

SUMMARY



District Two 250 Area Robbery Reduction Project

Milwaukee Police Department, Wisconsin, 2010

- SCANNING:** During the Month of December 2009 District Two experienced a dramatic increase in robberies. This increase continued into 2010.
- ANALYSIS:** Information was obtained from citizens, crime victims, officers assigned to the area, and calls for service data. The data revealed that the greatest concentration of robberies were occurring in the squad 250 area with the majority of them occurring on the street.
- RESPONSE:** Over a period of three months, officers conducted a multi-prong crime reduction strategy that included community outreach, interagency collaboration, high visibility and problem solving.
- ASSESSMENT:** Robberies were reduced by more than fifty percent. Community relations improved and residents surveyed in the area reported a reduction of fear and increased confidence in the police. Violent Crime in the area was reduced overall by 41.13% and Property Crime was reduced overall by 13.6%.
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DESCRIPTION

The city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin is located on the shores of Lake Michigan and has a population in excess of 600,000 (U.S. Census bureau 2008). The Milwaukee Police Department is divided into seven geographical police districts. District Two covers the entire near south side of Milwaukee and serves over 87,000 residents. District Two serves 13 identified neighborhoods, many of which have a large Hispanic population. District Two is divided into four areas, which the corresponding squad numbers 220, 230, 240 and 250. Squad 250's area is a combination of businesses, single family residents, and duplex's/multi family units. Five neighborhoods are in 250's area with 51 block watch groups.

SCANNING

District Two saw an increase in robberies beginning in early December 2009. This trend continued to increase through the holiday season into January 2010. During daily crime briefings, the crime mapping software identified a robbery trend. In reviewing Part I crimes for 2009, Captain Donald Gaglione, the commander of District Two, identified the 250 area as having the largest increase in Part I crimes. During a monthly Crime and Safety meeting citizens voiced concerns about increasing crime as well as a need for a more visible police presence in their neighborhoods.

Initial analysis of the problem revealed that robberies had the most significant increase 86% (December 2008 vs. December 2009), with 46% of all robberies in district two occurring in the 250 area. This increase along with community concerns regarding safety, determined the immediate need for the 250-robbery reduction project.

ANALYSIS

In depth analysis was conducted on the 250 area for the project. During the time period of January 1-February 8, 2010 41 robberies occurred in District Two. Those 41 robberies were analyzed to determine the direction of the project. Using the problem analysis triangle, offenders, victims, and places were analyzed.

- ❖ **Offenders-** There were 100 residents of District Two who were on probation or parole for Robbery. 41 of them who lived in 250's area. 22 offenders were arrested for robbery during January 2010. 27% of the offenders arrested are known gang members. 7 offenders were on probation/parole supervision at the time of arrest.
- ❖ **Places-** 26 robberies occurred on the street with the most (11) occurring on Saturdays. The greatest concentration occurred between

the hours of 5:00pm and 1:00am. 19 of the robberies occurred in the 250 area with 13 of them occurring on the street.

- ❖ **Victims-** There was 36 victims (not including businesses). 29 victims were male, 7 victims were female. 14 had been victims of crimes in the past with 5 being prior robbery victims. 13 victims had criminal records, 6 with felony arrests, 12 with misdemeanor arrest, 5 with both felony and misdemeanor arrests. None of the victims were on probation or parole at the time of the robbery.

Community Considerations

Community Partners/Safe and Sound conducted a survey of the residents of the 250 area. The survey concentrated on how safe a resident feels and how comfortable the resident feels cooperating and reporting problems to the police. (See Appendix A). 121 residents were surveyed with 85.6% reporting they felt safe at home. 77.4% felt safe walking in their neighborhood during the day and 71.9% reported they do not feel safe walking in their neighborhood at night.

There were 39 block watches in the 250 area. The locations of the block watches were analyzed to determine if there was a need for more and whether or not the watches were effective in reducing crime in the area. Initial analysis revealed that more block watches were needed and some of the established block watches were not active.

Of the five neighborhoods in the 250 area, two had very active neighborhood associations. Lincoln Village and Historic Mitchell actively participated in block watches and offered services to residents as well as cooperating with District Two. Both associations had businesses that participate in Operation Impact, which provides surveillance cameras accessible to police and funds foot patrols in the district.

