built in the area (see Appendix B slide 38-40).

As a result of the 1st READ student council meeting, held with city officials, TxDOT assigned a $350,000 grant to revitalize a high-traffic intersection in the center of the newly created educational advancement district. This intersection is currently under construction and

will include updated lights, landscaping, and pedestrian crossing. Schools in the READ area have displayed rising test scores and attendance, and a notable decrease in discipline (see Appendix B slide 41). As a result of this combined partnership between the police, the community, higher education and thousands of volunteers, the Rundberg area is viewed as a thriving community receiving numerous awards and additional resources (see Appendix B slides 42-47). The Rundberg area now looks, feels and is safer.

Agency and Officer Information

Key Project Team Members (listed in order of participation on the project):

Ray Kianes, APD Senior Police Officer/District Representative
Taber White, APD Senior Police Officer/District Representative
Kyran Fitzgerald, APD Grants Manager
Frank Wilson, APD Senior Police Officer/District Representative
Keith Bazzle, APD Sergeant
Allen McClure, APD Lieutenant
Mark Spangler, APD Commander
David Springer, University of Texas Principal Investigator
Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team
Donald Baker, APD Commander/Project Director
Paula Yuma, University of Texas Researcher
R.E.A.D. Team
Kevin Leverenz, APD Lieutenant
Cecile Fandos, Restore Rundberg Community Engagement Coordinator

Project Contact Person:
Kevin Leverenz
Region 2 Support Lieutenant
PO Box 689001
Austin, Texas 78768-9001
(512) 974-4244
Kevin.Leverenz@austintexas.gov

References

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Prevention: New Tools for Community Involvement and Crime Control. *Justice &*

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http://dpanther.fiu.edu/sobek/content/FI/GO/00/01/36/00001/Data-Driven-Crime-

Prevention.pdf.

Weisburd, D., Groff, E. R., & Yang, S. (2012). *The criminology of place: Street segments and*

our understanding of the crime problem. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Appendix A – Tables

Tables 1 and 2 provide baseline data for the years prior to BCJI grant submission in 2012.

Table 1	City Total	RN Total	Rundberg Neighborhood % of City Total
Population	790,390	38,252	5%
Square Miles	262	5.74	2%
City Blocks	10,320	345	3%
Address Points	347,050	5,859	2%

Table 2	Rundberg Neighborhood						City	Rundberg % of City Total
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	5-yr Total	5-yr Total	
PART I Crimes								
Murder	6	5	2	5	1	19	140	14%
Rape	35	35	20	34	24	148	1,342	11%
Robbery	193	162	198	171	149	873	6,542	13%
Agg Assault	206	237	213	211	218	1,085	11,066	10%
Total Violent Crime	440	439	433	421	392	2,125	19,090	11%
Burglary	613	624	597	652	653	3,139	41,161	8%
Theft	2549	2,225	2381	2,440	2,318	11,913	172,993	7%
Auto Theft	389	295	210	220	191	1,305	12,202	11%
Total Property Crime	3,551	3144	3,188	3,312	3,162	16,357	226,356	7%
PART II Crimes								
Sexual Offenses	115	109	93	54	51	422	4,349	10%
Other Assaults	1,384	1,458	1,320	1,274	1,246	6,682	62,511	11%
Criminal Mischief	696	738	726	621	615	3,396	45,647	7%
Prostitution	111	89	127	141	62	530	1,573	34%
Narcotics	894	1,018	817	863	586	4,178	38,781	11%
Weapons Violations	46	39	32	39	35	191	2,198	9%
Disorderly Conduct	1,046	1,397	1,299	1,372	1,213	6,327	83,734	8%
Total Part II Crimes	4,292	4848	4414	4364	3808	21,726	238,793	9%

