Understanding Crime-Place Networks

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27th Annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference
October 2-4, 2017
Houston, Texas

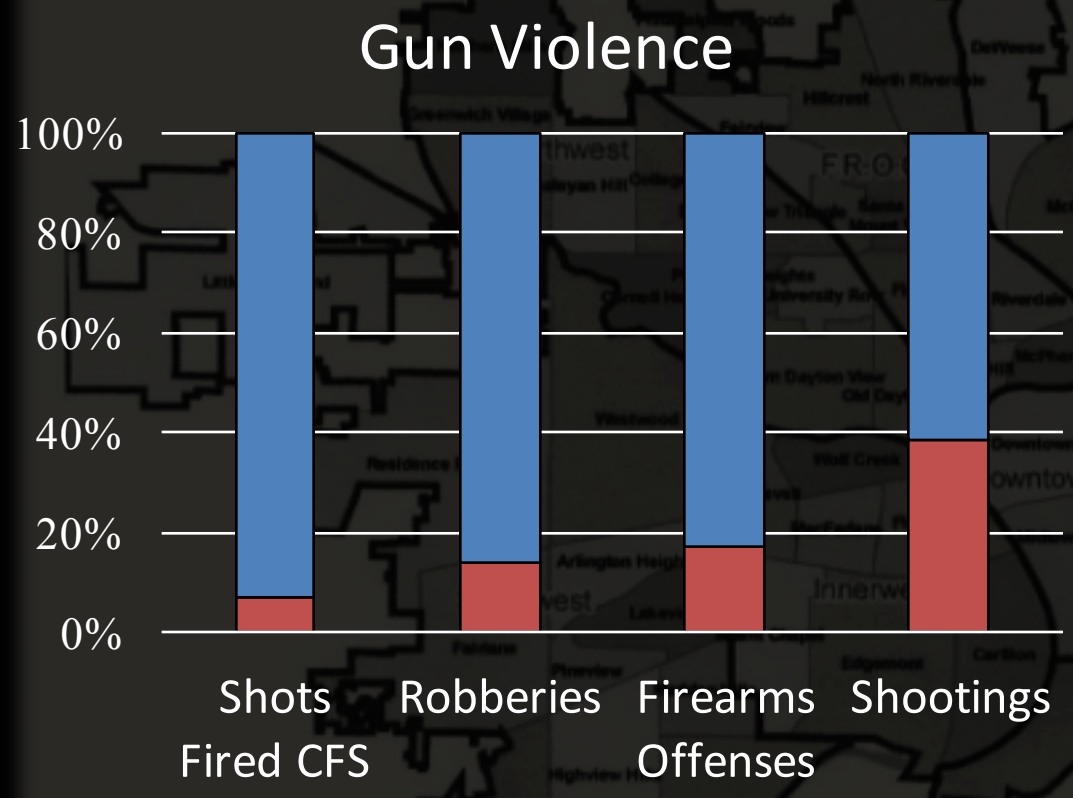
Crime-Place
Theory and Research

Research Evidence that Supports Violent Network Investigations

- Crime is concentrated across places, offenders, victims
  - 80-20 Rule
- Offenders, victims, and crime places are networked.
- Persistent crime hotspots result from overlapping networks.
- Most violent crime, across any city, occurs in small, identifiable micro-locations.

Violence Concentration in Dayton

1.3% of Dayton's total land mass (<0.7 sq mi)*:



- **7.1%** of shots fired calls-for-service
- **13.9%** of robberies
- **17.2%** of firearms offenses
- **38.6%** of shootings

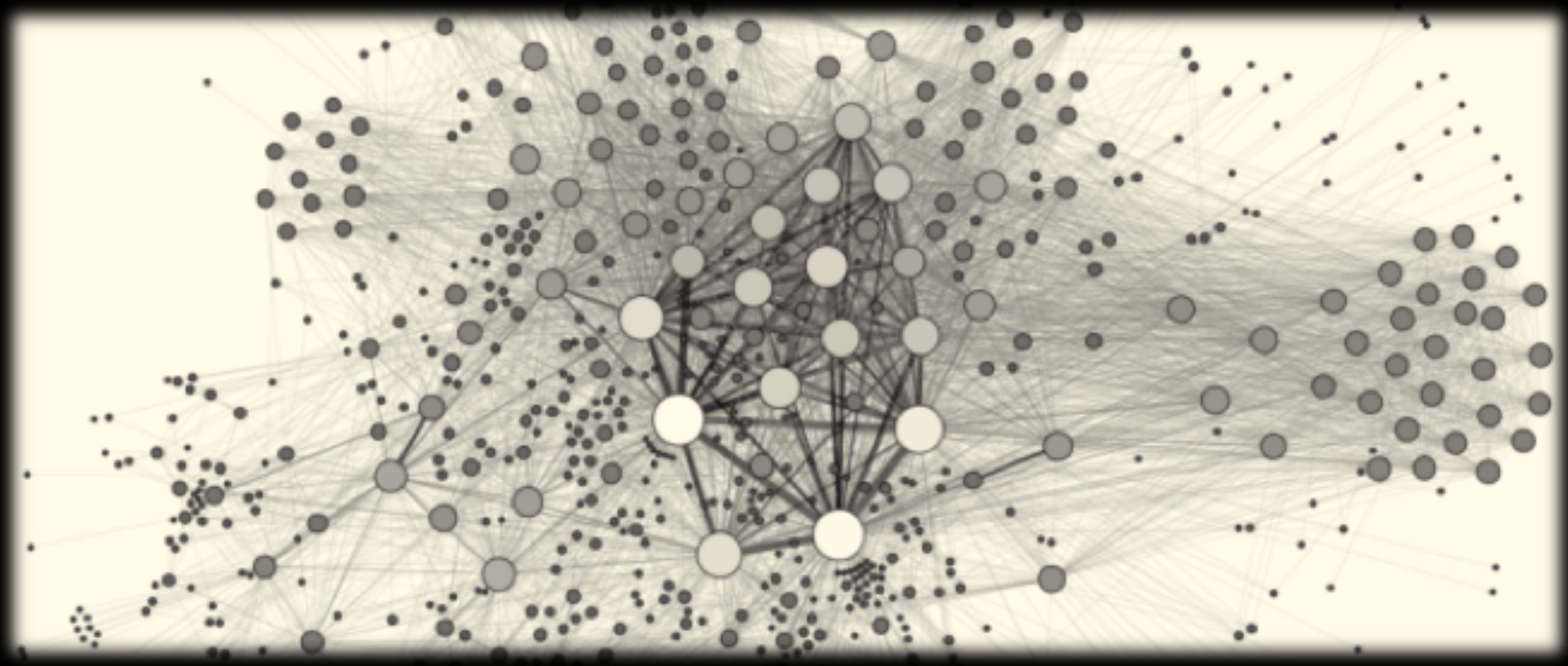
*Excludes airport land use

Crime Place Networks

What are they and how are they used?

