Day Laborer Issues

Presented by:
Officer Diane Tillery
Montgomery County Police Department

Chief John King
Gaithersburg City Police Department
What was the problem?

Large groups of Hispanic men gathering in a parking lot trying to secure day employment and remaining all day long.
Gathering location
Gathering location
What problems do we have?

- Drinking in public
- Urinating in public
- Passing out in the parking lot
- Harassing customers
- Harassing church members/employees
Other issues:

- No bathroom facilities
- Businesses complaining of lack of patrons
- Grace Church mission vs. members
Workers lobbying for jobs
You need two??
Our version of the drive by.
Steps to consider:

- Locating the owner
- Having them limit the hours persons were allowed to gather
- Have owner sign agent letter
- Have Church sign agent letter
- Post signs indicating changes
Actions:

- Ad Hoc Committee
Location selected:
Events:

- NIMBY
- The Rally
- City Sanctioned Task Force Formed
In April 2006, the Task Force completes its 132 page report. Suggests that the City support the concept of a center inside the City limits but that the County pay for it. Indicates that 17 N. Frederick is NOT an acceptable site.
Minutemen on site
Faith rally to support laborers
Support for laborers:
Media circus:
Protest at church:
Media surrounds supporters
Workers moved:
Workers waiting for a job.
County and City Police Monitor Lot.
They keep coming....
Even in the winter...
All day long....
Politics:

- City says no chance for site selection
- What a difference an election makes.
- County land
Finally, an agreeable site:
What do you call it?
New challenges:

- Arson
- First come first serve at Labor Center
- 7-11 Policy
- City Anti-solicitation law
- New City Police Chief
NOTICE

Contractors/Workers
This is not an authorized site
to hire workers
Please go to Crabbs Branch
Day Workers Center
16642 Crabbs Branch Road

Contratistas/Trabajadores
No se permite dar trabajo en este sitio
Por favor diríjanse
al Centro de Trabajadores a Dia,
en el 16642 Crabbs Branch Road

Posted at
7-11
Protest:
SARA Model:

- Scan
- Analysis
- Response
- Assessment
We identified the main problem.

One issue appeared to be lack of supervision for this group of laborers.

The language barrier was an issue.

Cultural differences regarding acceptable behavior.
Analysis:

Stakeholders were identified:

- Workers (and contractors)
- Area residents
- Police
- Business owners
- Clergy
Response:

- Designed to reduce calls for service and provide a mutually agreeable solution.
- Find a location for a center.
- Work to ensure that the center was used by contractors and workers.
Assessment:

- Reaction has been mixed.
- Beat officers were pleased.
- Church was relieved.
- Neighbors were cautious.
- Businesses were grateful.
- Workers were suspicious.
Second round:

- Failure of our Federal Government to pass immigration reform
- Local governments start taking action to confront the issue of illegal immigration.
- Prince William County in Virginia passes the toughest local anti-illegal immigration law.
They’re back.....
Gather intelligence by:
- Spanish speaking officers
- Having CASA ask questions
- Visit Day Labor Center and interview staff
Analysis:

- First come first serve policy has resulted in the line forming at 4 a.m.
- Set rate of $10 per hour for unskilled workers and $15 per hour for skilled.
- Rules of behavior set for workers.
- Contractors afraid of having their photos taken by the Minutemen.
Response:

- Work with Latino group to create an informational flyer which:
  - Tells laborers to use the center
  - Informs them of cultural issues
  - Officers confront contractors and inform them to use the center
Assessment:

- Continuous monitoring of both the day labor site and the street corners
Contacts:

- Officer Diane Tillery 240-773-5757
  Diane.Tillery@montgomerycountymd.gov

- Chief John King 301-258-6400
  JKing@gaithersburgmd.gov