Prior Responses

Street robberies have been a long-standing challenge for 250. One of the previous responses to the problem was conducting a Safe Streets Initiative (SSI). The SSI would be conducted in a specific area in response to a spike in crime. The SSI would run for up to seven days with two or three squad cars dedicated to the area. Results of the SSI were sporadic, mainly due to limited analysis of the problem prior to implementation and the limited time of the SSI and resources dedicated to it. SSI cars while dedicated to the area were not focused on the crime triangle and used presence alone as a crime-solving tool.

Final Analysis

The analysis conducted for the robbery trend revealed that a multi-prong approach would be needed. Greater involvement from the community and other agencies was needed to address the following factors revealed during analysis:

- ❖ Larger population of Hispanic people living in area. Cultural and language considerations were needed when addressing victims and offenders. The response plan needed to have community outreach to residents who traditionally avoided police contact due to alien status.
- ❖ A large concentration of offenders lived in the 250 area. Probation/Parole agents needed to be included in the project.
- ❖ City Alderpersons and community leaders were interested in continued cooperation with District Two as well as offering new services.
- ❖ 107% increase in robberies in 250 area was very concerning and needed to be addressed immediately.

RESPONSE

A comprehensive response plan to the robbery trend was put together with Captain (then Lieutenant) Carianne Yerkes as the overall project manager. Several alternatives were considered prior to choosing the final response. A review of other recent crime strategies (SSI, Interdiction Initiatives, Saturation Patrols) was considered. While each of these responses had seen successes, they did not include an in-depth problem-solving base. They also did not include community input. Captain Gaglione's crime strategy and management theory is community-oriented with "out of the box thinking". The response needed to incorporate both of those components.

The Plan

Based on the analysis of offenders, places, and victims the 250-area project had to have a unique response for each shift.

Dayshift

During the dayshift seven officers were assigned to the 250 area. One two-person Problem Solving Car (PSC) was implemented. This car was manned by officers familiar to the 250 area and was manned everyday. The PSC was assigned to do two hours of walking/foot patrol in the area during their tour of duty. They were assigned to address any nuisance blocks and identify areas of concern in the 250 area. They were not assigned to take calls for service but could respond to calls in the 250 area if desired.

A foot patrol was added to the 250 area. Known as the "triangle" the beat covered West Forest Home to South Muskego Avenue to West Historic Mitchell Street. The triangle consisted of short angle streets that housed many offenders and nuisance properties.

Early/Power shift

The early shift had eight officers assigned to the 250 area. Three officers were assigned to beat patrols with several new "go-getter" officers assigned to the other 250 cars. On the power shift (7:00pm-3:00am) an Anti Armed Robbery Unit (AARU) was established. Two officers were assigned to the 250 area to saturate any block/area that had a spike in robberies. The AARU was on foot or in a car depending on the analysis. The AARU also focused on business checks and conducting any follow up on previous robberies that occurred.

Late shift

The majority of the robberies that occurred between 5:00pm-1:00am. The late shift hours were 12:00am-8:00am. The power shift covered the area during the peak time that occurred on the late shift. Late shift was responsible for monitoring taverns and streets and aggressively patrolling open spaces to deter criminal activity.

Community Liaison Officers

Officers assigned as the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) were responsible for identifying areas that needed block watches. 10 blocks were determined to be in need of watches based on crime and calls for service. The CLO's also identified three areas that needed clean up. Prior to the 250 project Captain Gaglione began "Operation Payback". Operation Payback gave offenders an opportunity to work with police and community groups and earn community service hours by picking up garbage and painting out graffiti in neighborhoods. The initial group comprised of a local graffiti crew but expanded to any offender on supervision that wanted to work off hours. The clean ups occurred once a week and also included officers, community partners and citizens interested in keeping their neighborhood clean.

The CLO's also did a flyer drop regarding the Robbery Trend (see Appendix B & C). 1000 flyers in both English and Spanish were placed on cars and doors in the 250 area. A flyer with contact numbers for District Two and the dates of the monthly Crime and Safety Meetings were included.

