

Hollywood Police Department

West District

Burglary Reduction Initiative

Officer Mark Hazel #3252

Rob T. Guerette, PhD

Section 1: Summary

On August 27th, 2013, the West District Burglary Reduction Initiative was created by the Office of the Chief of Police in response to complaints received from residents concerning a recent increase in residential burglaries. The increase directly concerned residents as possible future victims and strained the available resources of the police department. The most common complaint, currently and historically, received by the Neighborhood Team Leaders (Police Officers assigned to the Community Oriented Policing Division) at area civic association meetings and via the Help-Me-Hollywood online complaint application concerned traffic infractions. The second most common complaint was an increase in burglaries experienced in the City of Hollywood beginning in 2005 and continuing steadily through 2012. During this time period, burglaries increased from 1,314 in 2005 to 1,958 in 2012.

An analysis of past burglary reports revealed three reporting areas in the West District which had the highest rates of burglary victimization. The reports from these three reporting areas, 33T6, 33U2, and 33N1, were analyzed and a list of common factors among the crimes was developed:

- 33N1 was equipped with rear alleyways which allowed easy access to the rear of the residence, which was also determined to be the most common entry point
- 33T6 was the only reporting area which contained a high school and the timeframe of the burglaries appeared to correspond to school start/stop times
- 33U2 was located along a major roadway, US 441, which contained numerous pawn shops and was an area plagued by drug sales
- All reporting areas contained repeat victims and visits to these residences revealed obvious indications that the residence was vacant during the day

In addition to a conventional police investigative response, several problem oriented recommendations were developed to counter these apparent vulnerabilities in the three target neighborhoods. These strategies were presented to department leaders for implementation and utilized various units of the police department in April of 2014. The recommendations which were implemented included:

- Promoting free Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) security surveys which included an emphasis on both target hardening and the installation of see through fencing to increase visibility in the rear alleyways
- Expanding Neighborhood Watch programs under police department control
- Implementation of a property marking campaign (SmartWater CSI)
- Partnering with the Florida Department of Probation and Parole to track and monitor active repeat burglary offenders residing within the city
- Utilizing available overtime resources to increase active police patrols in the target neighborhoods as well as directing regular duty units from patrol and traffic units to increase the visible police presence during high risk times of day

Initial assessment of the impact of the project in September of 2014 as the responses were implemented proved extremely promising. May through September of 2014 was compared with the same time frame from 2013 and all three target neighborhoods saw substantial decreases in burglary rates. The neighborhoods recorded decreases of 30% in 33N1, 39% in 33U2, and 14% in 33T6.

A formal, long term impact analysis was completed in March of 2015 by Dr. Rob Guerette with the assistance of the Hollywood Police Crime Intelligence Unit. This analysis compared yearlong numbers of 2013 against those of 2014 and revealed that burglaries had been successfully suppressed in the target areas while burglaries in similar comparison areas increased. *Decreases* of 0% in 33N1, 34% in 33U2, and 3% in 33T6 were reported. At the same time, comparison reporting areas within the West District recorded *increases* in burglaries of 41% in 33P4, 23% in 33S6, and 38% in 33Q2.

Section 2: Description

A: Scanning

The City of Hollywood is located in Broward County, in southeast Florida, and has a residential population of about 146,000 which increases greatly during the winter months. It is the twelfth largest city in the State of Florida by population and covers about 30 square miles including 7 miles of beaches. Law enforcement within the city limits is the responsibility of the Hollywood Police Department, which has an authorized strength of about 340 sworn officers to handle the 140,000 or more calls for service received each year.

By 2012, according to FBI Uniform Crime Reporting data, residents of Hollywood were victimized by 1,958 burglaries. The fear of becoming a victim of or being re-victimized by a residential burglary had by that point plagued Hollywood residents for several years.

In August of 2013, the West District Burglary Reduction Initiative was conceived in response to the complaints received from residents concerning a recent increase in residential burglaries. The increase directly concerned residents as possible victims of this personal crime and placed a strain on the available resources of the police department due to the time and manpower needed to properly report, process the scene of, investigate, and follow up with this increasing number of burglaries. The most common complaint received by the police department's Neighborhood Team Leaders (Police Officers assigned to the Community Oriented Policing Division) at area civic association meetings which they regularly attended and through direct reports to the officers concerned traffic issues. A close second concern was what the police department was doing in order to combat the increasing number of burglaries.

While the traffic concerns of the residents could be managed through targeted enforcement or improvements to roadway design, the burglary concerns appeared to

require a multi-faceted approach which would require a change in the way in which the police department approached burglaries.

This officer was assigned by West District Police Major Manuel Marino to analyze and attempt to resolve the burglary concerns via the SARA process. The area of the city which was assigned to be addressed by the project was the West District. The West District of the city is defined as the incorporated area of the City of Hollywood located west of Interstate 95.

The project was assigned to the Neighborhood Team Leader for the Hollywood Hills neighborhood located in the West District of the city. Hollywood Hills was one of the neighborhoods hit hardest during the rise of residential burglaries as well as one of the most vocal in sharing its concerns with city government. The Neighborhood Team Leader observed a marked increase in questions and concerns of residential burglaries during community meetings with residents. The civic meetings typically included a question and answer period during which the increased rate of burglaries would routinely become the dominant topic.

The project was to begin within the West District of the City of Hollywood with an option to expand the project citywide if a significant result could be obtained. The project was to make use of problem oriented policing strategies and target both the actual crime of burglary as well as the fear of crime and victimization. The SARA model was used as a format to conduct and analyze the initiative.

B: Analysis

Prior to the commencement of this initiative, the crime of burglary was being approached in a very traditional manner in the City of Hollywood. Road patrol officers were provided general information on crime trends, but not specific problem areas, and only limited direction was provided as to what actions could be taken and in what areas of the city it should be concentrated. Burglaries were dealt with in a reactive manner, with an officer responding to a call of a burglary which had been discovered in order to complete a report to send to the detective bureau for investigation. The detective would then wait for a comparison of fingerprints collected by the crime scene investigator and attempt to locate property at area pawn shops in order to link an offender to the crime. While Hollywood enjoyed a higher than average case clearance rate on property crimes thanks to the efforts of these detectives, little was being done to prevent and reduce the actual number of burglaries committed. The financial cost to the resident in valuables stolen as well as a feeling of personal intrusion was high.

