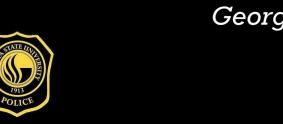
# Lock It Up: Residence Hall Burglary Prevention



Officer Eli Cohen Georgia State University Police Department Crime Prevention Unit Office: 404-413-3213 Email: Ecohen5@gsu.edu



# **GSU** Police Department

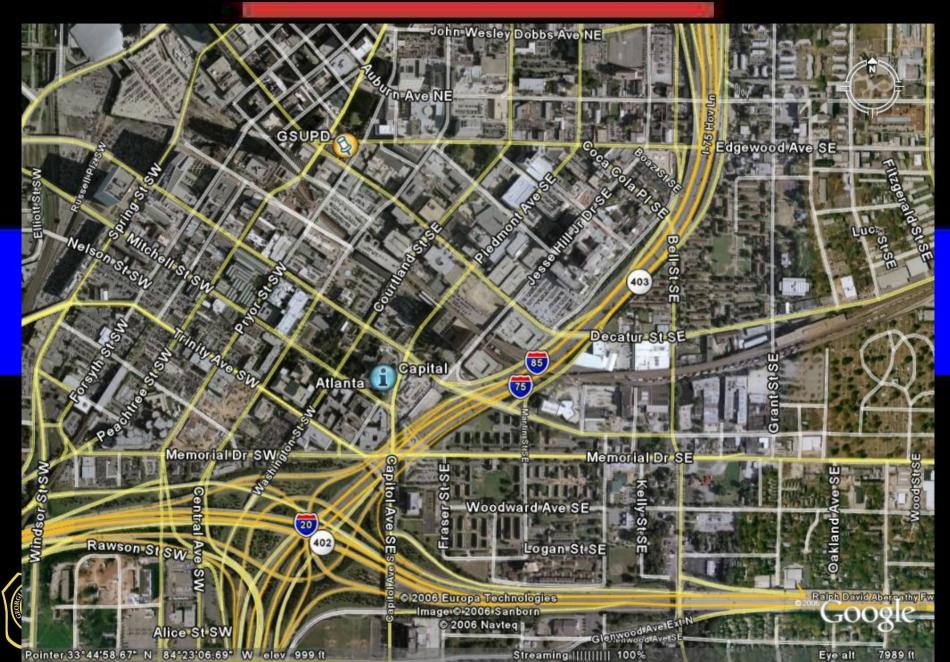


- •80 sworn officers certified by the State of Georgia's POST.
- •Officers are **on duty at all times** during the day, evening & night.
- GSUPD is a National Accredited and State Certified Police agency.