Appendix B – Slides 1-46
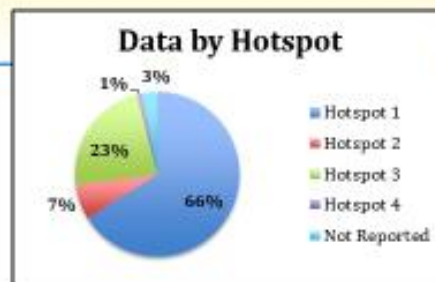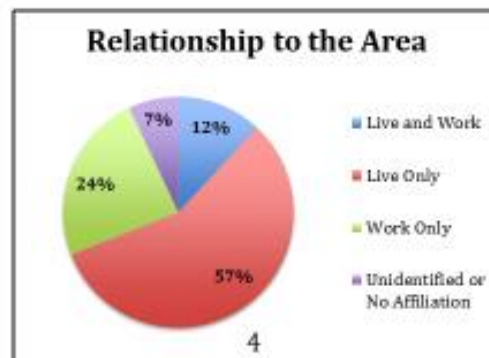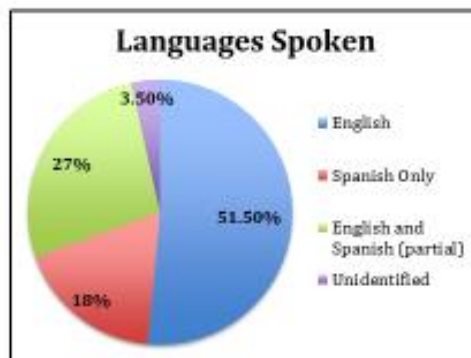
Restore Rundberg
Hot Spots

Vacant Land

Vacant Land
Hotspot 1 – Rundberg/35

Hotspot 3 –
Northgate/ Galewood

Hotspot 2 - Sam Rayburn

Vacant Land

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Restore Rundberg – U.S. Dept. of Justice Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grant

Restore Rundberg is a partnership between the community, government, researchers, and community stakeholder groups.

The mission of Restore Rundberg is to improve the quality of life, health, safety, education, and well-being of individuals living and working in the Rundberg Neighborhood.

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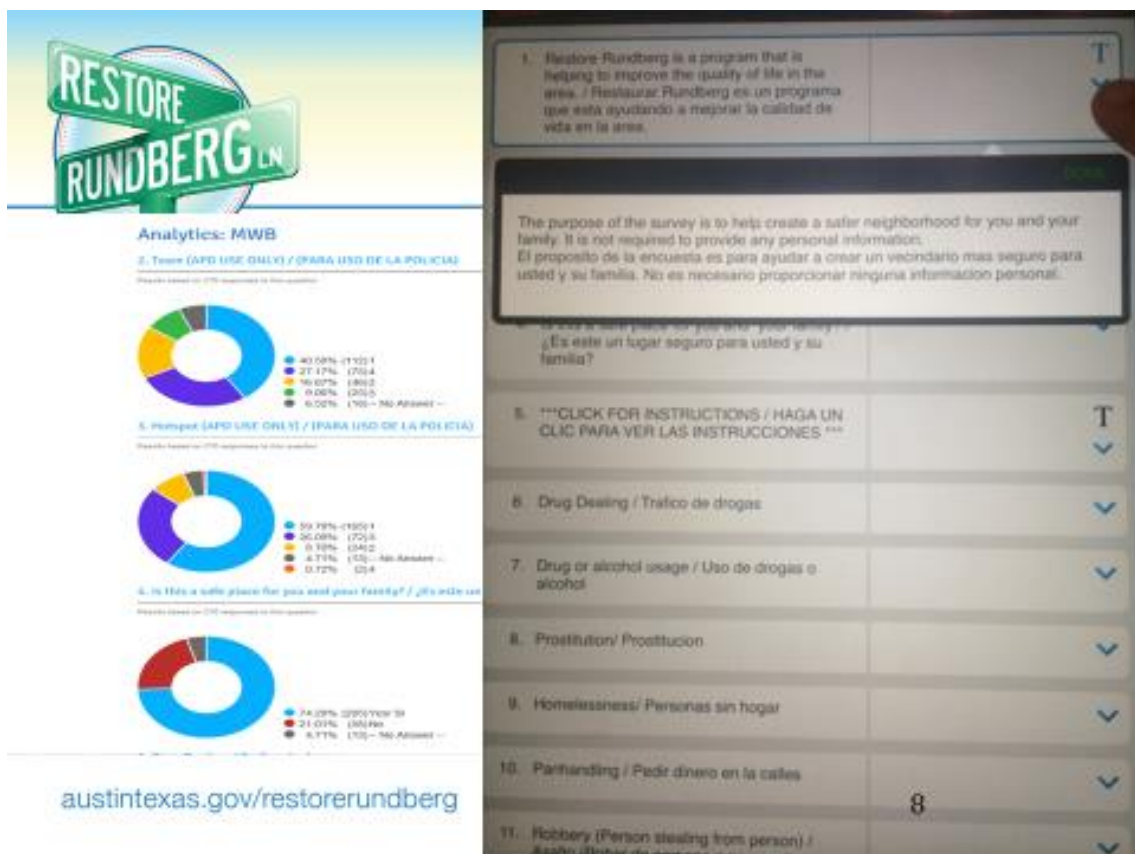
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City of Austin Police Department Restore Rundberg Project