The services of Dr. Rob T. Guerette, professor of criminal justice at Florida International University, were retained by the City of Hollywood Police Department in order to conduct a historical analysis of the burglary problem with the assistance of the Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit. The analysis revealed that the problem had begun in 2005, with 1,314 burglaries, and had increased steadily through 2012, with 1,958 burglaries. The analysis further revealed that crime reporting areas 33T6 Boulevard Heights, 33U2 Beverly Park, and 33N1 Hollywood Hills had the highest residential burglary rates in the West District. The analysis was completed January 17th, 2014. (Appendix A)

The problem analysis triangle was employed in order to study the three facets of the burglary problem:

Places/Locations

On January 30th, 2014, site visits to 14 repeatedly burglarized residences were conducted to physically survey these locations and their characteristics. The typical victimized location was found to be a single family residence without a garage. The rear and sides of the residences were concealed by solid wood fencing, which appeared to be popular in all three target neighborhoods. This fencing reduced or eliminated natural surveillance to the areas of the residences which were found to be the most common entry points. All of the repeatedly victimized locations plainly appeared to be vacant during daytime hours.

All locations in 33N1 Hollywood Hills were found to have rear alleyways which provided concealment and easy access to the rears of the residences.

33T6 Boulevard Heights contained a high school, the beginning and conclusion times of which were found to be possibly correlated with the times of burglary occurrence.

33U2 was observed to be located along an arterial roadway, US 441, which contains the highest concentration of pawn shops and illegal drug markets in the West District.

All locations shared a most common time and day of occurrence. The burglaries appeared to be mostly confined to weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., although that timeframe could not be exactly determined as victims could only provide the time that they knew their residence to have last been left secure and the time that they discovered the crime. (Appendix B)

Offenders

The analysis of offenders was limited to those apprehended for the crime of burglary for the obvious reason that the unsolved burglaries cannot provide a comparison offender.

The average burglar was found to be a Hollywood resident (46%), male (92%), evenly split between black (55%) and white (45%), with a median age of 26. The only distinctive feature discovered was that the average burglar was slimly built. The offender height of 5'6" to 5'11" falls within the national average of 5'9", but the mean offender weight of 165 pounds falls below the national average of 195 pounds.
(Appendix C)

Victims

All of the target areas were found to have repeat victims. The victim residences were found to be easily identified as having no one home due to mostly lacking garages and having no vehicles parked near the residence. The residences appeared split on appearance, with some victim residences appearing unkempt while others appeared well maintained. Almost all of the victim residences were equipped with solid wood fencing which concealed the sides and rears of the residences.

The belongings of the victims were the target of the offenders rather than the victims themselves. Electronics, jewelry, and tools were the most commonly stolen items. The two most common brands of electronics stolen were Apple and Microsoft products, specifically Microsoft Xbox gaming consoles. Jewelry items and tools were typically not marked in any way to identify the owner.

C: Response

Based on this analysis, the following strategies were developed and presented to police staff at the April 9th, 2014, Problem Solving Initiative meeting in order to combat the conclusions developed in the analysis. This once monthly meeting involved supervisors and staff from all units in the department and the purpose of the meetings was to implement new problem oriented solutions to continuous, as well as new, crime related issues within the city. (Appendix D)

Additionally, traditional increased police patrol efforts were deployed within the target areas for the purpose of proactively addressing crime, reducing fear of crime, and strengthening community relationships. The patrols included officers assigned to West District Community Policing 100 initiative overtime, police canine handlers, and on duty police detectives during the high burglary times of 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Team Leaders additionally conducted quarterly “Blitzes,” which were organized and targeted enforcement initiatives designed to reduce crime through overwhelming police presence and enforcement in a particular area. The West District Community Policing 100 initiative overtime was found to be successful in approximately 90% of instances to reduce residential burglaries in the target neighborhoods during the weeks they were conducted and they contributed an additional 780 hours of active patrols within the West District between from July to December 2014.

Places/Locations

- Closing access to alleyways to prevent or reduce rear entries

Reporting area 33N1 was observed to be the only reporting area equipped with rear alleyways which also had a high rate of entries from the rear of the residences. The recommendation to close or restrict access to these alleyways through mechanical means was evaluated and determined not to be feasible due to the financial cost and logistical concerns with utilities. Promoting the use of see through fencing to increase

visibility to the rear of the residences was considered and implemented as an alternative. That information was disseminated to residents through community and civic meetings, community crime walks, and burglary victim contacts.

- Establish formal neighborhood watch with police oversight.

The move to establish formal neighborhood watches and to bring said organizations under police control and oversight was completed as recommended. Crime Watch coordinators were made to report to the police department's Community and Media Relations Unit, which also included the city's Crime Prevention Specialists. Crime Watch program information was disseminated through the monthly area civic association meetings located within the target neighborhoods and to residents during 9 community crime prevention meetings held in the West District. Crime Watch volunteers were also directed to conduct observations in areas according to crime trends provided by the Hollywood Police Crime Intelligence Unit in order to produce the greatest efficiency and benefit to the community. Also disseminated was information pertaining to the free in home crime prevention assessments offered by the Crime Prevention Unit, 11 of which were conducted in the West District. These assessments allowed homeowners and renters alike to have their residences professionally inspected for criminal vulnerability and then received advice as to how to make low cost but substantial security upgrades to provide the greatest benefit. This initiative was created in an effort to create a direct intervention with the community. Requests for these surveys were lower than expected despite apparent resident enthusiasm at community meetings. Residents were provided with monthly feedback as to progress made via this project at civic association meetings with up to date burglary statistics. The CrimeView application, a free online method to access crime statistics, was also highlighted at the meetings in order to encourage participation in the programs available.