Violent Network Investigations

- Place networks create criminogenic infrastructures that support violent activity



Organization of Violent Place Networks

Crime Places
(Madensen & Eck, 2013)

Proprietary Places
(single address)

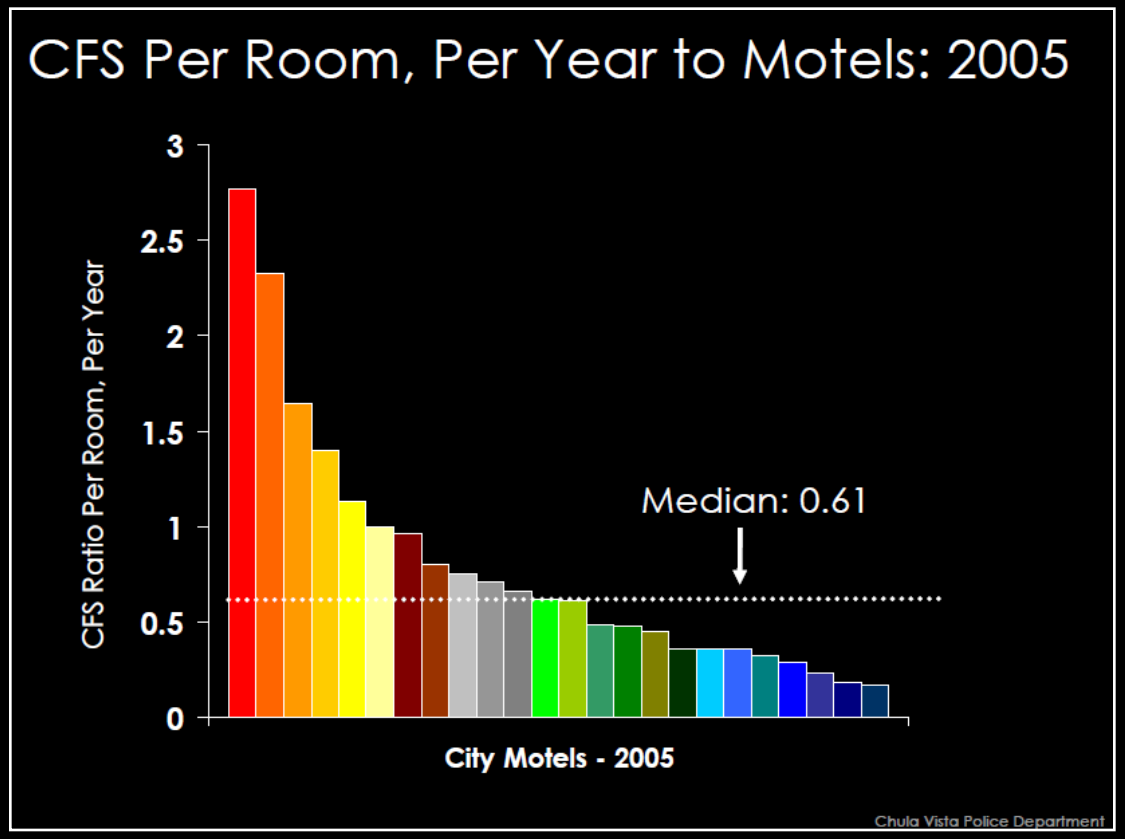
- **Crime Sites** -- micro-places where crime occurs
- **Convergent Settings** -- routine public meeting places (Felson 2003)
- **Comfort Spaces** -- offender created private staging and lounging locations (Hammer 2011)
  - **Meeting**
  - **Supplying**
  - **Staging**
- **Corrupting Spots** -- crime places that create crime at other places (Madensen & Eck, 2013)

Proximal Places
(places that influence each other through close spatial proximity)

Pooled Places
(large aggregate areas - e.g., neighborhoods)

Crime Sites

- **Repeat addresses** – concentrations of crime at particular locations
  - Shows up on crime maps



- **Risky facilities** – the distribution of crime within a set (specific type) of proprietary places.

Convergent Settings

- Public places that facilitate the meeting of potential offenders
  - Offenders have limited control or privacy
  - Used mostly by non-offenders (offenders hide behind legitimate activities)

Comfort Spaces

- Private places, controlled by offenders, used to carry out criminal activity
  - Staging – close to crime site/observation with little risk of apprehension
  - Supplying – stash location of stolen goods or illicit supplies
  - Meeting – socialize, plan, party

Corrupting Spots

- Support transactions that facilitate crime elsewhere
  - Initial crimes occur in other locations
  - Consensual crimes (money laundering, buying stolen property)

Cincinnati recycling owner arrested on six charges of failing to keep records.

http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20100419/NEWS010701/4200357/Cincinnati-police-busting-scrap-dealers