Police Explorers

The Milwaukee Police Department's Police Explorer program (part of the Boy Scouts of America) allows young people the opportunity to experience law enforcement on a volunteer basis. Under the direction of Police Officers Michael Kuykendall and Matthew Thompson of District Two early shift, the Police Explorers conducted three community clean ups in the 250 area. These community clean-ups concentrated on painting out graffiti and picking up garbage in some of the most challenged neighborhoods in the 250 area.

Fifth Place and Becher Street

The area of South 5th Place and West Becher Street is home to at least four different gangs. This area was targeted for clean up by both Operation Payback and the Police Explorers. The AGU targeted this area with a zero tolerance policy on all violence.

Community Prosecution Unit

The Community Prosecution Unit (CPU) consisted of 2 police officers, 1 assistant district attorney (ADA), one assistant city attorney (ACA) and several community organization members. The CPU concentrated on nuisance properties in the 250 area and the ADA Kelly Hedge worked closely with district officers to ensure prosecution of offenders committing crimes, especially repeat offenders in the 250 area. The CPU worked closely with the District Anti-Gang Unit as several gangs occupied the 250 area.

Anti-Gang Unit

The District Anti-Gang Unit (AGU) was an important part of the response plan. AGU officers identified known gang members in the 250 area and made home visits to gang members on probation or parole. The officers made observations of the individuals associates and filed a report that was forwarded to the member's agent. ADA Hedge had geographical restrictions issued against known gang members when they were charged with a crime. This information was passed on to the AGU's and 250 area squads giving them an additional tool when policing the area.

Other MPD Resources

The MPD has a Neighborhood Task Force (NTF) comprised of officers from the Tactical Enforcement Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Fugitive Apprehension Unit, Street Crimes Unit, Canine, Boats and Mounted Horse Patrol Unit. Daily deployments of officers from the NTF were assigned to District Two. Each day officers from NTF communicated with the District Two shift commander on day and early shift to discuss deployment areas and strategies.

Initial analysis of robbery offenders indicated gang affiliations. This information was used to include the Organized Crime Division (OCD) and Intel Fusion Center (IFC) into the 250 plan. Officers and detectives from these units as well as the District AGU's, CPU and 250 area officers meet weekly to discuss deployments and de-confliction. Probation and Parole agents with offenders in District Two also attended meetings to keep current on their clients and share information.

Goals

The 250-robbery reduction plan was presented to Chief Edward Flynn along with the command staff on February 17, 2010. The plan was then

presented to each shift at District Two during daily roll calls for one week. The plan had specific goals set with a three-month time frame for measuring success.

- ❖ 16% reduction in Robberies compared to 2009 by May 2010
- ❖ Develop 10 new block watches in 250 area by May 2010
- ❖ Resurvey 250 area by May 2010 and achieve a 20% improvement in opinion of safety in the neighborhood by residents.

ASSESSMENT

The 250 project had one overall project manager and four sergeants assigned to deployments, one on each shift, under the direction of the District Two commander. The District Two crime analysis officer gathered and analyzed information weekly to determine effectiveness. The shift commander on each shift had the ability to move resources into the 250 area and oversee the daily deployments. Results were measured from February 22-May 26, 2010.

Robbery Reduction

A significant reduction in robberies occurred within the first month of the project. Robberies in the 250 area went down 37.5% (2009 vs. 2010) in the first three weeks of the project. Calls for services decreased and activity by officers increased in the 250 area in the categories:

- ❖ Traffic Stops increased 253%
- ❖ Subject Stops increased 240%
- ❖ Calls for service decreased 19%

2009 vs. 2010 data

After analysis of the three week data the project continued. The officers assigned to the 250 project met weekly with their shift commander and deployment sergeant. Information was shared between shifts via the District Two SharePoint site. Daily communication with NTF, OCD and IFC continued.

Implementation Difficulties

Communication was the key to the success of this project. One of the difficulties encountered was ensuring adequate resources were available and keeping enthusiasm in the project amongst the officers. Shift commanders needed to reinforce the mission daily to the officers and the staff at the communications division. Rotating Police Dispatchers were not aware of the project and would send 250 cars out of the area. Officers assigned to other areas in the district would fill in on the 250 cars and need to be brought up to speed on the issues.