- Position temporary "Be Aware Burglary Zone" signs on arterial roads leading to target zones

Temporary signs along arterial roadways were deployed within or near all of the target neighborhoods. Hollywood Police message boards were programmed and deployed to

display messages including “Area under surveillance by Hollywood Police, CCTV in use” and “Area under patrol by marked and unmarked police vehicles.” These message boards were deployed 7 times in 33T6 Boulevard Heights, 6 times in 33U2 Beverly Park, and 3 times in 33N1 Hollywood Hills between February and October of 2014. The Hollywood Police Department SkyWatch aerial observation platform was also deployed continuously at various locations when available along US 441 to increase apparent police visibility along that corridor to discourage the drug markets and illegal pawn transactions which may have been affecting the target areas.

Additionally, some of the message boards declared “License Plates are being recorded” in response to the police department’s adoption of a fleet of three automated license plate reading trailers (LPRs). These LPRs were designed to appear to be radar trailers and displayed approaching vehicle speed on the front much like a traditional speed trailer. The rear of the LPRs, however, included two high definition cameras which recorded and analyzed passing vehicle registrations in real time. This information could be viewed or searched by police detectives and provided alerts to patrol officers in real time as soon as a wanted person or felony vehicle passed the LPR. The LPR trailer program provided a vast amount of information on the identities of those entering the three target neighborhoods and resulted in 10,926 records in 33T6 Boulevard Heights, 17,610 records in 33U2 Beverly Park, and 49,257 records in 33N1 Hollywood Hills between April and September of 2014.

Offenders

- Implement process to monitor Microsoft and Apple registration network

The analysis of items stolen during residential burglaries revealed Microsoft and Apple products, specifically the Microsoft Xbox gaming system, to be among the most frequently stolen items, accounting for as high as 29% of items stolen in reporting area 33U2 Beverly Park. Many of these devices, including the Apple iPhone and iPod and Microsoft Xbox, are serialized and require an online registration and access to an internet network in order to function at their full capacity. Manufacturers of both serialized electronics were contacted and requested to assist in the recovery of the

items, but this initiative was met with limited success as both manufacturers refused to cooperate in electronically locating stolen items without a valid court order. Both companies do offer a method for the victim to report the item as stolen so that it can no longer be used online, and that information was added to the crime prevention information disseminated.

- Form a police and probation partnership program to monitor and check active property and drug offenders following area burglaries

Recidivist burglars were determined to be an area of concern and were tracked and their residences updated for monitoring by Hollywood Police Criminal Investigations Detectives and Street Crimes Detectives. Florida Department of Probation and Parole supervisor Marny Lewis was contacted and agreed to assist Hollywood Police in monitoring offenders by providing updated lists of home addresses of active offenders under supervision. Lewis also agreed to provide probation officers to assist in residential checks of burglary suspects as probation officers do not require search warrants to conduct checks as is required of police officers. During 2014, Hollywood Police Street Crimes Detectives conducted 3 cooperative “sweeps” with Probation and Parole which resulted in 17 arrests of recidivist offenders.

The monitoring of repeat burglars in reporting district 33U2 Beverly Park provided a source of leads for detectives in solving several cases. For example, one residential burglary committed on 01/07/13 was cleared on 10/23/14 following a DNA analysis. The suspect was a resident of 33U2 and had been arrested multiple times for burglaries in that same reporting area. Concentrating on that repeat offender allowed detectives to close several cases.

The concern that the burglaries in 33U2 were tied to local drug markets or the proximity of the neighborhood to pawn shops could not be substantiated. The physical proximity of the listed pawn shops, for example, were no closer to 33U2 than they were to 33N1 and 33T6. Furthermore, the majority of drug related complaints and drug arrests along US 441 were found to be north of the target area, between Hollywood Blvd and Johnson St.

Victims

- Implement victim specific security surveys, emphasizing natural surveillance and methods of target hardening

A victim contact program was initiated through which each residential burglary victim received five points of contact from the police department including in person residential visits as well as phone contact from the detective. The visits were conducted automatically with 48 hours of the burglary on average and were unsolicited in order to contact all victims and remove the responsibility of searching out available programs from the victim. These visits were used to promote the Crime Prevention Unit's free security surveys which highlighted the use of natural surveillance, target hardening techniques, and crime watch programs.

- Implement program to alert nearby residents of burglary victimizations to include specific security recommendations

Crime prevention specialists, Crime Watch volunteers, Hollywood Police recruits and Hollywood Police explorers were utilized to conduct crime prevention walks within the target neighborhoods. Volunteers provided contact information for the crime prevention target hardening program as well as tips to avoid victimization. 3 crime walks were conducted in the target areas during 2014 and were directed as a response to burglary trends.

- Implement property marking campaign

As much as 45% of property stolen in reporting area 33N1 Hollywood Hills was property that is not routinely serialized. These items include jewelry, tools, and antiques. While crime prevention specialists already recommended writing down serial numbers or engraving items uniquely to aid in identification, it was clear that a new method to identify items was needed.

In response to this need, the Hollywood Police Department partnered with local company SmartWater CSI. SmartWater CSI provided a product which is a serialized,

clear liquid that can be applied to almost any surface and dries clear and undetectable unless activated by a specific frequency of ultra violet light. The liquid is guaranteed for 5 years after the date of application, but will likely last much longer. SmartWater CSI also provided permanent signs advising “Thieves Beware” which warned of the use of SmartWater CSI property marking efforts in the area as an additional deterrent. 34 of these signs were placed along arterial roadways near the target areas.

Residents were invited to receive property marking kits free of charge if they lived within any of the target areas and were provided with instructions and registration information at several give-away meetings at police headquarters. Additionally, Neighborhood Team Leaders distributed 55 kits in person to residents of the West District and assisted them in applying the solution to their belongings. The Neighborhood Team Leaders also oversaw the registration process of the product to ensure it was done in accordance with the manufacturer instructions so that the property could be positively identified if stolen.

D: Assessment

In September of 2014, an initial analysis of the result of the project was conducted by the Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit. Positive results were observed in all three target neighborhoods. For that initial analysis, May through September of 2014 was compared to the same period in 2013, when no part of this project had yet been implemented. Historically, the summer months have been consistent with regards to the burglary numbers and this time period was chosen to remove any deviation caused by time of year. The target areas recorded decreases of 30% in 33N1 Hollywood Hills, 39% in 33U2 Beverly Park and 14% in 33T6 Boulevard Heights.