Crime-Place Networks

In Action

Crime Places and Copper Theft

Crime Sites →

Copper condensing air-conditioning units

Light/telephone poles & power stations

Vacant/foreclosed properties

Churches

Crime Places and Copper Theft

What we see

What we don't see

Crime Sites

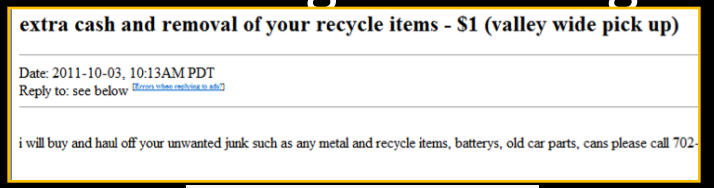
Comfort Space

Staging location
where offenders park & meet close to crime sites

Corrupting Spot

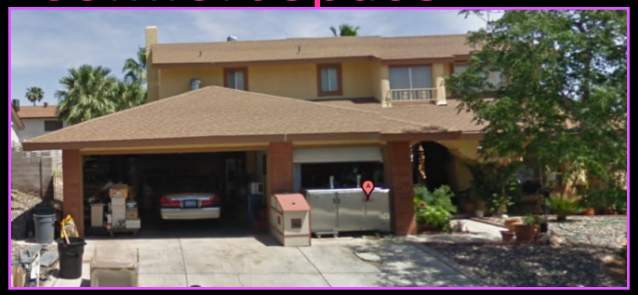
Recycling Plant

Convergent Setting



craigslist

Comfort Space



Supplying location
where metal is stored

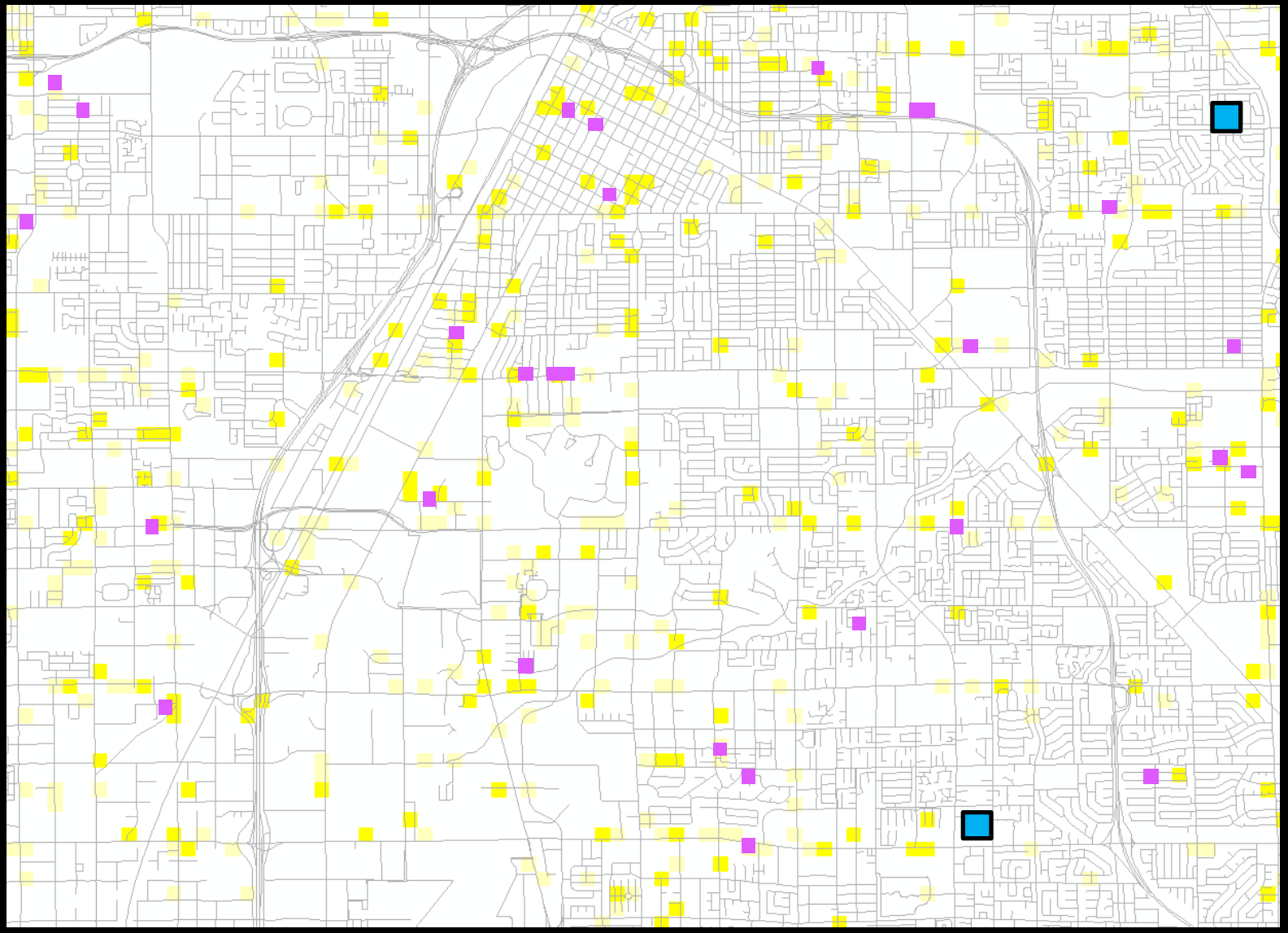
Proprietary Places: Different Roles in the Crime Process

	Long Before	Just Before	During	After
Crime Site			X	
Convergent Setting	X	X		X
Comfort Space	X	X		X
Meeting	X	X		X
Supplying	X	X		X
Staging		X		
Corrupting Spot	X			X

If we focus solely on crime sites,
we ignore other stages and facilitators of the crime process.

Crime Hotspot Map

Crime Sites Comfort Spaces Convergent Settings Corrupting Spots

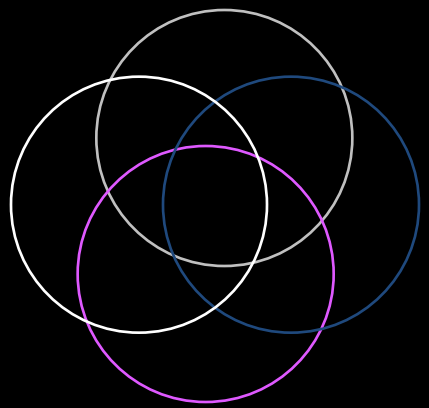


Single virtual location

Mixed Use Places

(e.g., a drug dealing site outside a corner store)

- Crime Site – repeat dealing and assaults
- Convergent Setting – gathering spot for youth
- Comfort Space – hangout at back of store
- Corrupting Spot – prompts street robberies nearby



Crime Place Networks

2+ connected proprietary places that are:

- Created/used by a single criminal group
- Clustered around an illicit market
  - Multiple offenders/offender groups
- Created by a single owner
- Clustered in a single neighborhood or linked through networked offenders
  - Even nationally or internationally