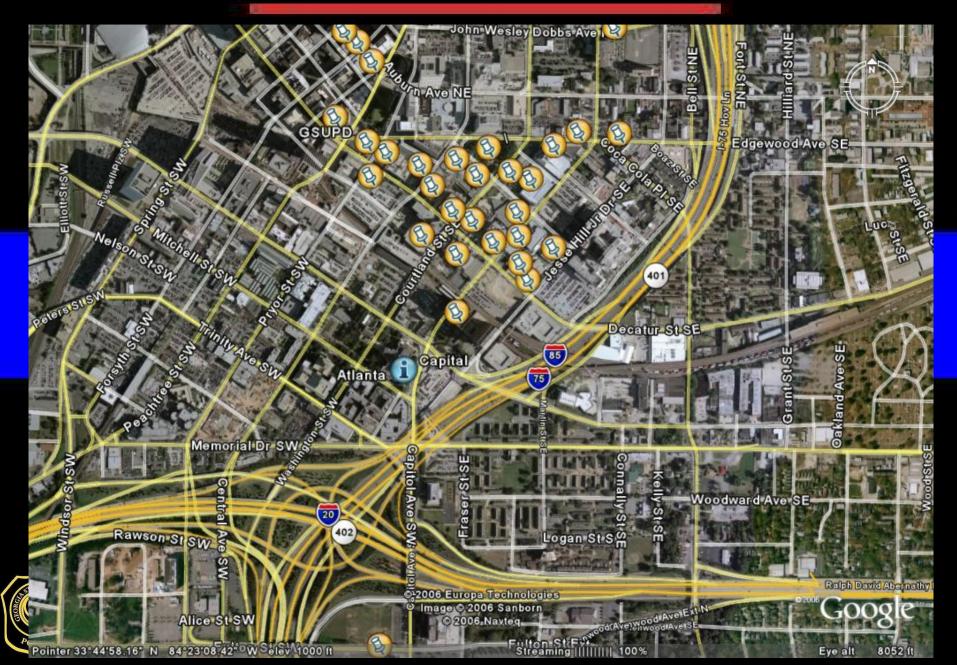




#### Downtown Atlanta



#### Downtown Atlanta



#### •4 buildings holds 2000 Student

#### •Apartment style room with 4 or 6 person suites

#### Police Substation

•2-3 Officers

l Dispatcher

Village

•24/7 operation

Image © 2007 Sanborn

© 2007 Europa Technologies Streaming ||||||||| 100%

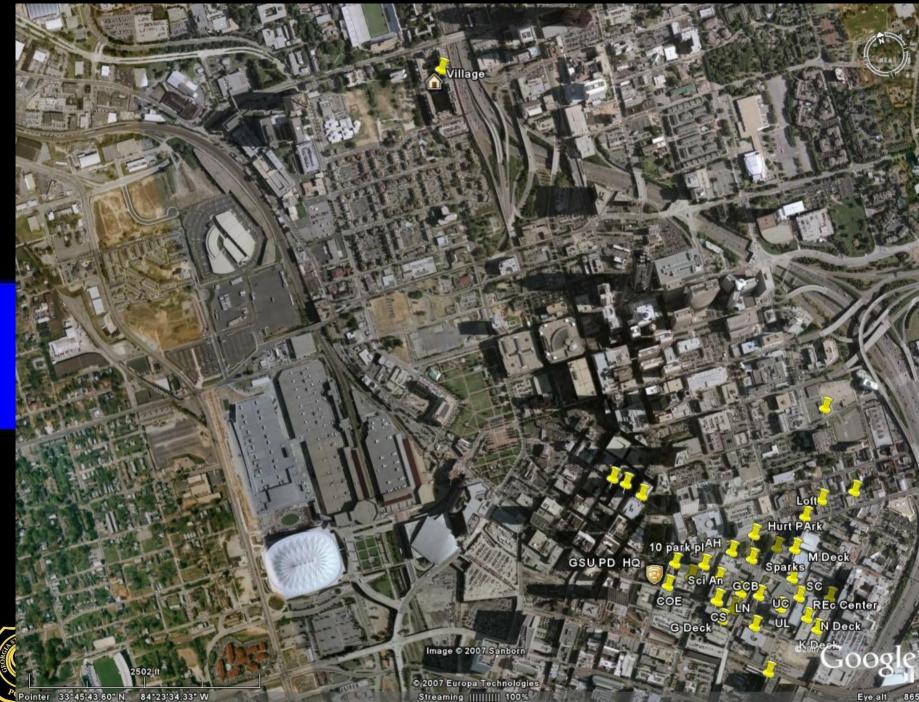
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Wet **Building** 

I SEE



Villago @2007 Image © 2007 Sanborn © 2007 Sanborn 202 1 Streaming |||||||||| 100% Pointer 33°46'11.86" N 84°23'28.54" W 622 ft Eye alt

GEORGY

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### The Problem

• In 2005-2006 School Year (SY) 44 burglaries were reported to the Police Department





# What's going on in your jurisdictions

- Problem neighborhoods?
- Universities?



# Analysis

- What was going on here???
  - What was the same is all the thefts?
  - What was being taken?
  - Who was taking ?





# What was the same? A look at THE NUMBERS.

- Burglaries in the 2005-2006 School Year (SY)
- Victims stated that they left their door unlock
- People who said they locked their door
- 0

2

44

42

– doors broken, you figure???





# What was the same? A look at THE NUMBERS.

- 56,555
  - \$56,555 is the total value stolen
- 35
  - # of laptops taken
- 12
  - # of people who were home when the theft happened
- 8
  - # of people who could provide serial numbers





## What was the same?

- 05-06 SY
  - 44 unlocked doors
    - Suspects were not breaking in
      - No tools needed
      - No skill needed

#### Little evidence to investigate with

- No cameras on halls and suspects are not seen leaving the building.
- Only 8 people could provide serial #s



# What was being taken?

- \$56,555 worth of property.
  - 35 laptop!!!!
  - Multiple Gaming systems
  - MP3 Players
- Items that look normal for a person to be carring





## Who was taking It

• Who are the possible suspects?