The short term result of the project was a decrease in residential burglaries in areas where the West District Community Policing 100 initiative overtime was conducted. A small amount of displacement was observed as a result of this increased police presence. For example, burglaries rose slightly in the south Hollywood Hills neighborhood while they decreased in north Hollywood Hills during the periods of directed patrol and traffic enforcement which were implemented in reporting area 33N1 north Hollywood Hills. This displacement was minimal and much less than the amount of crime that had been reduced as a result of the problem solving initiative. The community policing overtime was continued through May of 2015 and will be continued as funding permits. The purpose of the overtime, however, will be sustained in the future as newly hired officers complete initial training to include the problem oriented policing model and transition to road patrol officers.

In March of 2015, an updated analysis and impact assessment was conducted by Dr. Rob Guerette using burglary numbers as reported by the Hollywood Police Crime Intelligence Unit. For this formal assessment, the full year of 2013, which had 102

instances of residential burglary within the target areas, was compared against those of 2014, which recorded 88 instances of burglary.

No increases were reported in the target areas. Rather, *decreases* of 34% were recorded in 33U2 Beverly Park and 3% in 33T6 Boulevard Heights. 33N1 Hollywood Hills recorded an identical number of burglaries, 26, for both years and recorded no change.

A comparison was conducted of these three reporting areas against three similarly sized reporting areas within the West District. These comparable reporting areas recorded *increases* in burglaries of 41% in 33P4 Hillcrest, 23% in 33S6 Driftwood, and 38% in 33Q2 Gracewood. Therefore, while the decreased number of burglaries in the target area initially appeared underwhelming, the conclusion may be drawn that a substantial increase in burglaries was prevented at the same time the modest decreases were made. (Appendix E)

Section 3: Agency and Officer Information

Key Project Team Members:

Officer Mark Hazel, Neighborhood Team Leader

Sergeant Richard Losenbeck, Neighborhood Team Leader

Lieutenant Jeffrey Devlin, Training Unit

Rob T. Guerette, PhD, Florida International University

Project Contact Person:

Interim Chief of Police Tomas Sanchez

Hollywood Police Department

3250 Hollywood Blvd

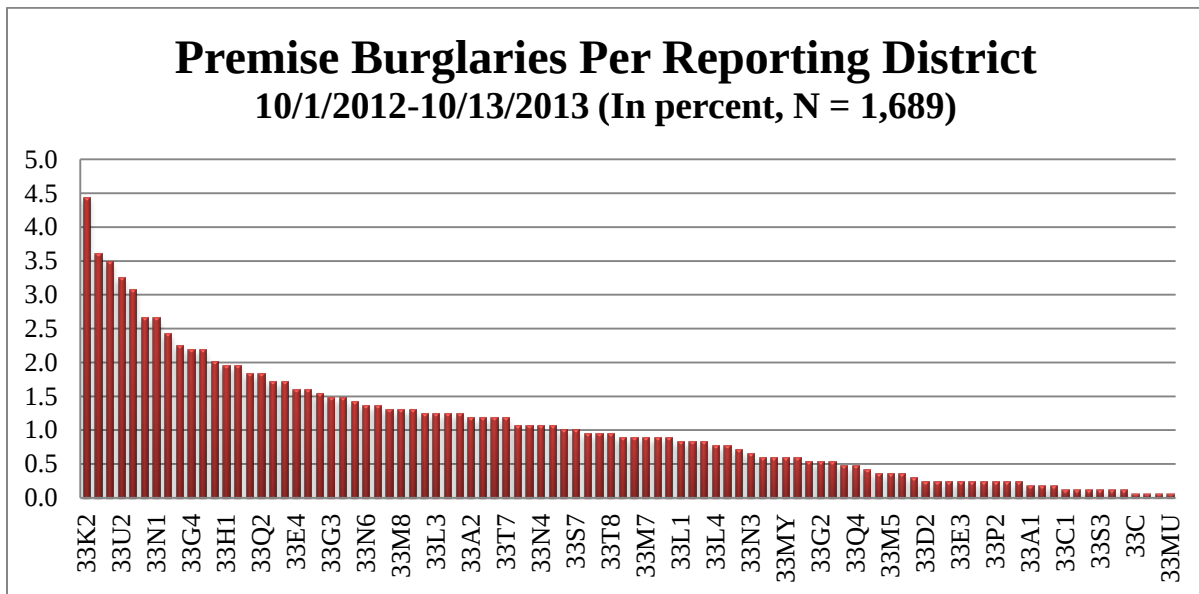
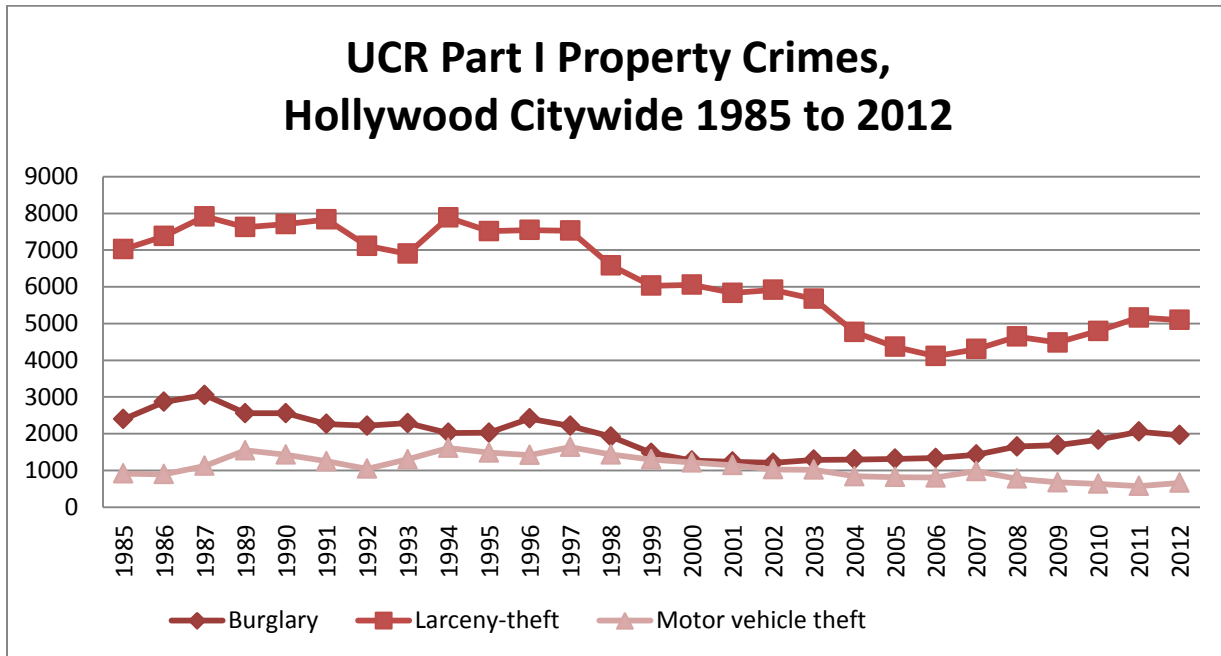
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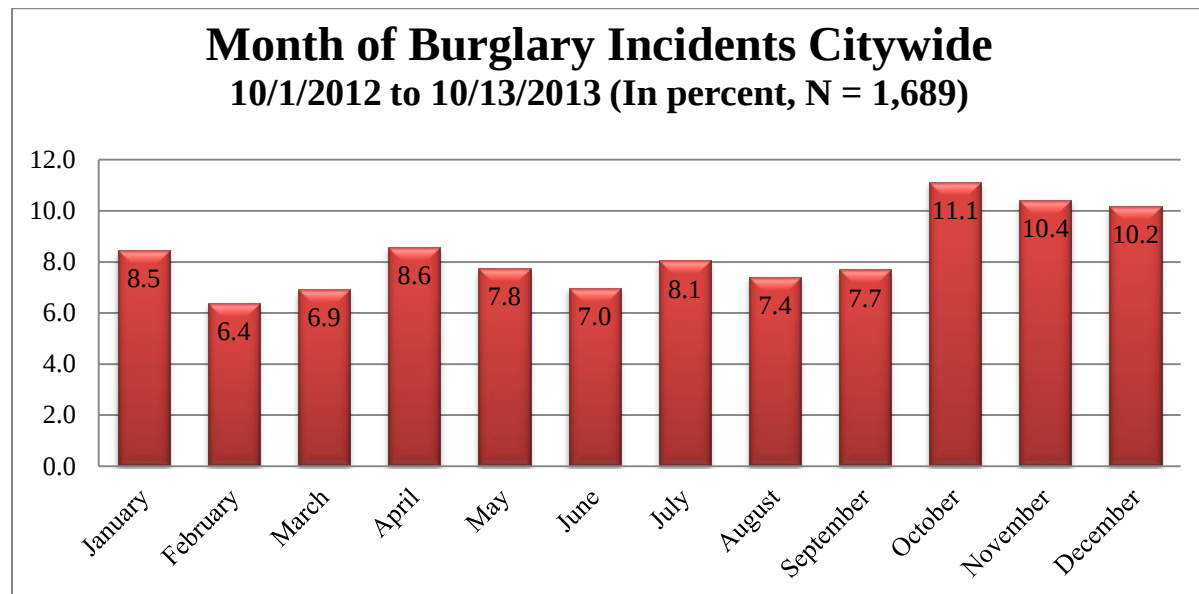
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Section 4: Appendices