Crime-Place Networks

Investigation Examples

Place-Based Investigation Example

Poinciana Apartments

3522 Reading Road

Afghanistan Gang Territory

Forest Ave

Reading Rd

Lexington Ave

Hutchins Ave

Rockdale Ave

3522 Reading Rd

Avondale Branch Library

Mann Pl

Lee Pl

Glenwood Ave

Van Antwerp Pl

City Trends

Burger King

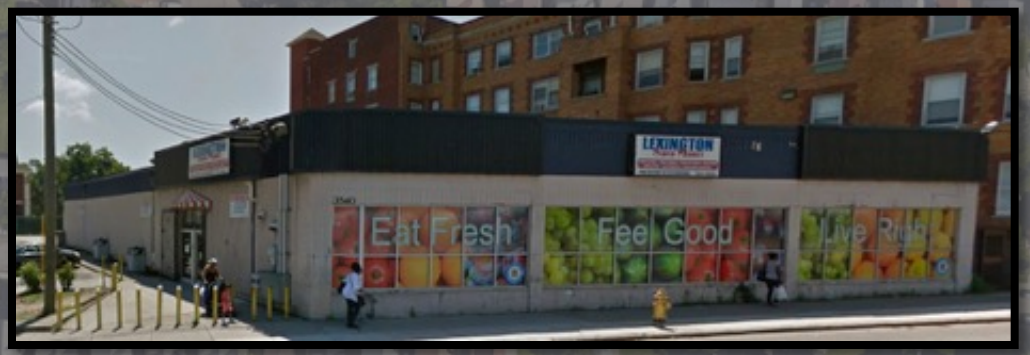
Windham Ave

Woodward Park

Place Network Investigation

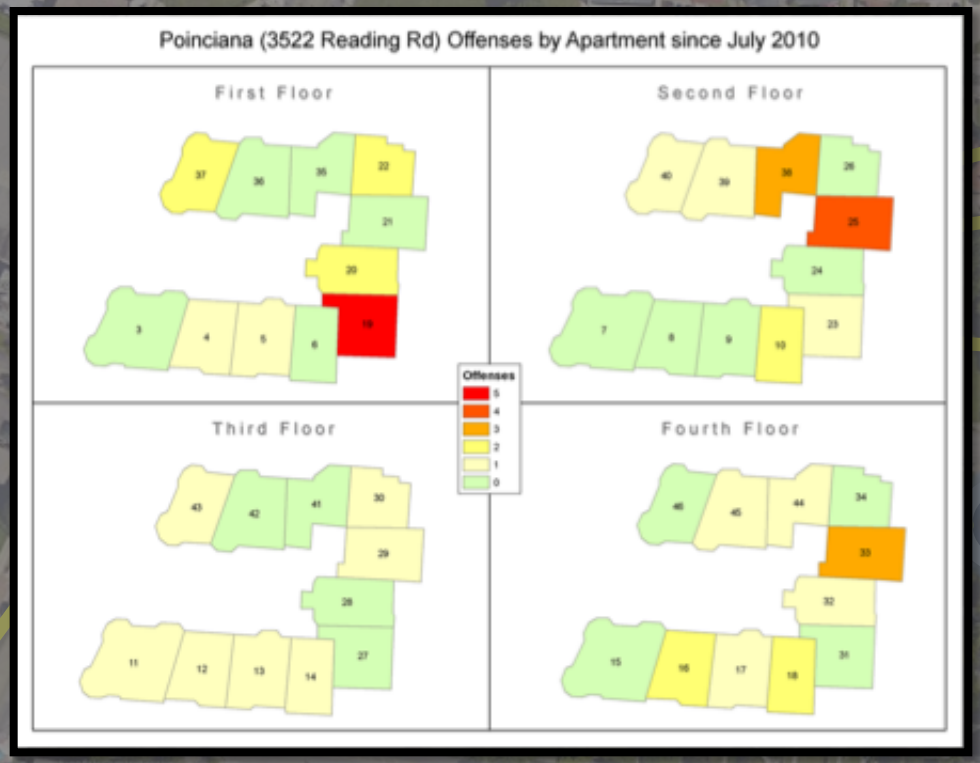
- Crime Site – Most violent proprietary location in Avondale neighborhood

Place Network Investigation



- Crime Site – Most violent proprietary location in Avondale neighborhood
- Convergent Settings – Lincoln Statue, Lexington Supermarket

Place Network Investigation



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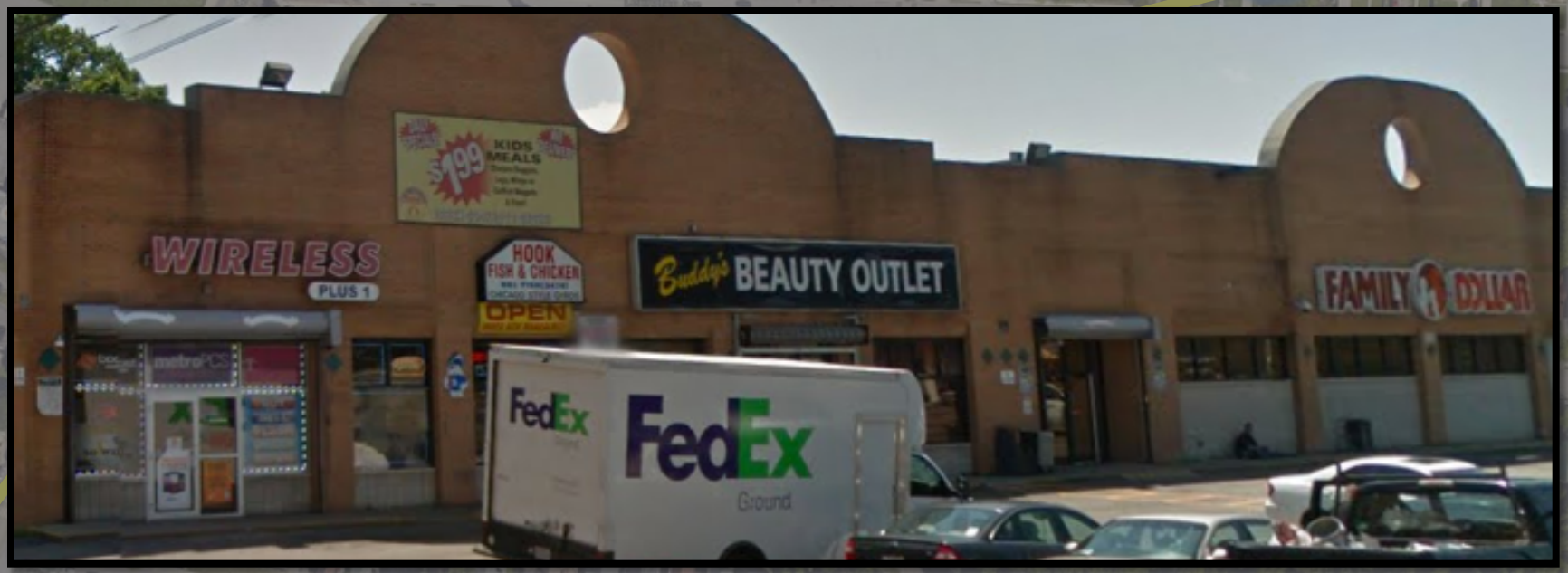
Place Network Investigation



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- Corrupting Spots – Nearby businesses (some facilitators)

Place Network Investigation

Crime Site – Most violent proprietary location in Avondale neighborhood

Convergent Settings – Lincoln Statue, Lexington Supermarket

Comfort Spaces – Specific apt. units, Nearby residences

Corrupting Spots – Nearby businesses (some facilitators)