Rundberg's Circle of Crime

Cheap hotels/ gas stations & smoke shops

Large wooded area/ hard to police at night

Violent/ property crimes

Heavily trafficked intersection

Transients, prostitutes drug dealers/users

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Mobile Walking Beat

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Mobile Walking Beat

Mobile Walking Beat To Date:
- **Over Two Years of Operations**
- **Over 16,000 contacts**
- **Distributed over 2500 Restore Rundberg pamphlets**
- **2000 Medical Access Program flyers**
- **500 Victim Assistance Information flyers**

Race	
Hispanic	67.55%
Black	15.83%
White	12.66%
Asian	2.90%

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Mentoring

POLICE PERSPECTIVES
BUILDING TRUST IN
A DIVERSE NATION

No. 2

How to
Serve Diverse
Communities

COPS   VERA

Officer Rafael Gomes teaches a leadership class to middle school students in an after-school program targeting at-risk youth

Youth mentorship program

The Austin (Texas) Police Department partners with the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, and other local youth programs to run a youth mentorship program aimed at engaging young people who live in neighborhoods with the highest incidences of crime. The goal is to improve the youth's perceptions of police, academic performance, and leadership skills at a young age so that they will be better equipped to make healthy life decisions as they get older. The mentorships include teaching leadership and school study skills and building the youth's appreciation for volunteerism and community building. Program participants have reported improved grade point averages and school attendance after engaging with this mentorship program.

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Council on At-Risk Youth joins Restore Rundberg

Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) was awarded $128,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) grant to expand CARY's PeaceRox Youth Violence Prevention program.

CARY is in partnership with the Restore Rundberg project and currently serving 850 students in the grant area: Lanier H.S., Dobie M.S., Barrington E.S., and Hart E.S.

http://cary4kids.org/cary-youth-advisers-implement-successful-saturday-program/

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Restore Rundberg CARY Summer Program

June 15-July 15 2015
Ages 8-17
M-Th 10:00-4:00
Objectives:
* Community safety
* Health and wellness
* Collective impact
* Service Learning and Leadership Training
* Mentoring and Case Management
* Parent Empowerment
* Sports, art, clubs, experiential education
* College and Career Readiness

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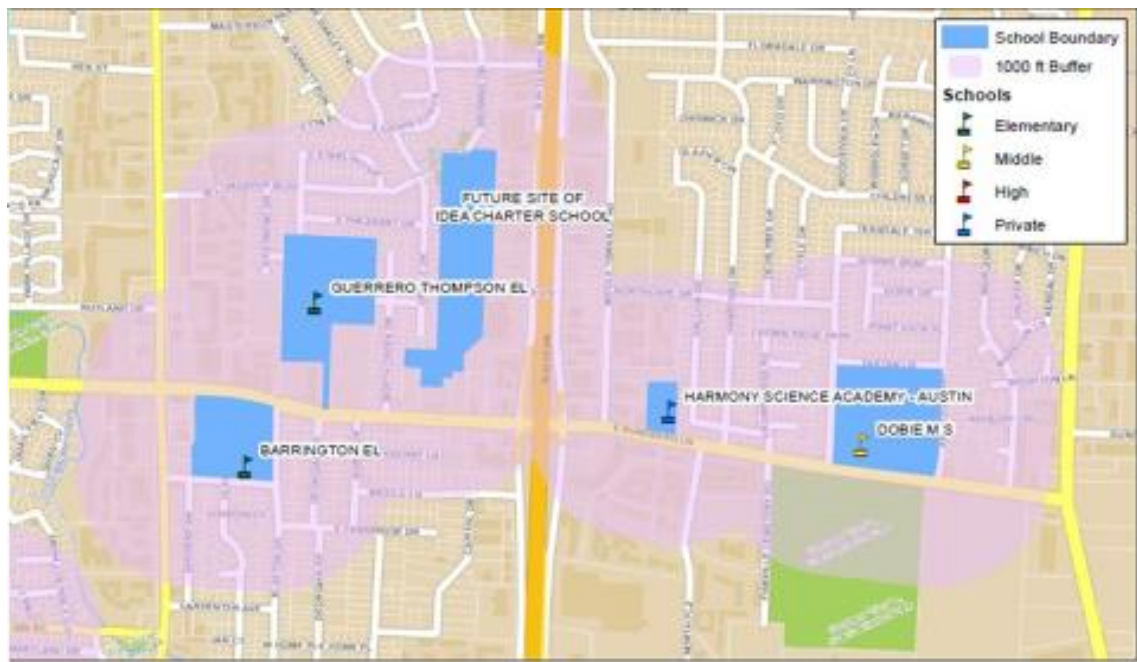
2014 Austin Police Department
RUNDBERG CORRIDOR SCHOOLS