RESULTS

The 250 robbery reduction project saw great success. **Robberies were reduced by 54.29% in the 250 area (2009 vs. 2010).** Other Part I crimes saw a reduction also:

- ❖ Theft 9.69% reduction
- ❖ Motor Vehicle Theft 30.38% reduction
- ❖ Burglary 6.94% reduction
- ❖ Arson 42.86% reduction
- ❖ Homicide 100% reduction
- ❖ Aggravated Assault 54.29% reduction
- ❖ Sexual Assault 100 % reduction
- ❖ Violent Crime overall reduction 41.14%
- ❖ Property Crime overall reduction 13.6%

In addition to reducing Part I crimes, officer initiated activity went up and call for service went down:

- ❖ 94% increase in subject stops
- ❖ 80% increase in traffic stops
- ❖ 21% decrease in calls for service

On Thursday May 27, 2010 a roll call in the street was conducted by Chief Edward Flynn and Captain Donald Gaglione in the 5th Place and Becher neighborhood. Holding the roll call at that location signified the success of the 250 project by taking back that neighborhood. Citizens attended the roll call and applauded the officers for their hard work in the area.

All goals set by Captain Gaglione for this project were met or exceeded with the exception of the 20% increase citizen safety opinion. The 20% was not met however a re-survey of 106 residents showed overall improvement of 7%.

| <u>Goal</u> | <u>Result</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Robberies reduced by 16% | 55% reduction in robberies |
| Establish 10 new block watches | 12 new block watches established |
| 20% increase in citizen safety opinion | 7% increase in citizen safety opinion |

With any crime reduction plan displacement is always a concern. The 250 plan did not cause crime to be displaced in other areas of the district. All Part I crimes with the exception of theft, went down in District Two Overall from 2009 vs. 2010 during the 250 project dates February 22-May 26, 2010:

- ❖ Robbery 49.66% reduction
- ❖ Homicide 50% reduction

- ❖ Aggravated Assault 22.69% reduction
- ❖ Sexual Assault 71.43 % reduction
- ❖ Burglary 21.78% reduction
- ❖ Arson 21.43% reduction
- ❖ Motor Vehicle Theft 28.71% reduction
- ❖ Theft 3.04% increase
- ❖ Violent Crime overall reduction 38.72%
- ❖ Property Crime overall reduction 8.08%

The 250 Robbery Reduction project was successful in reducing street robberies, establishing block watches and increasing citizens safety.

A thorough analysis of the data concludes that a significant reduction in crime occurred in the 250 area as well as District Two overall with no known displacement. Area residents who reported an increase in safety felt the increased presence of officers. Calls for service went down and citizen involvement in block watches went up. Collaboration within the MPD and with outside agencies increased and new lines of communication were opened.

The 250 project continues to be monitored and maintained with District Two resources. The weekly meetings with other agencies and divisions continue and other areas of concern within the District Two area are discussed.

Agency and Officer Information:

Key Project Team Members:

Captain of Police Donald J. Gaglione
Captain of Police Carianne Yerkes
Police Officer Michael Lelinski
Aaron Edwards Safe & Sound Community Partner
District Two squad 250 officers

Project Contact Person

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Appendix A



Resident Safety Surveys Conducted by: _____

Date: _____ Street: _____

| Name | Address | Phone/e-mail | Not home addresses |
|---|---------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. | | | 1. |
| How safe do you think your block is on a scale of 1 (not safe) to 5 (safe) ? <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 (safe) | | | |
| Do you feel safe at home? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Walk in the neighborhood in daytime? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N ...at night? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | | | |
| Are you willing to report nuisance problems/crime activity? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | | | |
| Have you been a victim of a crime in the last year? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N If so what type of crime, (thief, robbery, shooting or _____ Where did it occur? _____ Did you report it to MPD? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | | | |
| How would you rate police foot/bike patrols in your neighborhood? <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Okay <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | | | |
| Are you interested in participating in a block watch or community safety meetings? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | | | |
| What are your greatest concerns in this neighborhood? drugs, loitering, gangs, loud music, garbage, house disrepair, jobs, education, prostitution, guns, violence, police service, other | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Referral <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up needed | | | |



Appendix B

Milwaukee Police Department, District 2 CRIME TREND BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 2010

The purpose of this bulletin is to make our citizens aware of a crime problem that periodically occurs in this area. Please read this bulletin. It is designed to help inform and protect you.