Investigative Techniques

Intelligence

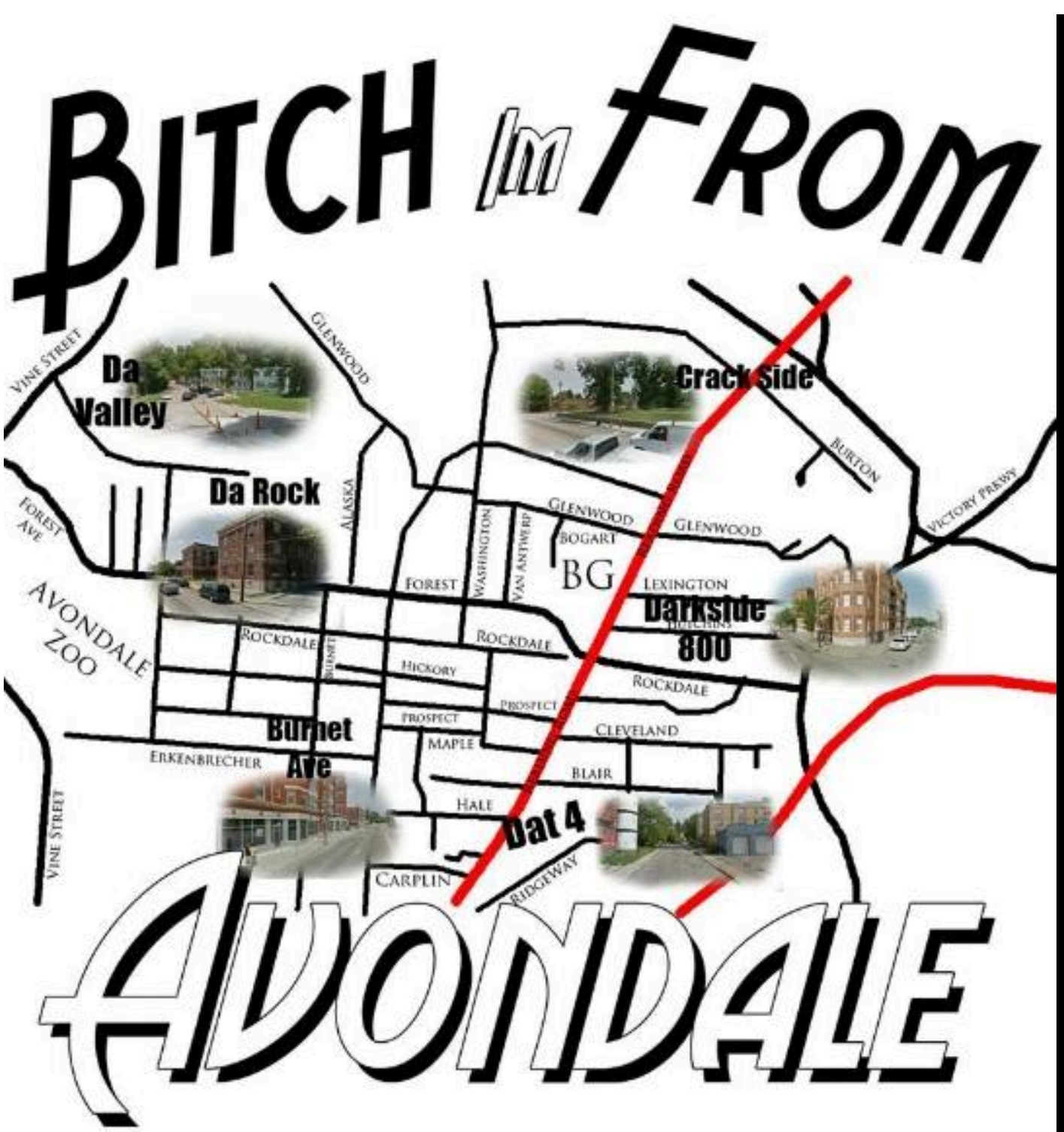
- Conduct intelligence briefings with beat officers, detectives, specialized units (e.g., violent crime, gang, vice, homicide), crime analysts, all city departments, and community members, including community service personnel (e.g., postal service), to identify key players and places involved in possible network activities.
- Gather intelligence from municipal, state, and federal databases on historical place violations and ownership connections among places.

Surveillance

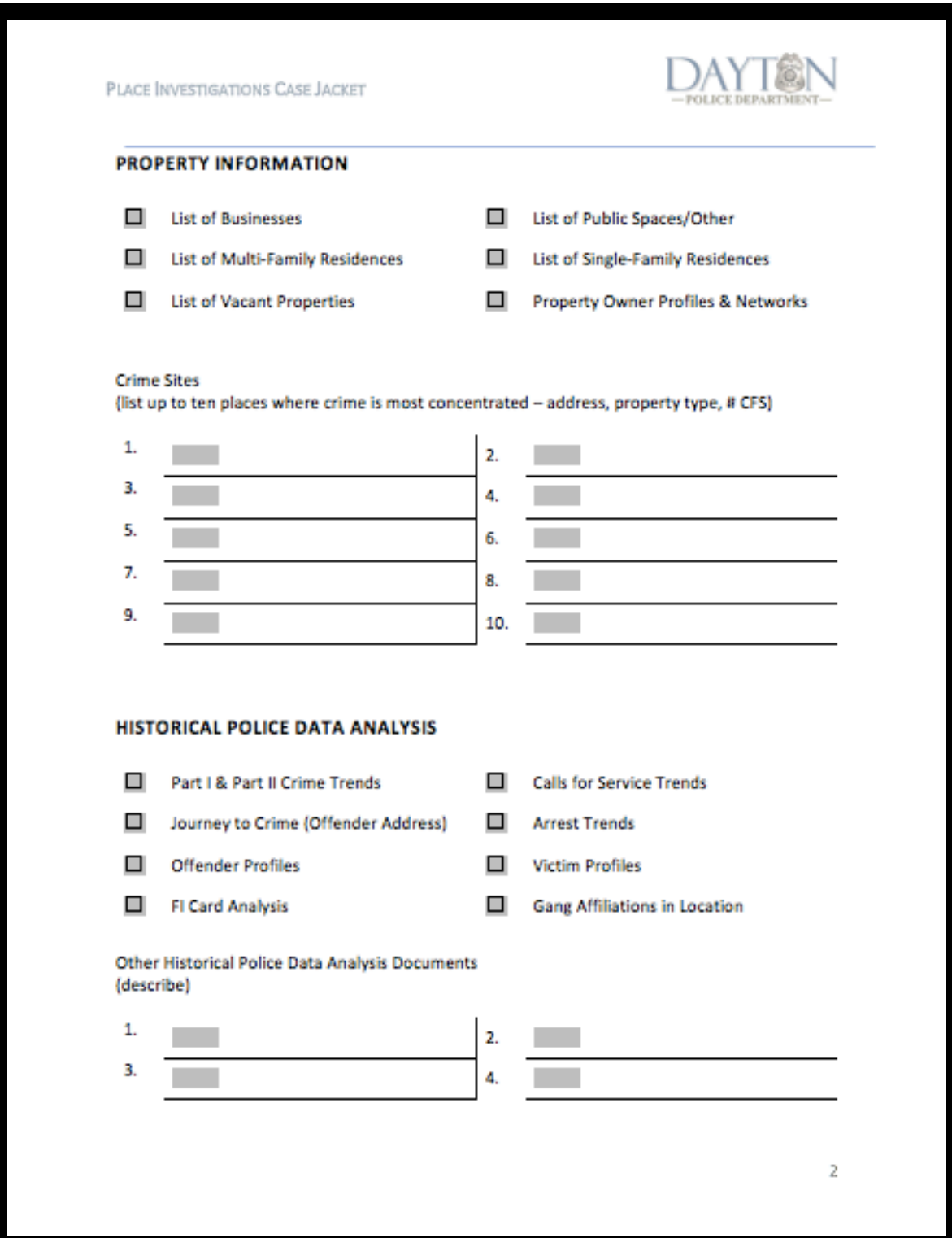
- Video and photograph the initial and changing physical characteristics and social dynamics of key places.
- Conduct ongoing surveillance of place and offender activities (e.g., temporary surveillance cameras, undercover officers).