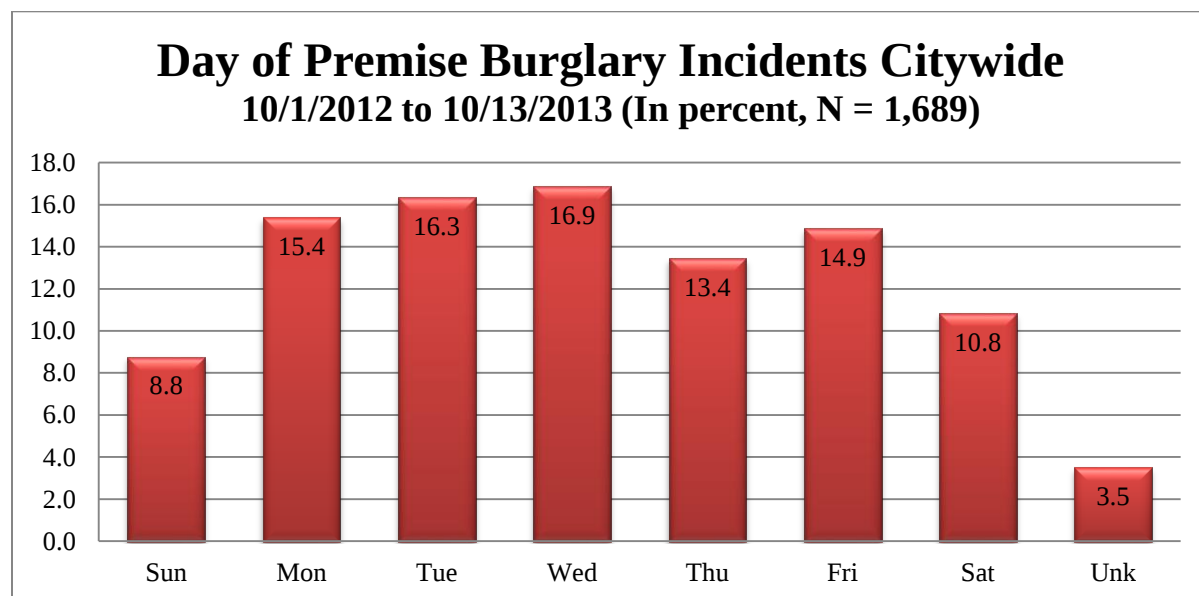
Appendix A from page 6: Historical Data from FBI UCR