Bulletin date: **February, 2010**

Crime trend: ARMED ROBBERY

Area: **S 1st St - S 27th St, W Mitchell St to W Cleveland Ave.**

Time: **5 pm - 12 am**

Other Facts: ***Incidents have mostly occurred on streets and alleys.***



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Travel well-lighted streets. Avoid dark corners, alleys and entrances to buildings. Always try to walk on the side of the street nearest oncoming traffic. If you must travel at night regularly, don't carry more than you can afford to lose. There's safety in numbers! If possible, walk with a companion, either male or female. When waiting for a bus or other public transportation, try to select a well-lighted area. Aim for a busy stop where many people will be coming and going. Don't hitchhike or accept rides from strangers. Avoid taking shortcuts through deserted areas such as parks, playgrounds, vacant lots, alleys, etc. Be cautious entering your car - someone may be hiding inside. Or, when leaving your car - someone may be waiting. Park in well-lighted areas. If someone ask directions, keep a polite but safe distance. If you are alone and think you are being followed, head for an occupied building such as an open business, restaurant, filling station, fire station, etc. If none are available, cross the street in the middle of the block. If there is street vehicular traffic, try to stop a car for help.

IF YOU ARE CONFRONTED: DO NOT RESIST! Cooperate! Give the criminal whatever he asks for - **wallet, keys, jewelry, credit cards, or whatever. Your life is more valuable than replaceable possessions!** Don't make any sudden, unexpected moves. **A nervous criminal may think you are reaching for a concealed weapon. Never try to be a hero and apprehend the criminal yourself. Your best course of action during a robbery is to comply with the robber. Call the police immediately!**



EMERGENCY: 911

NON-EMERGENCY: 933-4444

Do Not Escalate an Armed Robbery. Firearms are unlawful to carry. Firearms are lethal/deadly weapons, and may inflict fatal injuries on unintended targets. The Milwaukee Police Department discourages the arming of oneself in an attempt to prevent assault or capture of any criminal. Money and property can be replaced. Your life and health cannot!

If you have any information regarding any robberies that have occurred, contact the Criminal Investigation Bureau at 935-7360.

For more information on Crime Prevention or to get involved with or start a block watch, contact your **District Two Community Liaison Officers** at 935-7228, 235-6638, or 235-6626.

Donald J. GAGLIONE, Captain of Police, District 2
Together We Can Reduce Crime, Fear, Disorder In Our Community.



Milwaukee Police Department



BE A FORCE



Appendix C

Milwaukee Police Department, District 2
CRIME TREND BULLETIN – FEBRUARY 2010

El objetivo de este boletín es dar a nuestros ciudadanos conciencia del problema en la delincuencia que se produce periódicamente en esta área. Por favor, lea este boletín. Está diseñado para ayudar a informar y protegerle a usted y a su familia

Fecha del Boletín: **Febrero 2010**

La tendencia de delito: **ROBO A MANO ARMADA**

En el área de: **S.1st Calle S.27 Calle entre
W.Mitchell Calle y W.Cleveland Avenida.**

Tiempo de los incidentes: Entre las 5 p.m.-12 a.m.

Otros datos: Los dos sospechosos se acercaron a las víctimas en las calles.



¿QUÉ PUEDE HACER: Viaje sobre las calles iluminadas. Evite los rincones oscuros, callejones y entradas a los edificios. Siempre trate de caminar en el lado de la calle más cercana al tráfico. Si usted debe viajar por la noche con regularidad, no lleve más de lo que puede darse el lujo de perder. Existe seguridad en números! Si es posible, caminar con un compañero - ya sea masculino o femenino. Cuando espere el autobús o el transporte público, trate de seleccionar una área bien iluminada para que el Objetivo de una parada de gran actividad, donde haya mucha gente se pueda ir y venir. No aga autoaltos o acepte viajes de extraños. Evite tomar atajos a través de áreas abandonadas, patios, terrenos baldíos, cajones, etc Tenga cuidado cuando entre a su coche - que alguien puede estar escondido en su interior. O, al salir de su coche - alguien puede estar esperándolo. Estacionese en áreas bien iluminadas. Si alguien pregunta direcciones, mantenga una distancia corta pero segura. Si usted está solo y cree que lo están siguiendo, diríjase a un edificio ocupado, como un lote vacío, restaurante, gasolinera, estación de bomberos, etc. Si no están disponibles, cruce la calle en el centro de la manzana. Si no hay tráfico de vehículos en la calle, trate de parar un coche para pedir ayuda.