Sources of Information and Confidential Informants

- Develop internal and external confidential informants to investigate place activities (e.g., security personnel, management personnel, labor contractors, existing CIs).
- Train confidential informants to gather place-based intelligence (e.g., manager involvement/knowledge of illicit activities, offender movement among places).



Social Media



PLACE INVESTIGATIONS CASE JACKET

DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PROPERTY INFORMATION

- ☐ List of Businesses
- ☐ List of Public Spaces/Other
- ☐ List of Multi-Family Residences
- ☐ List of Single-Family Residences
- ☐ List of Vacant Properties
- ☐ Property Owner Profiles & Networks

Crime Sites
(list up to ten places where crime is most concentrated – address, property type, # CFS)

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

HISTORICAL POLICE DATA ANALYSIS

- ☐ Part I & Part II Crime Trends
- ☐ Calls for Service Trends
- ☐ Journey to Crime (Offender Address)
- ☐ Arrest Trends
- ☐ Offender Profiles
- ☐ Victim Profiles
- ☐ FI Card Analysis
- ☐ Gang Affiliations in Location

Other Historical Police Data Analysis Documents
(describe)

1.	2.
3.	4.

2

- Place investigation checklist
  - Location/Personnel
  - Property Info
  - Historical Data
  - Police Intel
  - Community Intel
  - City Intel
  - County/State/Fed Intel

Dayton, Ohio

Richard Biehl
Director and Chief of Police

DAYTON

DAYTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT

PLACE BASED LOCATIONS

DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Place Based Target Locations:

East Patrol Operations Division

- ***Within the East side of Dayton, there's a major thoroughfare with commercial and residential structures with a history of firearm and drug related crimes.***
- ***These two (2) locations, accounted for the majority of firearm crimes being committed, with a tenth of a mile, in diameter, buffer.***
- ***Bob's Beer & Wine has had undercover operations conducted, with further investigation and analysis pending.***
- ***There are two other locations that officers are still collecting intelligence on, in order to proceed with undercover operations.***

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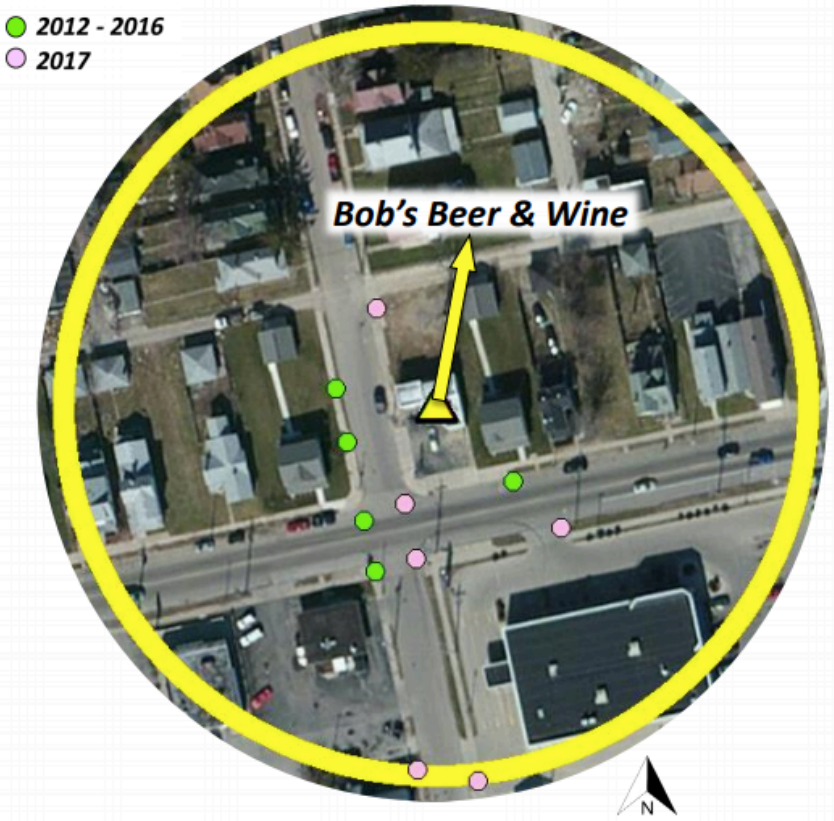
Bob's Beer & Wine



- *45 gun and/or drug crimes committed within the red box from 2012 through September 24, 2017. Only 13 of those crimes were committed in 2017.*
- *Undercover operations took place May 13, 2017 – June 13, 2017. Which consisted of one (1) undercover purchase of cigarettes to a minor and four (4) undercover purchases of drug paraphernalia called a 'bubble' – a slang term for a glass pipe that methamphetamines are smoked out of.*
- *Search Warrant was served on location and clerk selling these items, and the following items were recovered from the location:*
  - *Methamphetamine*
  - *Heroin*
  - *used syringes*
  - *Paraphernalia to include methamphetamine pipes*
- *Currently working with Dayton Fire Department in order to address any safety concerns, and to conduct follow-up inspections for this address that are not compliant with the Fire Code.*

Undercover operations and analysis still ongoing.