PLANNING AND RESEARCH ANALYSIS UNIT

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What is R.E.A.D. ?

The Rundberg Educational Advancement District (READ) grew out of the Restore Rundberg revitalization initiative in 2014.

As a result of this initiative, there is visible and tangible crime reduction in the area, and community efforts are now turning toward sustaining that progress in the long term.

There are now five schools along Rundberg Lane, between North Lamar Boulevard and Dessau Road:
- Dobie M.S.,
- Harmony Science Academy,
- IDEA Rundberg,
- Guerrero-Thompson E.S., and
- Barrington E.S.

Together, they form the **Rundberg Educational Advancement District (READ)**

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What is R.E.A.D. ?

Rundberg Educational Advancement District (READ):
Educators, city officials, community members, and police officers committed to supporting the educational advancement of the youth in the Rundberg area through:
- the connection of the most at risk youth with available resources,
- beautification projects, and
- communication about the positive and inclusive transformation of the area.

As READ expands, it will potentially include other schools of the Restore Rundberg area:
- Lanier H.S.,
- Jaime Padron E.S.,
- Wooldridge E.S.,
- Walnut Creek E.S., and
- Hart E.S.

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Improving the Aesthetics of the Area

R.E.A.D

Beautification Team

Communications Team

Youth Resources Team

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R.E.A.D. Spring Fest

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R.E.A.D. Pride

Austin City Council Member Greg Casar supporting READ during READ Spring Fest

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Actor Danny Trejo Talks to Restore Rundberg READ Students

Clean ups and Events

Dobie Middle School Beautification Project

Mormon Helping Hands, Keep Austin Beautiful, AISD, and other community stakeholders in Rundberg area working to make the campus more attractive.

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UT the Project over 2,00 volunteers helped improve the Rundberg Area

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Before and After Project 1

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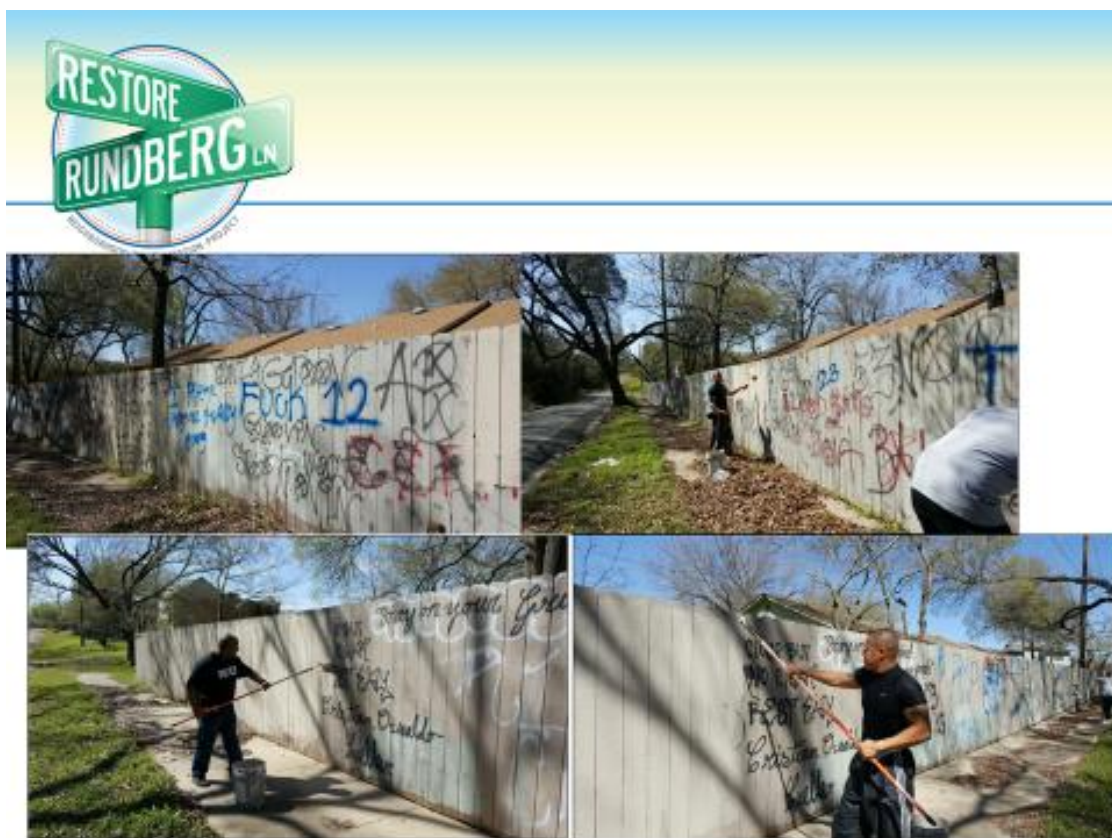
Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team