Si lo confrontan: No se resista! ¡Coopere! De a los criminales lo que le pida - cartera, llaves, joyas, tarjetas de crédito o lo que sea. Su vida es más valiosa que los bienes reemplazables. No haga ninguna súbita, movimientos inesperados. Un criminal nervioso puede pensar que son de largo alcance para un arma oculta. Nunca trate de ser un héroe y detener a los criminales usted mismo. Su mejor curso de acción durante un robo es cumplir con el ladrón. Llame a la policía inmediatamente!

EMERGENCIA: 911

NO-EMERGENCIA:933-4444



No Escalar un robo a mano armada. Armas de fuego son ilegales para llevar. Armas de fuego son letales / mortíferas armas, y puede causar lesiones mortales en los objetivos deseados. El Departamento de Policía de Milwaukee desalienta el suministro de armas a uno mismo en un intento de asalto o prevenir la captura de cualquier criminal. El dinero y los bienes pueden ser reemplazados. Tu vida y la salud no puede!

Si usted tiene alguna información con respecto a cualquier robos que se han producido, en contacto con la Oficina de Investigación Criminal en 935-7360.

Para obtener más información sobre Prevención del Delito en contacto con su distrito de la Comunidad

Dos oficiales de enlace en 935-7228, 235-6638 o 235-6626.

Donald J. GAGLIONE Capitan De Policia, Distrito 2



Juntos podemos reducir la delincuencia, el miedo, el trastorno en nuestra comunidad.