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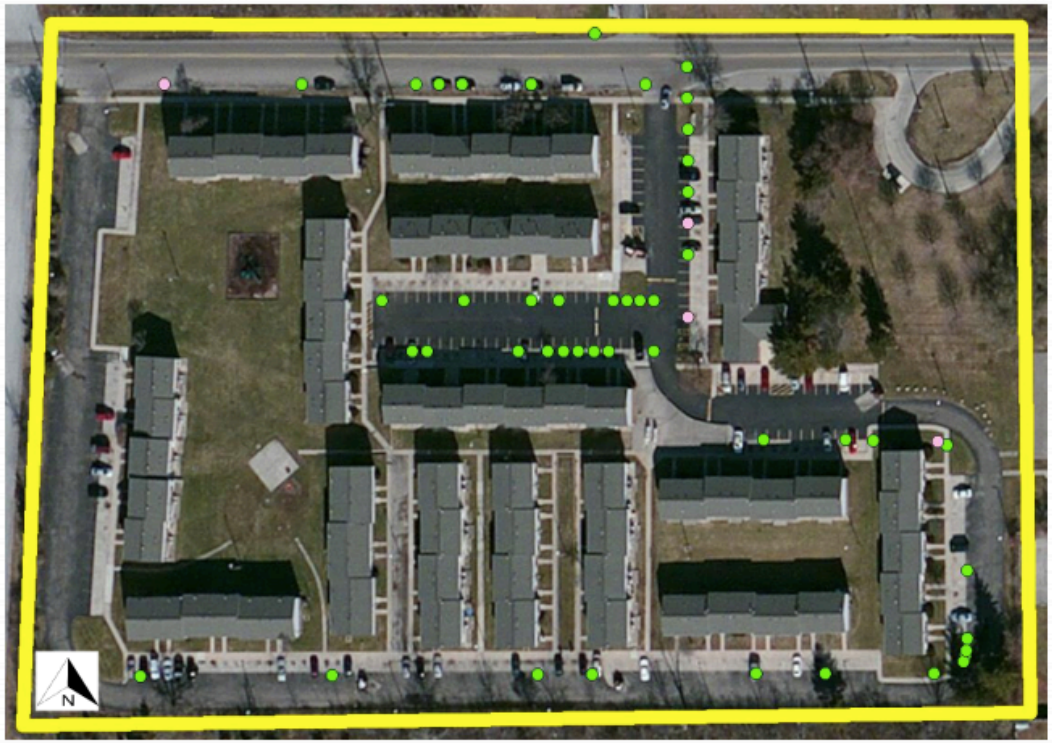
Place Based Target Locations:
West Patrol Operations Division

- 2012 - 2016
- 2017



- *A large apartment complex with a history of firearm and drug related crimes from 2012 through 2016.*
- *Officers have been working undercover since May of 2017, and have identified a few target individuals who are dealing drugs within this complex.*
- *The individuals have since moved on, and are currently being investigated.*
- *117 arrests have been made in 2017 for the drug and firearm related crimes.*

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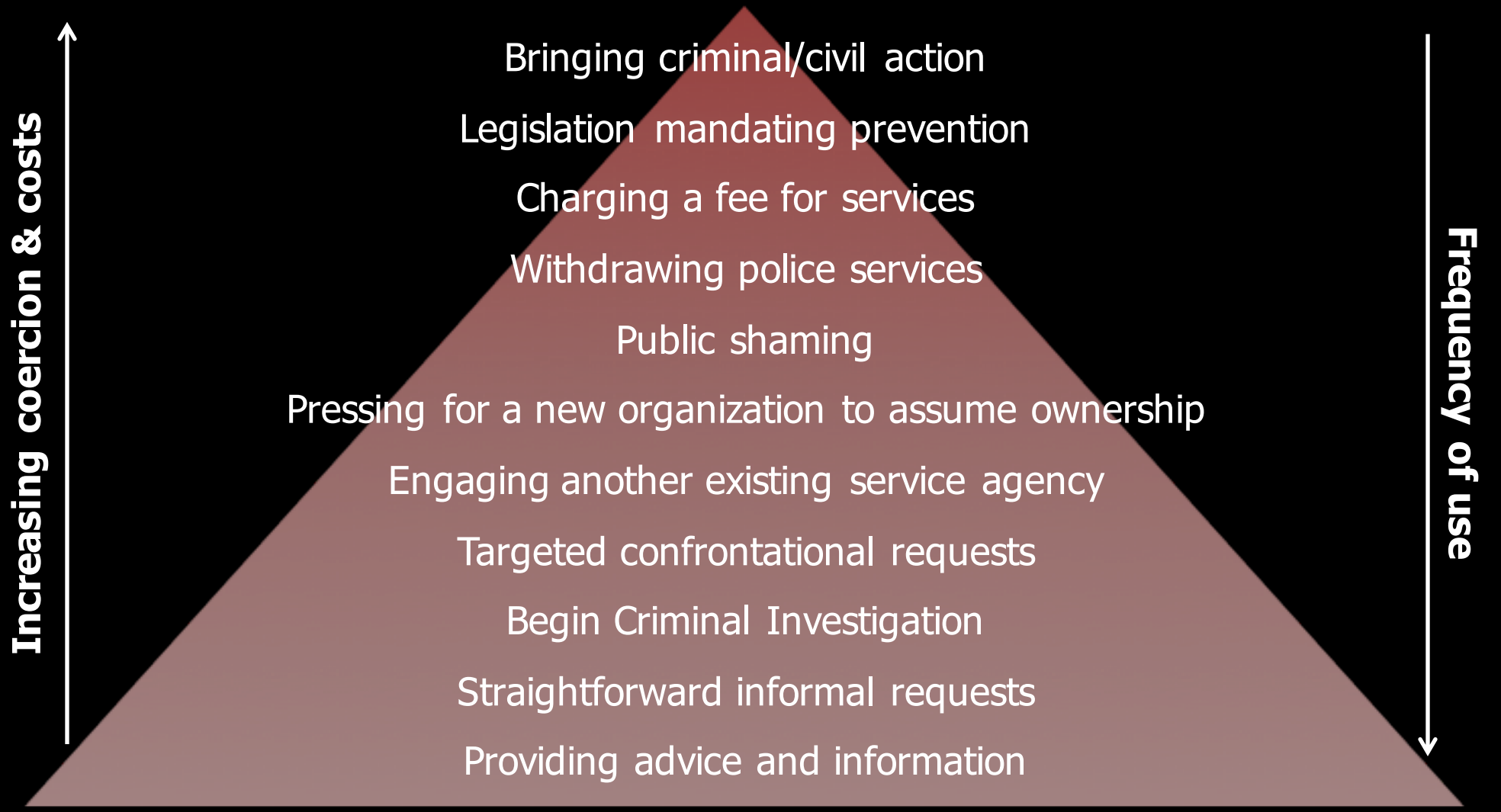
Crime-Place Networks

