



**City of Mesa
Police Department
A.C.T.I.O.N Team
“All Coming Together in Our Neighborhood”**

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Mesa Police Department Mission Statement:

Your Police Department, dedicated to working with you,

fighting crime, defending human rights,

and protecting life and property,

to make our community safe for all.

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City of Mesa, Arizona
A.C.T.I.O.N Team
“All Coming Together in Our Neighborhood”

Summary

The A.C.T.I.O.N Team was established as a long-term proactive partnership among many to help neighborhoods address blight and crime. The team employs innovative, varied and long-term strategies to achieve sustained success in selected project areas. Working along side the Mesa Police Department are the City of Mesa Prosecutor’s office, City of Mesa staff, other City of Mesa divisions, community residents and private non-profit organizations. They work together to improve public safety and enhance the quality of life in the community. It is a grassroots approach to law enforcement and involves traditional and non-traditional initiatives by working within a community to prevent crime, thus reducing the number of arrests and prosecutions. There is direct interaction between city staff and community residents. The City of Mesa’s Prosecutors office guides the process between itself, the Mesa Police department, other city departments, other governmental agencies and private organizations. These partnerships are critical components to the successful A.C.T.I.O.N Team program.

Scanning:

Older neighborhoods in Mesa, Arizona show the wear and tear of their age. Changes in environment and demographics have also played some part in the decline of neighborhoods and has enhanced the negative effect of crime. Problems identified in the first project area started with a resident survey but also included input from the police officers, especially the officers working the area, other city departments like Code Compliance, Building Safety, the Fire Department, business community and many of the non-profits that serve the residents. The problems identified pertained more to low-level crime and quality of life issues such as prostitution, drug dealing, trespassing, graffiti, disorderly conduct, illegal dumping, and public consumption of alcohol and property crimes. Because there are many multi-family structures in the project area, a big focus of the team was to gain property owners compliance to the city codes, reduce blight on each property thus making it less inviting to commit crime in the area.

Analysis:

Resident surveys, community meetings and crime statistics were utilized and analyzed to determine the first area focused on by the team, which was the Reed Park neighborhood. It has had ongoing problems with quality of life issues and crime for many years. Changing demographics in the area have precipitated some changes to this already fragile neighborhood.

Response:

Historically the city has not established multi-department teams to address these types of issues. Each department was responsible to resolve issues that involved only their department. Typical police actions helped to reduce activity in the short term but a longer-term approach involving those living in the targeted area and the other city departments, businesses and non-profits was and is needed to sustain crime reduction efforts. The A.C.T.I.O.N team concept has changed that way of doing business.

Many traditional police enforcement alternatives to combating the problems in the Reed Park area have been utilized in the past years without much success. Without the community's help and the help of other city departments and outside agencies, the police fight a losing battle. Based on the survey of residents in the project area and the statistics gathered, a response plan was put in place to address the needs of the community. This included working with apartment communities that had high calls for service. Walkthroughs or CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) assessments were done on each multifamily property in the area. Property owners were required to make changes to their property in order to comply with city code. They also had to reduce the blight and crime component on the exterior of their multi-family facilities, and had to be current on all tax and licensing obligations. Changes were not merely suggestions. Property owners were held accountable to make the necessary changes in order to reduce or remove the likelihood of civil prosecution and nuisance abatement procedures. This has not always been the case.

The community was and remains active by attending regularly scheduled meetings to express any concerns and hear about the efforts being made in their community. Citizens are encouraged to remain active by calling the police or other departments for help as needed. Community cleanup events

have been held. One such project was planned by Mesa Police Department's Chief's Community Clergy Forum. There are nine different forums consisting of 15 to 25 community members on each forum. The individual forums are tasked with identifying a project for their group and the Clergy forum decided to perform community service in this project area. On March 18, 2008 a Spring Break Cleanup Day was held at a local elementary school. Approximately 60 youth of various ages and religions, along with several adults participated in the daylong event. The clean up took place from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. The participants planted trees and shrubs and scrapped paint off of the sidewalks in order to repainted the same areas to make them brighter for the students. A community barbecue and concert was held in the afternoon. The concert targeted youth in the area and provided good positive messages for the young people to listen to.

While an event of this type may not seem like much to some, it was very important to the overall health of the community as the elementary school is a focal point for the families in this neighborhood. Providing such community service allows interaction with the police officers beyond traditional law enforcement and lets the residents of the community know that other people care about what takes place in the Reed Park area.

Assessment:

Using the A.C.T.I.O.N Team approach, we show a decline in the number of calls for service. Neighborhood participation was and continues to be key to the revitalization of the area. Involvement of both public and private partners is also necessary. By utilizing a faceted approach to the issues, the team along with the residents has made many positive changes in the target area. Community meetings held in the project area have continued to be well attended. This did not happen before the project. Residents were afraid to be involved. From January 2007 through November 2007, UCR data shows an 11.98% decrease in crime in the targeted area. Through the first quarter of 2008 there continues to be a decline in calls for service by 4.66%.