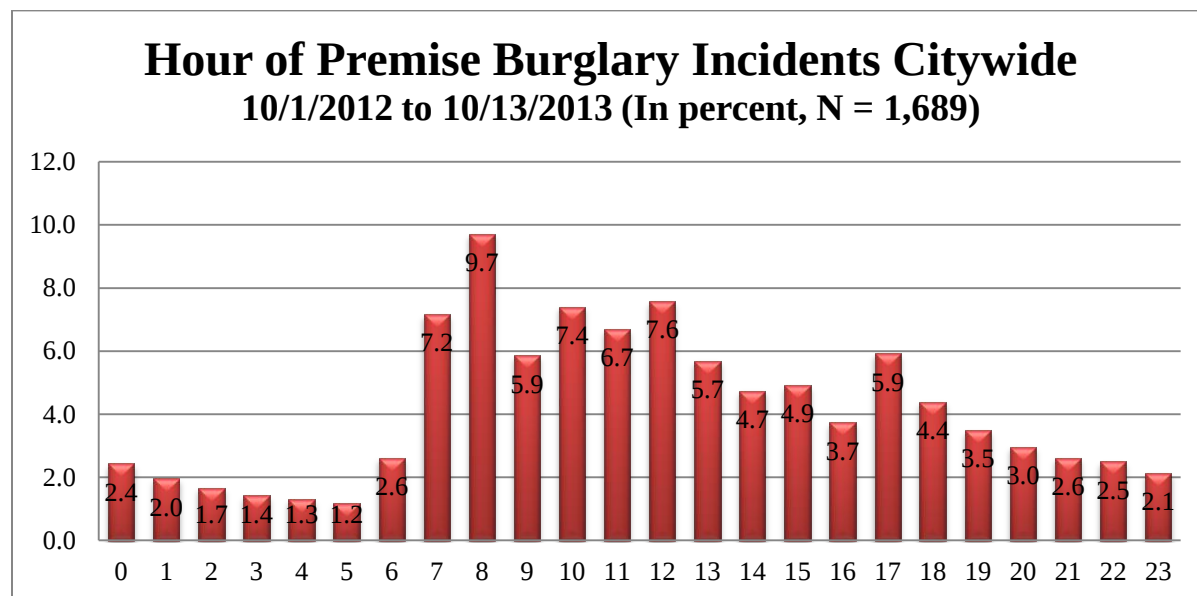
Appendix B from page 7: Time and Day of Occurrences



Data Source: Hollywood Police Department RMS System.



Data Source: Hollywood Police Department RMS System.



Data Source: Hollywood Police Department RMS System.

Appendix C from page 8: Offender Profile

Characteristics of Apprehended Hollywood Burglary Offenders, Citywide 2013 (N = 250)	
Characteristic	Frequency (%)
Last Known City Address	
Hollywood	115 (46)
Hallandale Beach	19 (8)
Fort Lauderdale	18 (7)
Pembroke Pines	16 (6)
Miami	14 (6)
West Park	10 (4)
Dania Beach	8 (3)
Miramar	8 (3)
Davie	5 (2)
Plantation	5 (2)
Tamarac	5 (2)
Other	27 (11)
Gender	
Male	229 (92)
Female	21 (8)
Race	
White	113 (45)
Black	137 (55)
Age	
Mean	26
Standard Deviation	11.5
Height	
Most common range	5'6" to 5'11" (64)
Weight	
Mean	165
Standard Deviation	53
*According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) the average height of U.S. females and males is 5'4" and 5'9", respectively. **According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) the average weight of U.S. females and males is 166lbs and 195lbs, respectively.	

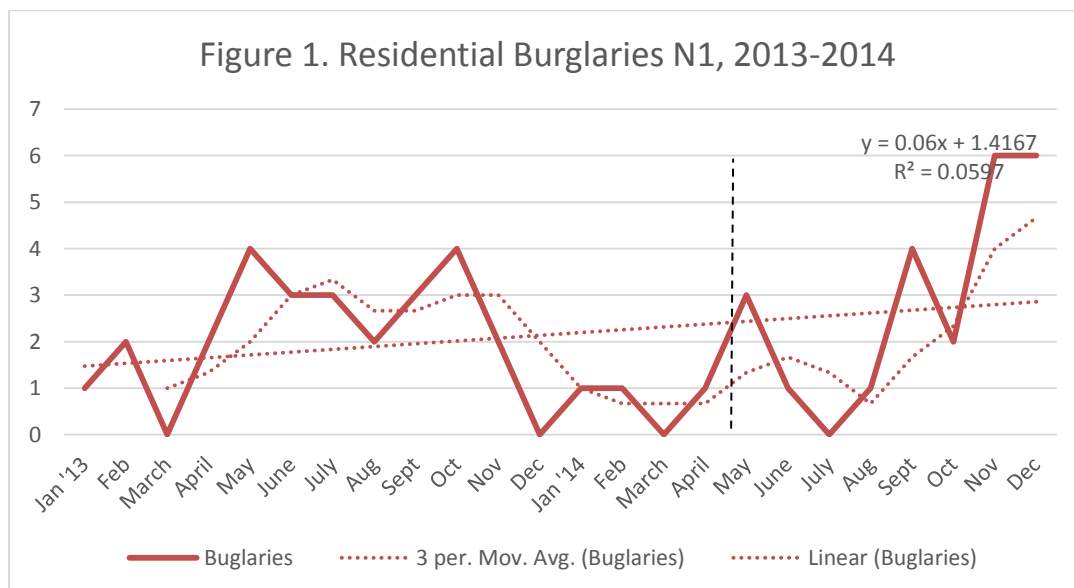
Appendix D from page 9: Response Formulation

Burglary Analysis Summary of Key Findings and Response Formulation			
	Places	Victims	Offenders
Problem Synopsis	Single family residential areas with no garages. Most entries through side or rear, concealed by solid fencing. Most burglaries occur during working hours, Mon.-Fri. All problem areas are located adjacent to arterial roadways. - N1 target area has alleyways which facilitate entry/egress. - T6 temporal pattern and location suggests tied to area high school. - U2 may be tied to local drug markets. Pawn shops nearby.	All target areas had repeat victim addresses. Victim homes were easily identified as having no one home due to no garages and no vehicles present. Some victim homes appeared unkempt, while others appeared maintained. Victim homes commonly had concealed entry points in the rear or side due to solid wood fencing or high shrubs.	Offenders are mostly young (average age 26), males of average height (5'6 to 5'11), and below average weight (165lbs). Race is about proportionate being both white and black. There are currently several prior offenders under supervision residing in or near the target areas.
Response Strategy	• Close, control, or monitor access to alley ways. • Promote use of see through fencing. • Establish formal neighborhood watch with police oversight. • Hold community progress meetings. • Position temporary "Be Aware" Burglary zone signs on arterial roads at target zones.	• Implement victim specific security surveys. • Implement "cocooning" program to alert nearby residents of burglary victimizations to include specific security recommendations. • Facilitate target hardening. • Implement property marking campaign. Strategic use of crime watch alerts.	• Implement systematic process to monitor Microsoft and Apple registration network. • Form police-probation partnership program to monitor active property and drug offenders following area burglaries. • Implement systematic search, "knock & talk" protocol of likely offenders (Requires developing list of likely offenders based on above profile).