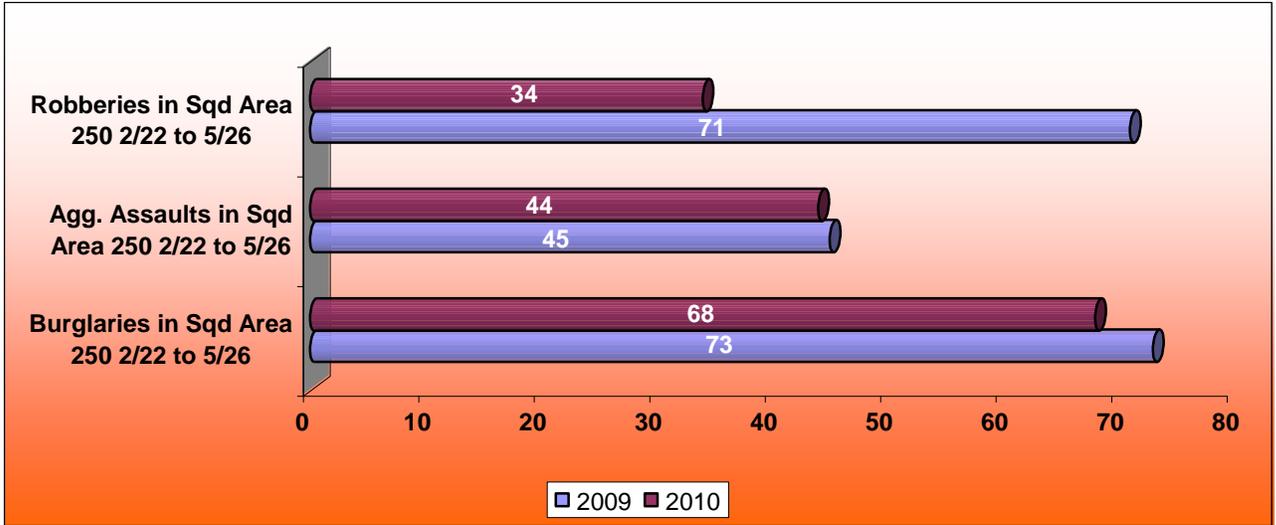
Milwaukee Police Department



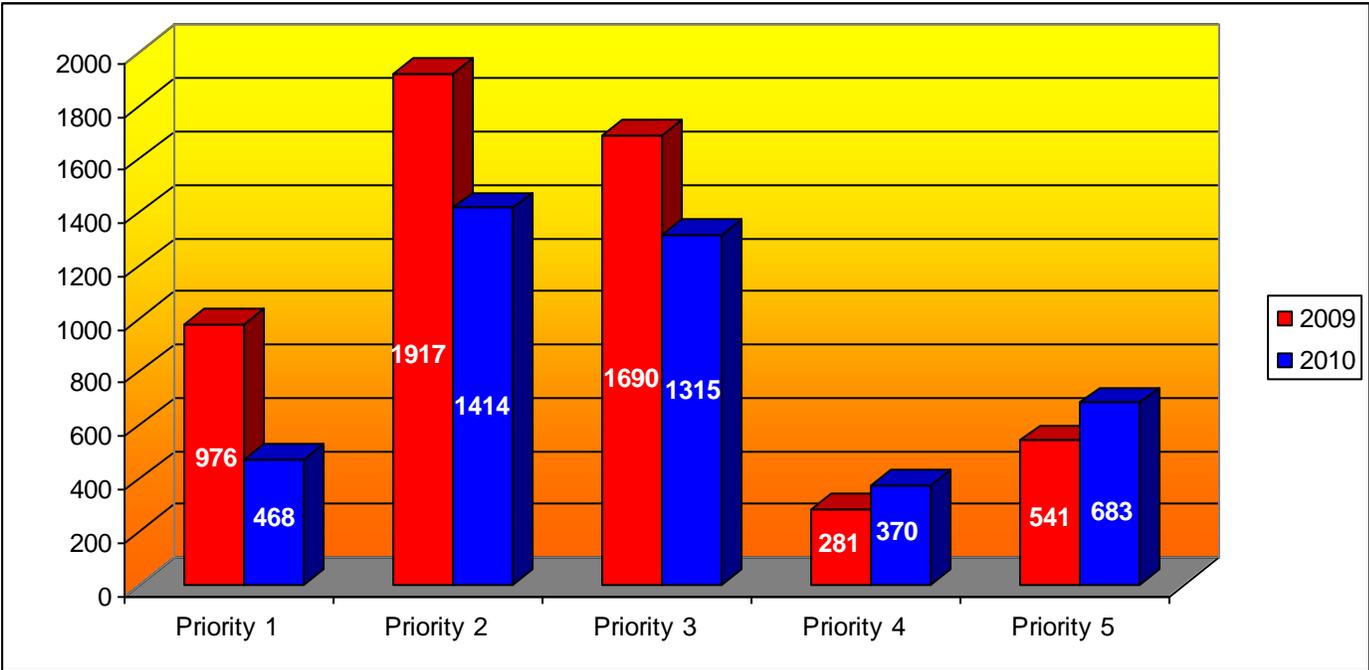
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Appendix D