Calls for Service Comparison First Quarter 2007 to First Quarter 2008

Harris to Gilbert and Dana to 6th Ave

CFS BY CALL TYPE CONT.			
CALL TYPE	1st Qtr 2007	1st Qtr 2008	% Change
SHOTS FIRED	4	4	0.00%
STOLEN VEHICLE	5	5	0.00%
STRONG ARM ROBBERY	2	0	-100.00%
SUBJECT W/GUN	2	3	50.00%
SUBJECTS DISTURBING	51	38	-25.49%
SUICIDE	0	1	N/C
SUSPENDED LICENSE	33	29	-12.12%
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	24	31	29.17%
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	18	20	11.11%
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	10	5	-50.00%
THEFT FROM BUSINESS	4	6	50.00%
THEFT FROM RESIDENCE	5	4	-20.00%
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	2	0	-100.00%
THREATS	3	5	66.67%
TRAFFIC CONTROL	1	0	-100.00%
TRAFFIC HAZARD	7	3	-57.14%
TRESPASS	9	40	344.44%
UNCODED CALL	25	68	172.00%
UNKNOWN TROUBLE	34	13	-61.76%
UNKNOWN TROUBLE ALARM	2	0	-100.00%
VEHICLE BURGLARY	8	6	-25.00%
WARRANT ARREST	31	43	38.71%
Total	665	634	-4.66%

Calls for Service Resulting in Written Reports

REED PARK OPPORTUNITY ZONE CALLS FOR SERVICE - DCI'S ONLY (REPORT WRITTEN)

2006 CALLS FOR SERVICE		2007 CALLS FOR SERVICE	
CALL TYPE	Frequency	CALL TYPE	Frequency
WARRANT ARREST	95	WARRANT ARREST	102
UNCODED CALL	83	DRUGS	72
SUSPENDED LICENSE	75	UNCODED CALL	69
DRUGS	50	SUSPENDED LICENSE	67
STOLEN VEHICLE	38	FAMILY FIGHT	36
TRESPASS	38	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	32
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	32	STOLEN VEHICLE	23
FAMILY FIGHT	29	VEHICLE BURGLARY	23
VEHICLE BURGLARY	29	SUBJECTS DISTURBING	19
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	28	TRESPASS	18
DUI	23	THEFT FROM BUSINESS	18
ACCIDENT NO INJURY	21	CREDIT CARD FRAUD	15
THEFT FROM BUSINESS	20	MISSING PERSON	15
CIVIL MATTER	15	RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	15
FOUND PROPERTY	14	ACCIDENT NO INJURY	12
H&R ACCIDENT NO INJURY	14	CHILD NEGLECT	12
THEFT FROM RESIDENCE	13	CIVIL MATTER	12
MISSING PERSON	10	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	11
RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE	10	H&R ACCIDENT NO INJURY	11
SUBJECTS DISTURBING	10	ASSAULT	10
ASSAULT	9	DUI	10
CREDIT CARD FRAUD	9	FOUND PROPERTY	10
CHILD NEGLECT	8	ACCIDENT W/INJURY	9
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	7	RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE	9
THEFT FROM VEHICLE	6	THEFT FROM RESIDENCE	9
ACCIDENT W/INJURY	5	CHECK WELFARE	7
ARMED ROBBERY	5	CHILD MOLEST	6
COMMERCIAL BURGLARY	5	DOG BITE	6
JUVENILES DISTURBING	5	SUICIDE	6
SUBJECT W/KNIFE	5	THEFT FROM VEHICLE	6
SUICIDE	5	FIGHT	5
UNKNOWN TROUBLE	5	JUVENILES DISTURBING	5
CHECK WELFARE	4	STRONG ARM ROBBERY	5

Uniform Crime Report Statistics 2006 to 2007 Comparison

REED PARK OPPORTUNITY ZONE

2006 UCR		Frequency
Theft - Motor Vehicle Parts	06M	42
Motor Vehicle Theft	07	39
Theft	06	36
Residential Burglary	05R	31
Aggravated Assault	04	19
Aggravated Assault - DV	04DV	13
Robbery	03	9
Commercial Burglary	05C	3
Total		192

2007 UCR		Frequency
Aggravated Assault	04	42
Theft	06	34
Motor Vehicle Parts	06M	28
Motor Vehicle Theft	07	25
Residential Burglary	05R	14
Robbery	03	12
Aggravated Assault - DV	04DV	6
Commercial Burglary	05C	4
Forcible Rape	02	3
Homicide	01	1
Total		169