Hot Streets & Corners

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Northside

Cincinnati Neighborhood

- Historic Homes & Business District
- Eclectic Diversity
  - People, incomes, homes, businesses, opinions….
- Community Spirit
  - Involved residents

Northside

Cincinnati Neighborhood

- Problem pocket: High Crime –Low quality of life - Fergus and Chase Street Area
  - Long-term hotspot for crime in city
  - Open-air drug dealing
  - Heavy litter
  - Aggravated assaults
  - Flight & blight

Fergus & Chase St. Problems

- 2004 Arrests

Scanning-A-R-A

Drug Dealing - Loitering

Drug Dealing - Loitering

Litter

Litter & Property Destruction

Playground Vandalism

Vacancy & Blight

Blight

A Downward Spiral

Deterioration of a city block

I994-2003: Involved Groups

COMMUNITY

- Community Council
- Business Association
- Citizens on Patrol
- Housing Committee
- Blockwatch
- Courtwatch
- Working in Neighborhoods

CITY

- Police
- Fire
- Bldgs & Inspections
- Health
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful
- Cincinnati Recreation
- City Council

Assessment

- Expending great effort
  - Arrests, Area Cleanups, etc…
- Unsustained improvements
- Increasing slum/rental properties
- Increased Vacant/Abandoned Housing
- High frustration – Low morale
- A strained & dysfunctional police-community relationship

Community Problem Oriented Policing
Cincinnati Model - 2003

- Collaborative Agreement
- New community-police cooperation
- CPOP Core team
  - Officer/community team trained in SARA
  - Partnering center facilitation
- City agency/Community group partners
- Agreement on priorities
- Focused projects and effort
- Root cause analysis

Community Problem Oriented Policing

Improved Cooperation & Direction

Citizens on Patrol

Community Volunteers

- Police-trained
- Wear “uniforms”
- Carry police radios
- Observe & report
  - Crime, broken lights, graffiti, abandoned cars…
- Community-Police liaisons

Courtwatch

Community Volunteers

- Follow community relevant cases
- Maintain offenders database
  - Case calendar, parole info., open warrants, criminal histories
- Attend hearings and presents impact statements
- Ensure community awareness

Code Enforcement Response Team
CERT

- Police, Fire, Health, Buildings & Inspections, Law Department
  - Conduct coordinated inspection of problematic properties

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

City Department

- City coordinated cleanup and beautification
- Blight index and surveys
- ‘Safe & Clean’ grant committee
- Outreach & education

Question

- How is your police department utilizing volunteer or external resources to help identify, analyze or solve problems?

Scanning-A-R-A

Fergus St. Resident & Property Owner Surveys

Rate on a scale of 1 (best) to 5 (worst)

- Drug activity
- Violent crime
- Loitering
- Disorderly youth
- Vacant buildings
- Poorly maintained properties
- Noise
- Litter/trash
- Speeding
- Parking
- Aggressive dogs
- Rats/roaches
- Bad landlords
- Bad residents
- Bad business owners
- Problematic non-residents
- Other

Scanning-A-R-A

Resident Survey Results – 24 Respondents

Issue	Top 3 Concern	Average Score
Drug Activity	**71%**	**3.9**
Loitering	**41%**	**4.1**
Litter/Trash	29%	4.1
Disorderly Youth	24%	4.0
Violent Crime	18%	3.7

- 10 of 17 were considering moving
- 7 listed the corner store as a problem
- “not a place where I want my children raised”

Scanning-A-R-A

Property Owner Survey Results – 13 Respondents

Issue	Top 3 Concern	Average Score
Drug Activity	**62%**	**4.5**
Loitering	**46%**	**4.5**
Litter/Trash	**46%**	**3.9**
Disorderly Youth	15%	4.2
Violent Crime	23%	4.3

- If you take away the crime this would be a good area for investment (9 respondents agree)

S-Analysis-R-A

Drug Activity, Loitering, Litter

- Who?
  - Mostly black males
  - 14-30 years in age + followers
  - Many are from outside of area and neighborhood
- When? Not confined to specific times