Appendix E from page 16: Impact Assessment

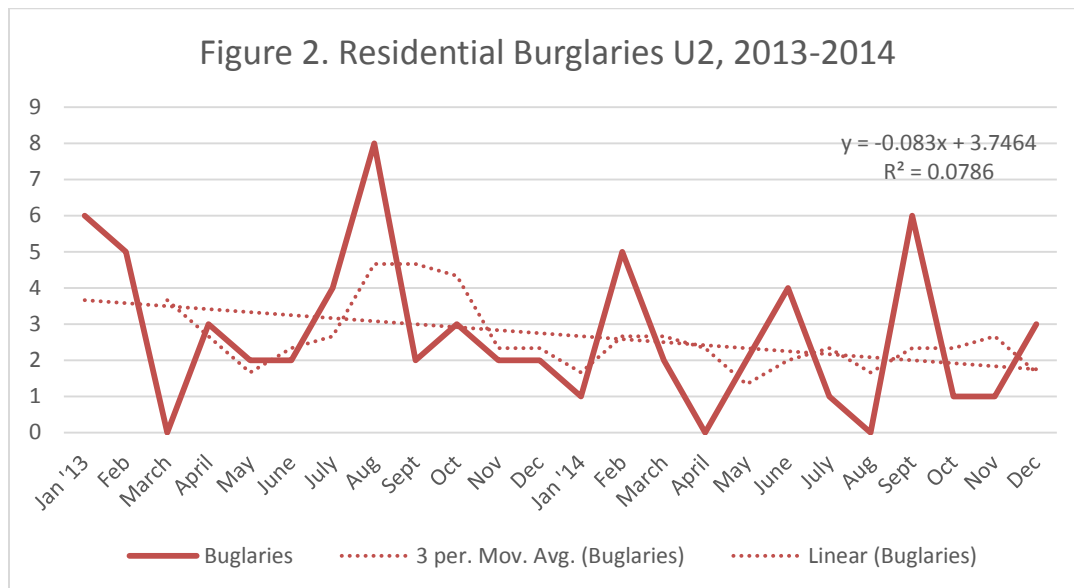
Table 1. Burglaries in Hollywood Target and Comparison Areas 2013 to 2014			
Reporting Area	2013	2014	Difference (% Change)
Target Areas			
N1	26	26	0 (0)
U2	39	26	-13 (34%)
T6	37	36	-1 (3%)
Comparison Areas			
P4	29	41	+12 (41%)
S6	26	32	+6 (23%)
Q2	16	22	+6 (38%)

Data Source: Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit.

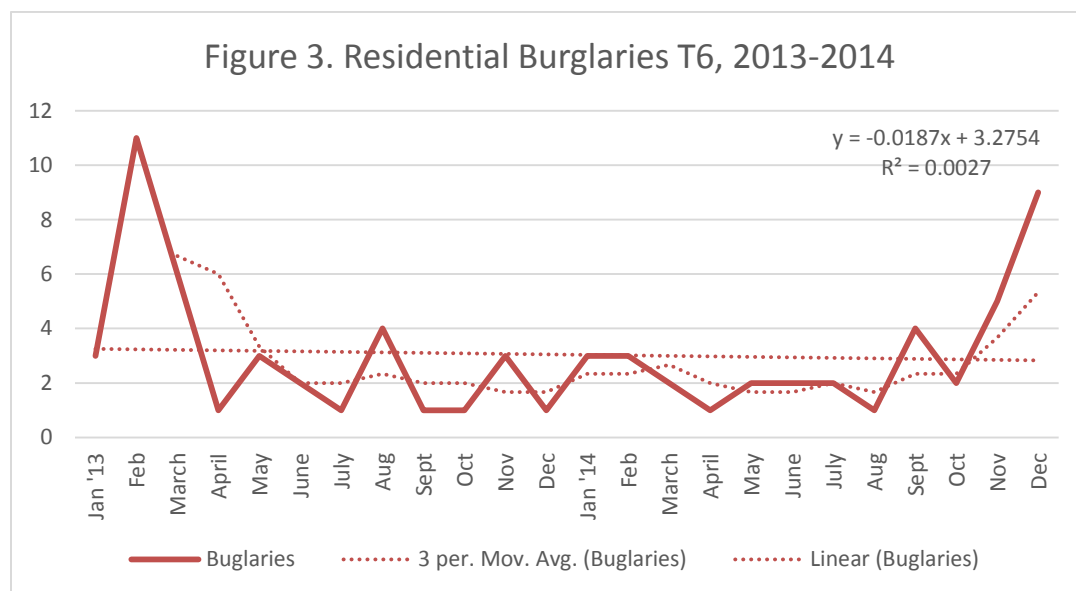


Data Source: Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit.