#### Residents

#### **Non-Residents**







# Questions?





Non-Stu
Hard to
Camerican
Leaving
Easy A

• Fron



# Students helping the Bad Guy

- Student
  - Living on their own for the first time
    - » "It can't happen to me"
    - » Not taking the responsibility for their own safety
  - Letting in people they did not know
    - Either
      - » Holding the gate or opening it for them
      - » Not calling the police when they heard someone trying to open their door



### Response

- What did we know
  - 1. Students had to be a part of the response
  - 2. Some of these burglaries were being committed by Non-Students





## Response

- Non-Student Response
  - Target Hardening
    - Took a CPTED approach
      - Changed gate to turnstiles
      - Timer on Access Cards
    - Stronger enforcement Guest Policy
      - Guest must be escorted
      - Issuing CTWs for non-residents (including students) who walked around by themselves



## Response

- Working with the students
  - Behavior modification

Get students to always lock their doors
Method

- Speeches
- Checks
- Signs





# Speeches

- New Student/Resident Orientation
  - Already the Target Audience
  - Used an Officer that was good at public speaking
  - Same officer was a former resident of the Village
  - Talked to 8,339 people in 2 months





## Checks

- Gotcha Program
  - Housing Run
    - RA's check doors
    - Keep Records
- Officers on Patrol
  - Walking Halls
  - Checking doors



# Signs





#### Lock It Up!



#### The GSU Police Department wants to remind you to keep your doors locked <u>at all times.</u>

For more crime prevention tips or to join the Lock It Up program contact the GSU Police Dept Crime Prevention Unit 404-651-2130.



