Community Safe Zone Project

“Drug Related Violence: Trafficking a New Plan”

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410-396-2363
Culture of Violence

Baltimore City

Understanding the Underlying Culture of Violence

• Since 1970 there has been 9,580 homicides in Baltimore City.

• In the last 10 years alone there has been 2,846 homicides in the Baltimore City (Averaging 285 murders per year).

• Major misconception is that all of these homicides are a direct result of the drug trade.

Many shootings and homicides are a pattern of escalation that often starts with a single small event.
Culture of Violence is reinforced through graffiti and memorials.
Gang Memorials – 1500 Gilmor
Gangs have become a powerful influence in neighborhoods.
Culture of Violence - Gangs

Homicide Victim 2002
Culture of Violence - Gangs

Same Victim Memorialized in Neighborhood
• Historically, the majority of violence is concentrated in two police districts: Eastern and Western District.

• In the last 10 years alone there has been 458 homicides in the Western District (Averaging 46 murders per year).
• Western District is approximately 4 square miles comprised of single row type homes.
Community Safe Zone Project

• Was implemented in 2005 as a pilot program in the Western District

• The primary goal was to create an innovated strategy to stabilize neighborhoods experiencing patterns of violence and to change the culture of violence.
Safe Zone Project – Implementation

Safe Zone Project Elements

• Redirection of Non-Residential Traffic Patterns

• Coordination of Targeted City Resources

• Coordination and Deployment of Social Service Outreach Teams

• Organization Police Sponsored Community Events

• Implementation of Violence Intervention Program for “High Risk” Juveniles
Re-Direction of Traffic Patterns

• The Safe Zone Neighborhoods were selected based on significant patterns of violence.

• Non-residential traffic was redirected out of a 10 square block area through the use of traffic control devices for a continuous 4 week period.

• Uniformed Community Relations Officers were assigned within the zones and conducted door-to-door outreach with residents. *Approximately 3 officers were in the zone at all times.*

• Each Safe Zone Area was approximately 10 square blocks contained about 500 residential homes.
Re-Direction of Traffic Patterns

- 2 Shooting / 1 Homicide 5/11
- Homicide 5/7
- Shooting 4/1
- Homicide 5/27
- Shooting 5/7
- Fatal Hit and Run 5/2
- Homicide 3/25
Re-Direction of Traffic Patterns

- Shooting 6/13
- Homicide 4/11
- Shooting 5/19
- Shooting 4/29
- Shooting 4/24
- Homicide 6/7
- Homicide 2/12
- Homicide 3/14
- Homicide 4/11

Locations with red stars:

- Shooting 3/29
- Shooting 4/24
- Shooting 4/13
- Homicide 6/7
- Homicide 4/11

Map showing areas with incidents and re-direction of traffic patterns.
Officer Sloan walks door-to-door in Safe Zone Neighborhood.

Officer Kiah redirects non-residential traffic out of Safe Zone Neighborhood.
Over the course of the 4 week deployment period City Resources were coordinated into the Safe Zone. This coordination of City resources focused efforts on improving the quality of life among residents through physical improvements. These physical improvements included:

- Removal of all Trash and Debris from Streets and Alleyways
- Boarding and Securing of all Vacant Dwellings
- Removal of all Graffiti
- Repair of all Street Lighting
- Removal of all Gang Monikers from Trees and Poles
- General Repair of Streets and Alleyways
- Installation of Overt Police Camera Systems (PODSS)
Coordination of City Resources

Before
Coordination of City Resources

After
Coordination of City Resources

Overt Police Camera System
Coordination of City Resources
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Street Closure: 1400 to 2200 hours

Kick Off: 1900 to 0300

Youth Night: 1900 to 0300

Street Closure: 1400 to 2200 hours

Health Fair: 1900 to 0300

Coordination of City Resources
Coordination of Social Outreach Teams

Governmental

Baltimore City Department of Social Services
Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office
Department of Parole and Probation
Baltimore/Washington HIDTA
Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods
Baltimore Police Department
Mayor’s Office of Employment Development
  – YOUTH OPPORTUNITY!
  – Reentry Center
Commission on Aging and Retirement Education
Recreation and Parks
Housing Code Enforcement
Baltimore Fire Department
Housing Community Action Centers
Department of Transportation

Baltimore City Health Department
- Field Health
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Baltimore Healthcare Access
- Baltimore Mental Health Systems
- Women, Infants, Children
- Child Health and Immunization
- Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems
- SHARP Project
### Coordination of Social Outreach Teams