- **Place 1**: City of Austin Neighborhood Planning Representative
- **Place 2**: Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills Neighborhood Planning Area Representative
- **Place 3**: North Lamar/Georgian Acres Neighborhood Planning Area Representative
- **Place 4**: North Austin Civic Association Neighborhood Planning Area Representative
- **Place 5**: Education Representative (K-12)
- **Place 6**: Education Representative (higher ed.)
- **Place 7 & 14**: Hispanic Leadership Representatives.
- **Place 8**: Immigrant Community Representative
- **Place 9**: Faith- Based Community Representative
- **Place 10**: Affordable Housing/Homelessness Prevention Representative
- **Place 11**: Public Safety Representative
- **Place 12**: Economic Development Representative
- **Place 13**: Community Health Representative

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Workgroups

Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team's Priority Areas:

- 1. Revitalization of Key Properties
- 2. Healthcare
- 3. Afterschool Programs
- 4. Code Compliance
- 5. Homelessness Intervention
- 6. Housing Affordability
- 7. Economic and Workforce Development
- 8. Prostitution Prevention and Intervention

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Violent Crime Statistics
(*In Grant Area*)

	COMPARISON PERIOD - INTERVENTION PERIOD	
	April 2012 - August 2013	April 2014 - August 2015
Hot Spot #1	5.77% Reduction	
Hot Spot #2	44.44% Reduction	
Hot Spot #3	20.00% Reduction	
Hot Spots Combined	15.09% Reduction	
Grant Area	4.52% Reduction	

Data from University of Texas research team

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Violent Crime Statistics
(*City-wide Impact*)

	COMPARISON PERIOD	INTERVENTION PERIOD	
	April 2012 - August 2013	April 2014 - August 2015	*Trend in % Points*
% Violent Crime in Grant Area attributed to Hot Spots	18.43	16.39	-2.04% Reduction
% Violent Crime in Austin attributed to Grant Area	12.99	11.72	-1.27% Reduction

Data from University of Texas research team
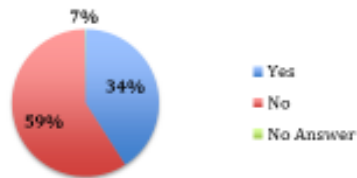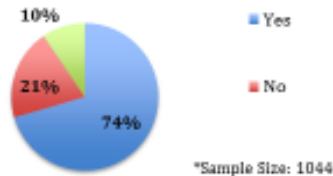
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Safe Place?

Is This A Safe Place For You and Your Family (Wave 1: 2014)

- Yes 34%
- No 59%
- No Answer 7%

Is This A Safe Place For You and Your Family? (Wave 2: 2015)

- Yes 74%
- No 21%
- 10%

*Sample Size: 1044

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New Parks

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Restore Rundberg in the News

Rundberg area sees 10 percent drop in crime

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Restore Rundberg Recognition in 2015

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD REVIVAL
Restore Rundberg

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

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Restore Rundberg Recognition in 2015

Austin Community Advancement Network's 2015 Butler Awards –

"*Spirit of Collaboration Award*" for Restore Rundberg

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Restore Rundberg Recognition in 2015

Austin City Council:

"*Distinguished Service Award*"

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City of Austin Police Department Restore Rundberg Project