## Student Response

But first Some fun



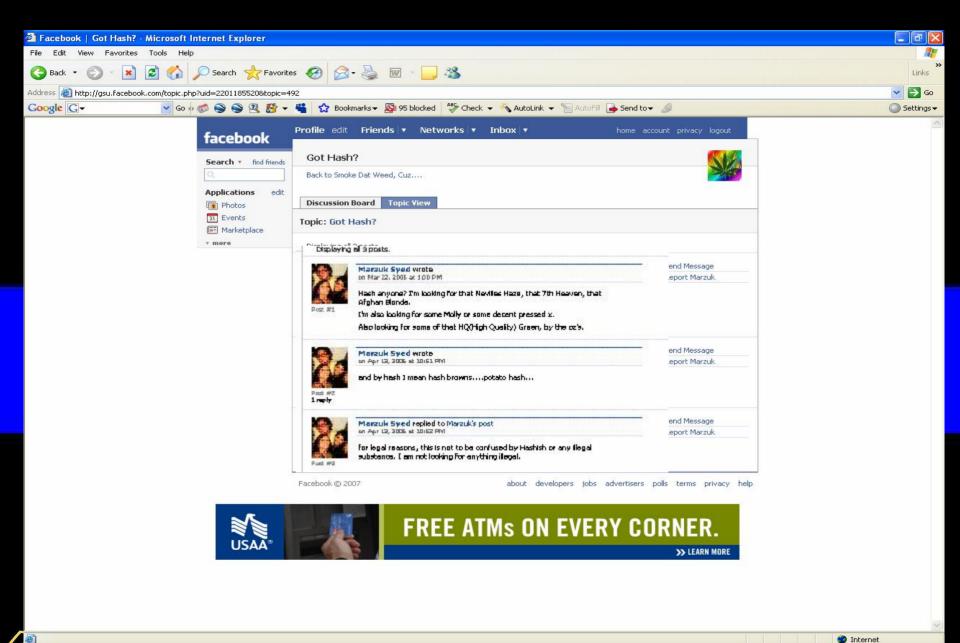


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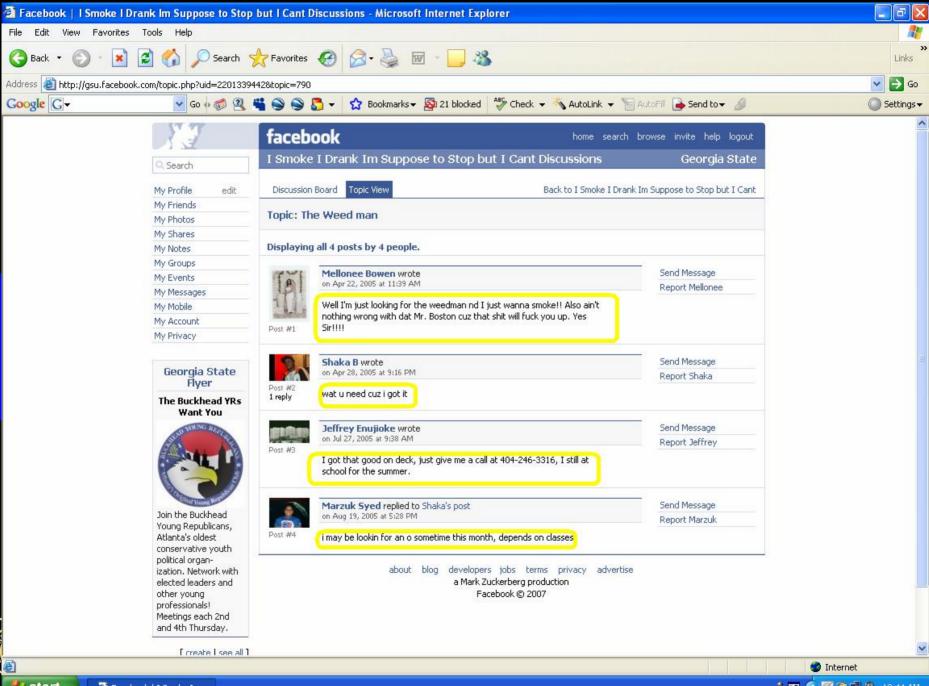
#### Village Residents; Our Scholars

<u>movie</u> Make it Rain





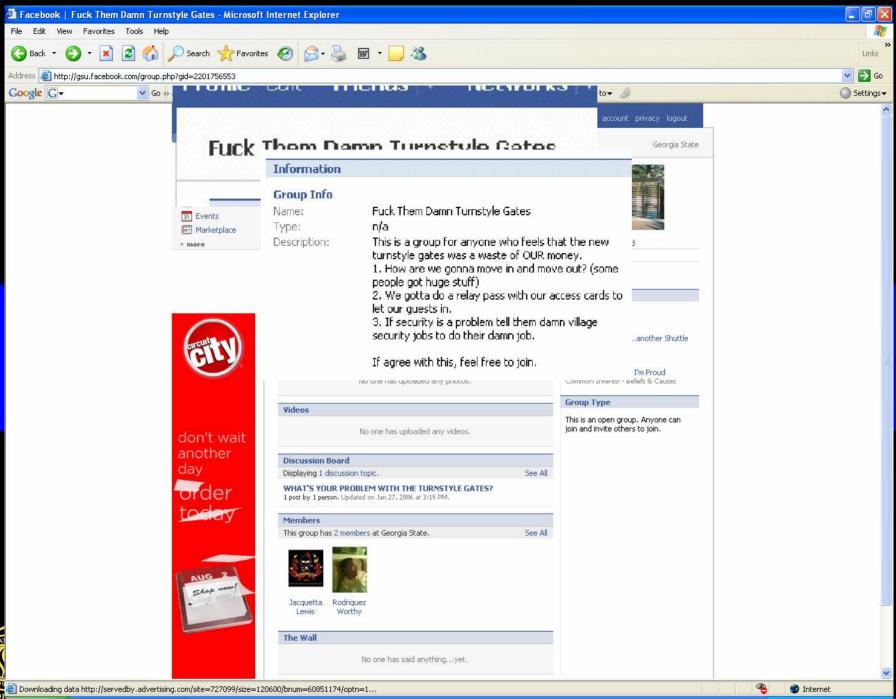
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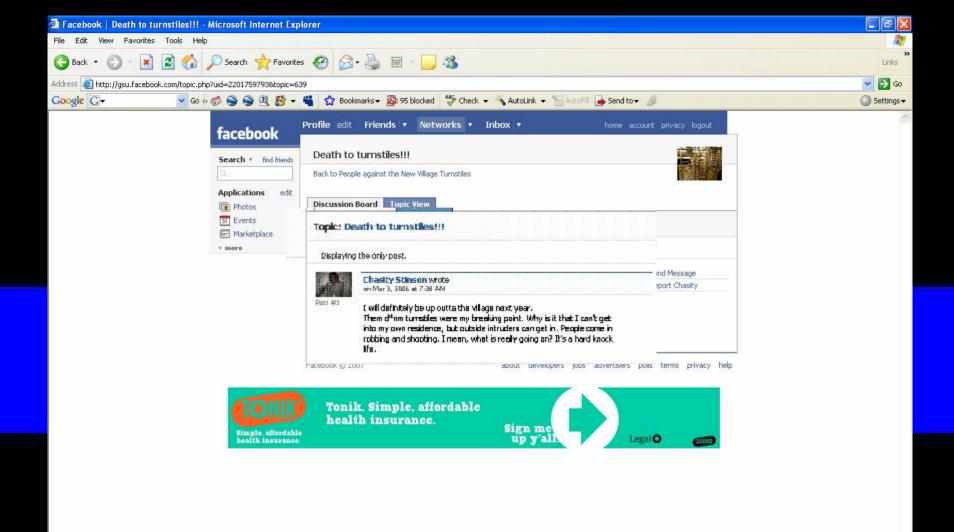
### Student Response