Responses

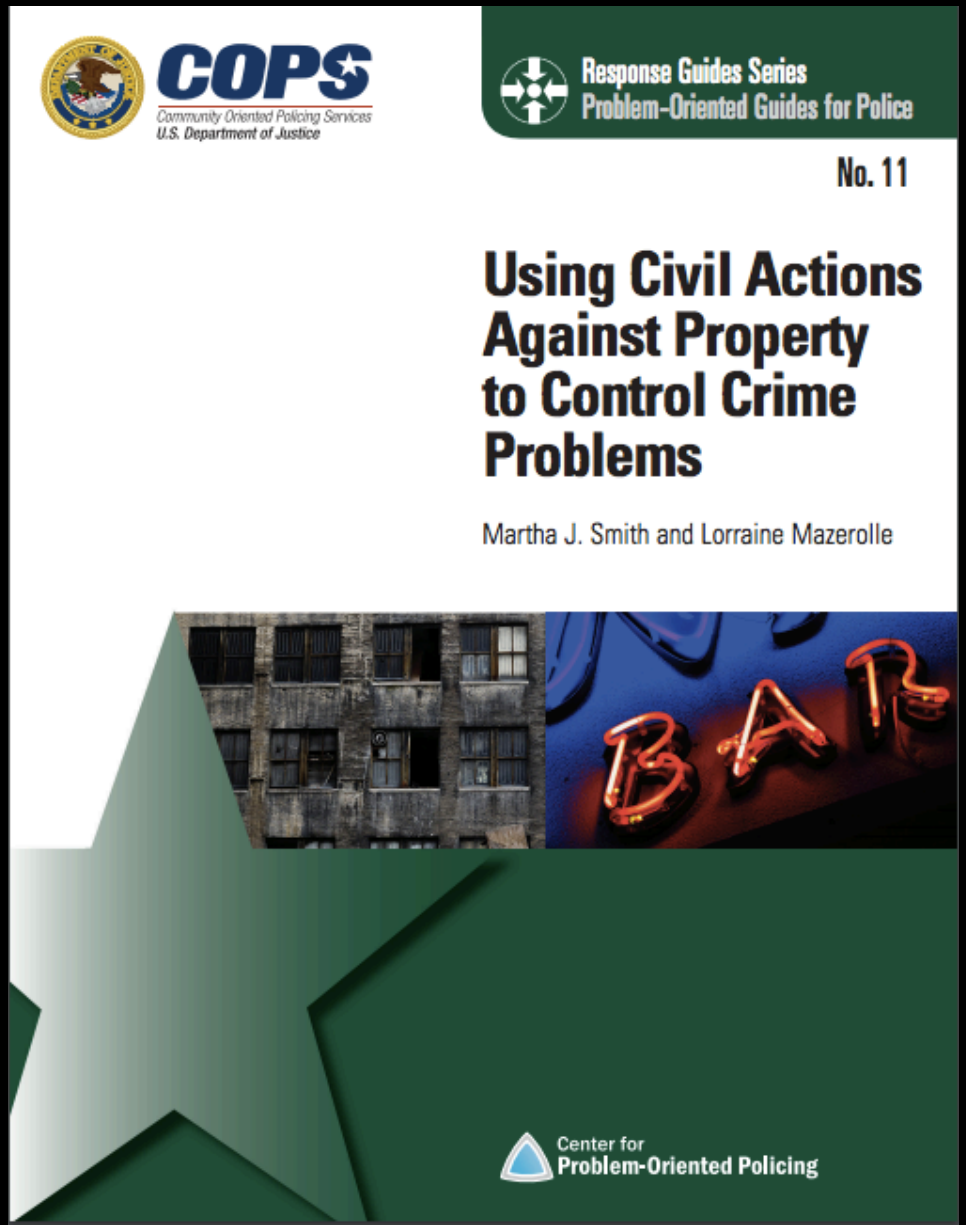
Goldstein's Hierarchy of Interventions

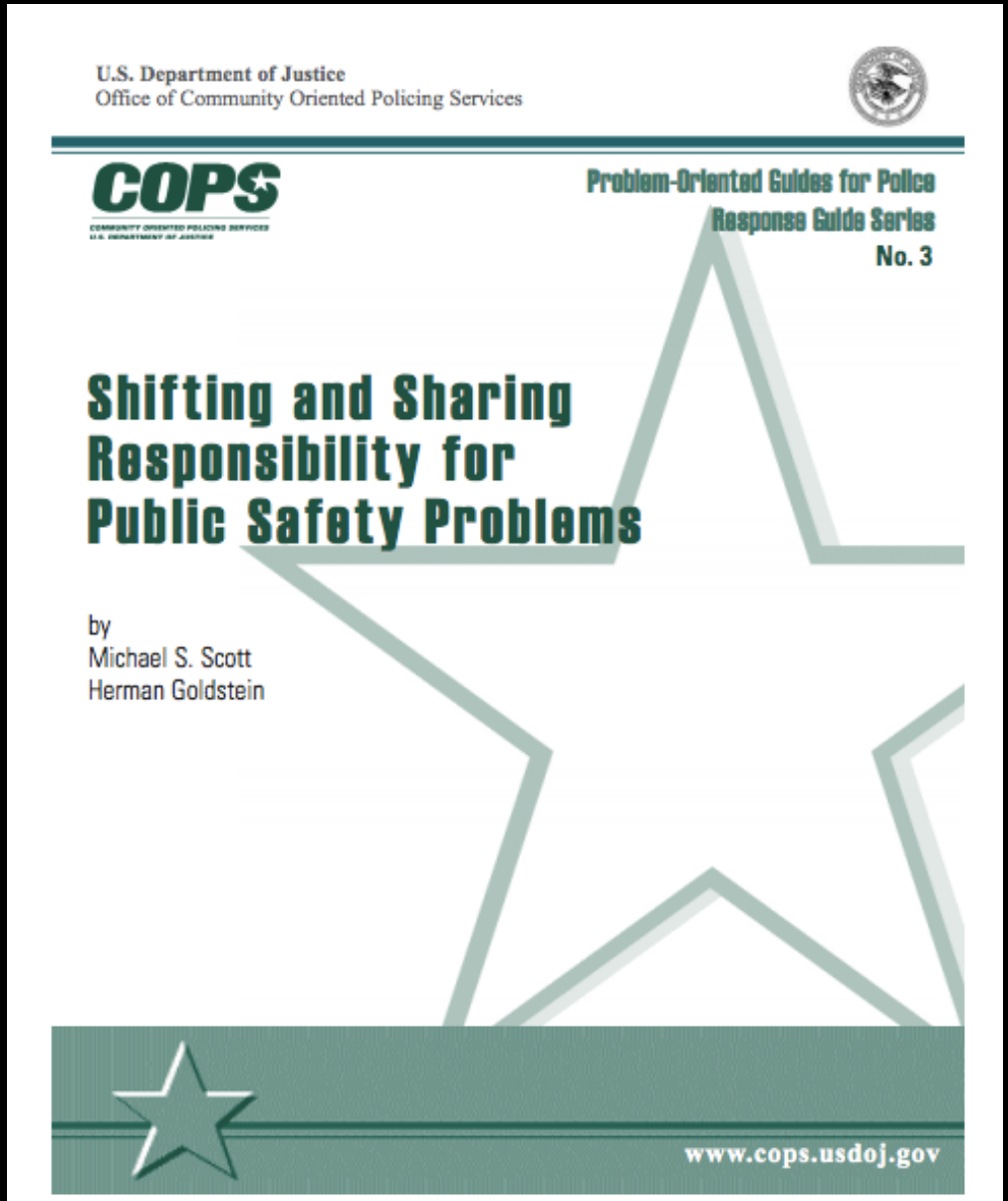


PLACE-BASED APPROACH

Shifting and Sharing Responsibility for Public Safety Problems
Popcenter.org

popcenter.org





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