Major Crimes in 250 Area 2/22-5/26



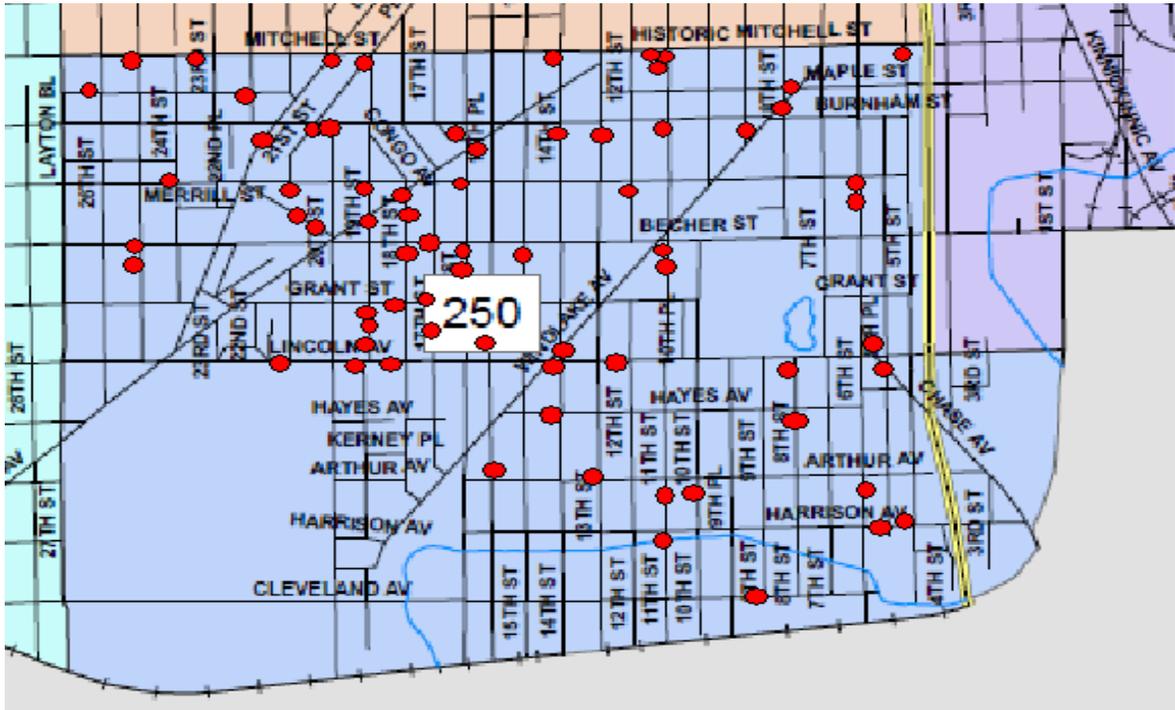
Dispatched Call for 250 area 2/22-5/26



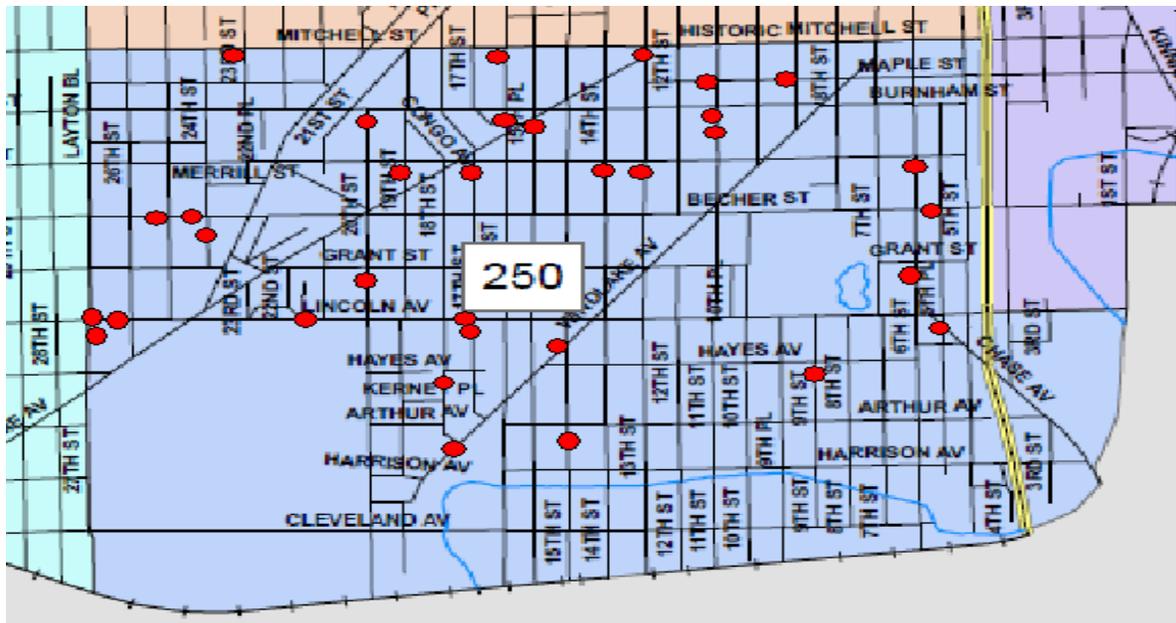
Appendix E

Comparison Of Robberies in 250 Area

2009 (71)



2010 (34)



Appendix F



Roll Call in the Street
5th Place & Becher



Operation Payback Clean Up