• Negative Response to Turnstiles





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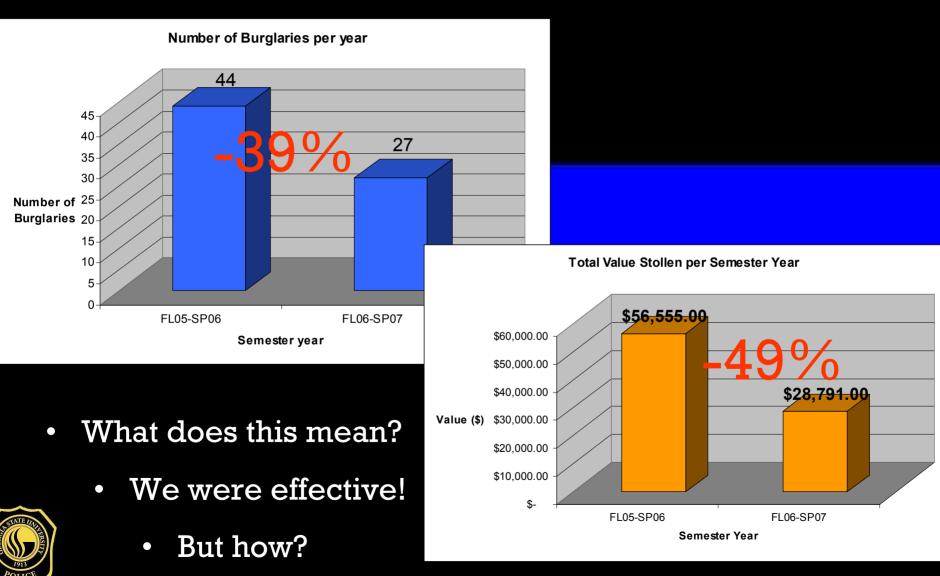
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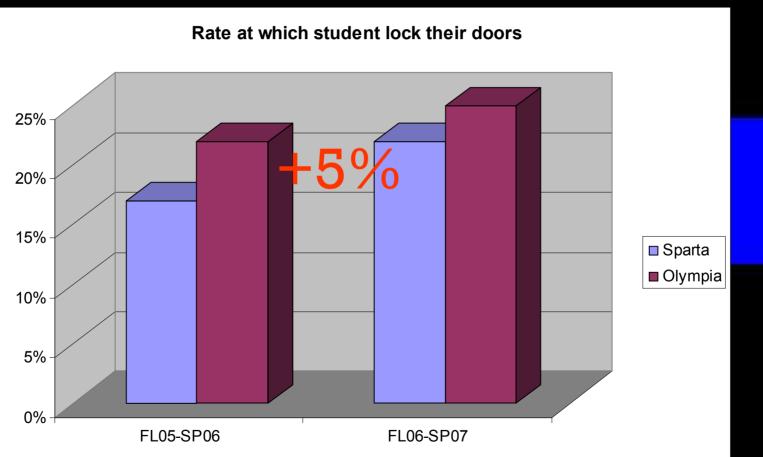


# Analysis

• Less burglaries



# •More Students Locking their door





So which was more effective; Target Hardening or Behavior Modifications?

#### Lessons Learned

- Locking your door helps prevent thefts
  - The lessons learned in this program were used again in Aug 2007 when GSU opened a brand new dorm with every dorm having <u>self locking doors!!</u>





#### Lessons Learned

- Access Control Helps with preventing crime
  - Result the same new dorms also have turnstile gates





### Lessons Learned

- Police Should not be hidden from the public
  - Police Mini Precinct was moved to a more visible location
  - We are able now to see every person that walks into the Commons.
  - They see us!!





# Any Questions?





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