S-Analysis-R-A

Drug Activity, Loitering, Litter

- Contributing factors
  - Residents
    - Outnumbered, Afraid, Lack Support
    - Demoralized by overwhelming problems
    - Lost hope - What's the use?
  - Inadequate trash containers
  - Like attracts like (broken window)
    - i.e. litter will attract litter

S-Analysis-R-A

Drug Activity, Loitering, Litter

- Where? Magnet locations

LOCATION	ATTRACTION
Corner Store	Food, Shelter, Refuge
Children's Park	Unsupervised space
Vacant Properties	Unchallenged space
Apartment Building	Housing
Corner Bar	Entertainment

Bad (Yellow) → Worse (Red)

Dealers/Loitering/Litter

Bar

Corner Store

Business

Playground

Vacant Building

Apartment Building

S-A-Response-A

#1: Fight Loitering with Right of Entry Permissions

- Notarized letter from property owner
- Police can question and arrest individuals on property without owner's request or presence
  - Trespassing
  - Prostitution
  - Loitering to solicit
- Arrest allows right to search

S-A-Response-A

#2: Rebuild Morale & Relationships

- 2004 Fall Cleanup

S-A-Response-A

#2: Rebuild Morale & Relationships

Before

After

S-A-Response-A

#3: Equip Residents with Tools

- Street mixer
  - Help build support network
- Porch light campaign
- Trash cans
  - Grant funding for residential cans
  - City cans on corners

S-A-Response-A

#4: Targeted Police Attention

- Problem Apartment Building
  - Residents/COP/police gather data
  - Undercover operations initiated
    - Confiscated drugs and guns–tenants evicted
  - Courtwatch support

S-A-Response-A
#5: Addressing Business #1

- Corner Bar – Cooperative Owner
  - Improved outside lighting
  - Kept sidewalk/street clean
  - Raised age limit of patrons from 21 to 25

S-A-Response-A

#6: Addressing Business #2

- Corner Store
  - Proprietors uncooperative
  - Heavy litter around store
  - Cheating customers
  - Female having relationship with dealer
  - Dealers allowed to hang in and outside store
  - Pled guilty to receiving stolen property

S-A-Response-A

#6: Addressing Business #2

- Corner Store
  - Conducted CERT inspection turning up multiple violations
  - Model objection to liquor license renewal
    - Coordinated community-police objection to liquor license renewal
    - Come with statistics
      - Calls for service, arrests
    - Supporting documentation
      - Photos of quality of life issues

S-A-Response-A

#6: Addressing Business #2

- Model objection - continued
  - Evidence of making every attempt to work cooperatively
  - Coordinated testimony
    - Police including Vice
    - Community Council, COP, CPOP, Neighbors, Business Association

- Result: Overwhelming supporting evidence – inevitable loss of license

S-A-Response-A

#6: Addressing Business #2

- Corner Store
  - Cincinnati Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation
    - Lobbied city for funding for buyout/demolition/rebuilding of store
    - Utilized Contemporary Arts Center on new home design.

S-A-R-Assessment

- Arrest Density Map - 2004 vs. 2006

Assessment

Before – Drugs / Loitering / Litter

Assessment

After - Absence of Drugs / Loitering / Litter

Assessment – Spring 2005

Before – Drugs / Loitering / Litter

Assessment - November 2005

Immediate reduction in problems after closing

May 2006

Corner Store Demolition

Assessment - October 2006

Sustained absence of problems

Assessment – October 2006

Children return to playground free of drugs/litter

September 2007

Redevelopment of former corner store site

Assessment - 4251 Fergus

Improvements spurred new rehabilitation

Assessment - 4241 Fergus

Assessment - 4238 Fergus

Assessment - 4227 Fergus

Assessment - 4221 Fergus

Acknowledgements

Northside

Community Problem Oriented Policing Team

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Citizens on Patrol

Courtwatch

Community Council

Working in Neighborhoods

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Police

Fire

Buildings & Inspections

Health

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful

Recreation Commission

Traffic & Engineering

City Council

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