**Private / Non Profit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big Brothers Big Sisters</th>
<th>Caroline Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family League</td>
<td>Learning Bank of COIL</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Our Shoulders</td>
<td>S. Baltimore Learning Ctr</td>
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<td>Kennedy Krieger</td>
<td>KAGRO MD</td>
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<td>Family Health Centers</td>
<td>St. Bernadine’s Head Start</td>
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<td>Narcotics Anonymous</td>
<td>Banner Neighborhoods</td>
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<td>United Healthcare</td>
<td>HARBEL, Inc.</td>
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<td>East Baltimore Medical Center</td>
<td>Brooklyn/Curtis Bay Coal.</td>
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<td>Caroline Center</td>
<td>Belair Edison/Main Streets</td>
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<td>Goodwill of the Chesapeake</td>
<td>Community Conferencing</td>
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<td>Churches in Action</td>
<td>NAFI</td>
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<td>Shock Trauma: VIP</td>
<td>UM Cancer Program</td>
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<td>Chesapeake Center for Youth Development</td>
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Social Service Outreach

Informational Booths within Safe Zone Neighborhood.
Social Service Outreach

Informational Booth
Social Service Outreach
Police Sponsored Community Events

• During the 4 Week Safe Zone Period the Police Department sponsored large community events: Youth Night, Resource Day, and Health Fair.

• These events allow residents to interact with police officers in a non-traditional setting and generally were used to promote trust.

• Social Services Partners also participated in these community events.
Community Events

Police Commissioner Leonard Hamm and Reverend Ray
Adalius Thomas of Baltimore Ravens
Community Events

Derrick Mason of Baltimore Ravens
Community Events
Community Events
A different type of memorial.
During the Second Phase of the Safe Zone Project a Violence Intervention Program was initiated with juveniles on probation for drug related crimes.
Juvenile Offenders from Safe Zone Neighborhoods are mandated to participate in a 7 week Intervention Program coordinated by the Baltimore Police Department.

- Juveniles are assigned a Police Officer Mentor.

- Over the 7 weeks juveniles attend a series of session that focus on conflict resolution and goal development.
## Violence Intervention Program

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- **30 Jan**
  - Opening
  - 6 pm to 9 pm
- **5 Feb**
  - 6 pm to 9 pm
  - NAFI
- **12 Feb**
  - 6 pm to 9 pm
  - Shock Trauma
- **19 Feb**
  - 6 pm to 9 pm
  - Police
- **26 Feb**
  - 6 pm to 9 pm
  - Bereavement

- **31 Jan**
  - 1 Feb
- **1 Mar**
Week 1
Community Conferencing Part 1

Week 2
NAFI Team Building Program

Week 3
Shock Trauma Violence Intervention Program

Week 4
Police Orientation Program

Week 5
Bereavement Center Community Conferencing

Week 6
“Boys of Baraka” Charles Theatre

Week 7
Yo Baltimore Career Development Graduation
Program Partners

Baltimore Police Department
Department of Juvenile Justice
Shock Trauma Violence Intervention Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Mayor’s Office of Employment – Yo Baltimore
Family League
Safe and Sound
North America Family Institute
Community Conferencing Center
State’s Attorney’s Office
Analysis of Results

- During the 2005 Pilot Program, 5 Safe Zone Areas were implemented in the Western District. Deployment in each zone lasted 4 weeks.

- Analysis of violent crime demonstrates that after implementation, homicide and shooting incidents decreased by 86%. (Comparing 6 months before and after implementation).
## Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safe Zone Location</th>
<th>Violence Recorded 6 Months Prior to Implementation</th>
<th>Date of Implementation 4 Week Project</th>
<th>Violence Recorded 6 Months After Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Druid Hill at Whitelock</td>
<td>1 Shooting</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>0 Shootings 0 Homicides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calhoun-Baker-Stricker</td>
<td>5 Shootings 3 Homicides</td>
<td>May 12 (5 Weeks)</td>
<td>1 Homicide (inside)</td>
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<td>Walbrook at Payson</td>
<td>5 Shootings 2 Homicides</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>1 Shooting 1 Homicide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westwood at McKean</td>
<td>4 Shootings 3 Homicides</td>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>1 Homicide</td>
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<td>Penrose at Payson</td>
<td>5 Shootings 1 Homicide</td>
<td>October 17</td>
<td>0 Shootings 0 Homicides</td>
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<td><strong>29 Total Victims</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4 Total Victims</strong></td>
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Other Results

• All the vacant dwellings were properly boarded.
• All the streets and alleyways were cleaned.
• All the street lighting was restored.
• All graffiti was removed.
• The number of “Crime Watchers” significantly increased.
• Three of the neighborhoods established “Citizens on Patrol” groups.
• Countless residents were referred to and enrolled in social service programs such as: Addiction Treatment, Child Immunizations, Job Training, Parental Counseling, Lead Paint Testing, Juvenile Mentoring, etc.
• All the neighborhoods established regular monthly community meetings.
• These meeting are held in partnership with the police department.
• All the juveniles enrolled in the Intervention Program returned to school and enrolled in the City’s Summer Job Program.
In 2006, The Community Safe Zone Project was implemented city-wide. We are currently on pace to implemented Safe Zone Projects in 25 different neighborhoods by the end of the year.

Baltimore is currently experiencing a 6% reduction in violent crime for the 2006 calendar year.