Hollywood Police Department West District Burglary Reduction Initiative



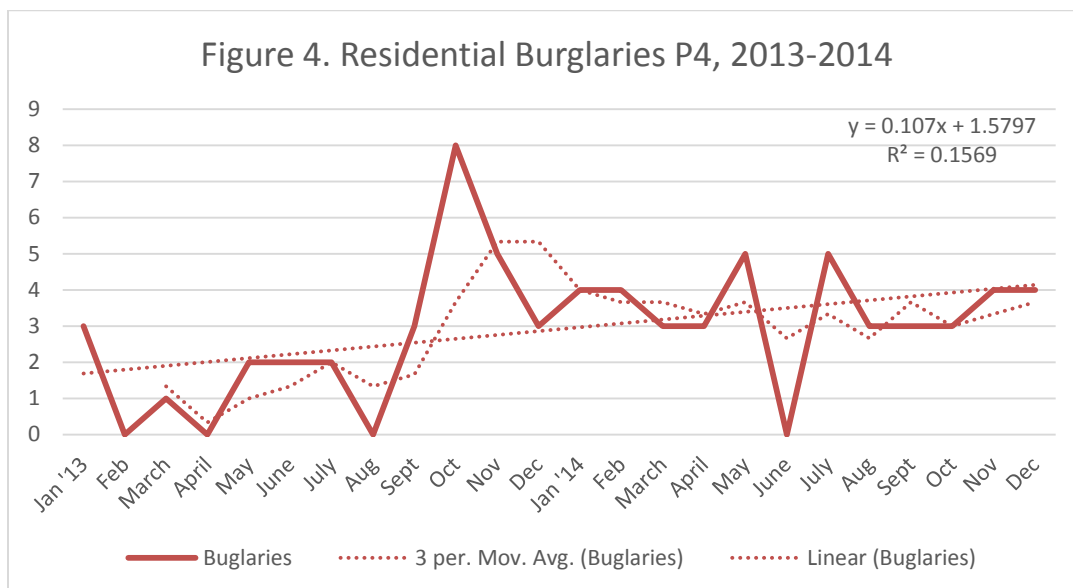
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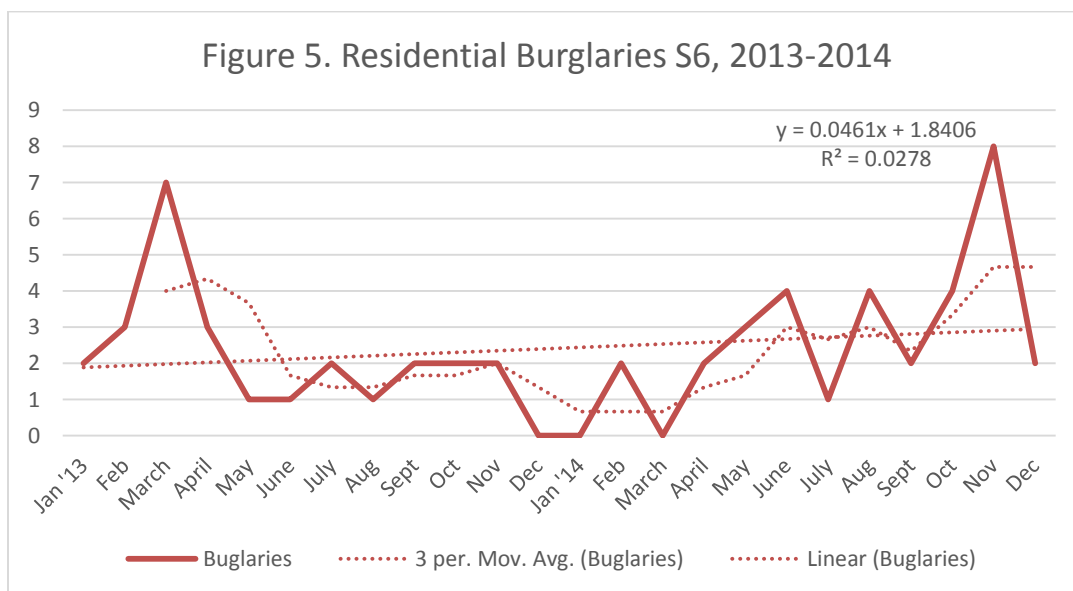
Data Source: Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit.

Hollywood Police Department West District Burglary Reduction Initiative

Comparison Areas:

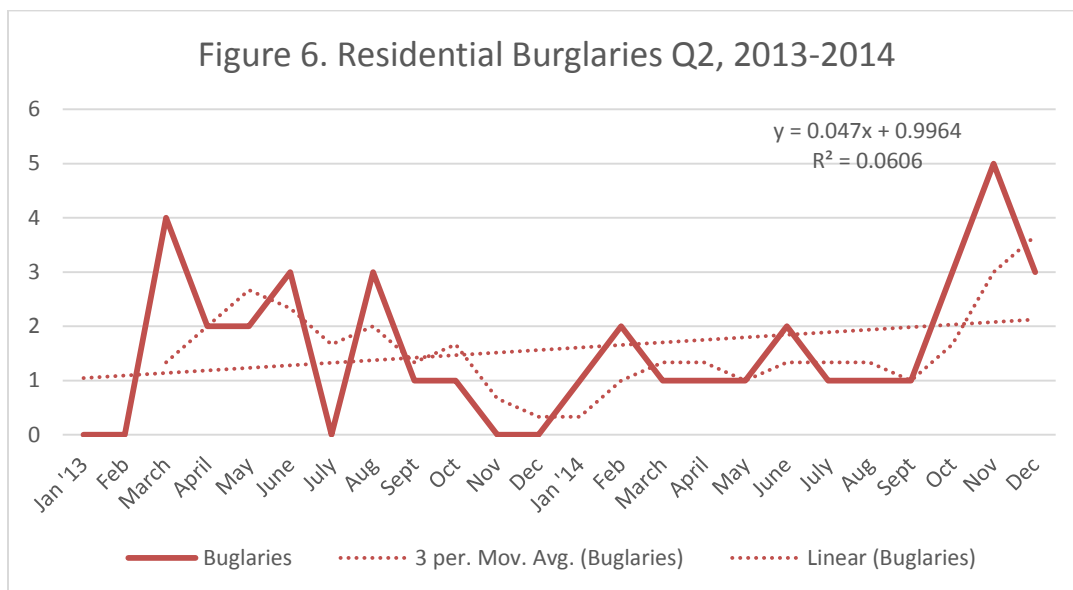


Data Source: Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit.



Data Source: Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit.

Hollywood Police Department
West District Burglary Reduction Initiative



Data Source: Hollywood Police Department Crime Intelligence Unit.