

HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD NOMINATION

Deployment of the International Crime Free Multi-Housing Program to impact Crime Prevention in the City of Fort Worth has met with measurable success.

A. SCANNING: NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

Many of the crimes that occur in the City of Fort Worth occur in rental properties. Since 2000 the City of Fort Worth has adopted the International Crime Free Multi-Housing Program. Officers and Supervisors with the Information Management Division, the City Attorneys Office and the Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator, by working in partnership, sharing information and working together has identified numerous of problem areas to include both Part One and Part Two crimes.

The types of crimes that were identified include Murder, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Assault, Burglary of Habitation's and Buildings, Burglaries of Motor Vehicles, and Thefts. The types of part two crimes that were identified include narcotics, prostitution and vice related crimes. The problem areas were also identified by Division Commanders, Neighborhood Patrol Officers and Supervisors. Through daily, weekly and monthly tracking of the crimes and the sharing of the information to NPD Commanders, Patrol Supervisors and patrol officers many arrests were conducted as a result addressing the crimes and issues.

B. ANALYSIS

The Fort Worth Police Department's Information Management Division has gained much success by tracking crimes and reporting identified crimes in apartment communities. The Department utilizes more proactive measures in addressing the crimes, to include educating the citizens, marking property, and gaining citizens' involvement in volunteer programs has greatly reduced the crime rate and improved the overall quality of life for its residents. There are more than 1,000 rental properties in the City of Fort Worth with one beat alone having 18 apartments with in several square miles. The initial level of diagnosis determined that a large population coupled with changes in ownership and management were making it very difficult to gain long term relationships.

The Analysis of the crime in the City informed the Leadership of the Department that more resources had to be dedicated to the apartments to include establishing the International Crime Free Multi-housing Program. In addition the tracking of crime by having a dedicated staff of crime analysis, crime prevention certified officers and specialists, and the combination of the crime analysis kept the Patrol Officers and Neighborhood Patrol Officers abreast in addressing the

issues and crimes. Even with enforcement, to include arrests, a real problem with rental properties is that the perpetrator is often released back to the community in which they committed the crimes. Through the Crime Free Multi-housing Lease Addendum they are removed from the property through eviction. There has been little to no negative feedback from this crime prevention program.

An identifying issue with apartment management and owners is that many are leasing to increase the occupancy of the property. By placing an emphasis on proper screening to include criminal convictions and addressing the issues through management many properties increased their occupancy and provided a safer environment to not only their tenants, but to the surrounding communities by addressing the issues.

Another successful tool used to combat crime is through the CH 125 Civil Remedies. By tracking the amount of crime in the last 3 years, the crime statistics, amounts and types of crimes for both Part One and Part Two gives the City the authority to take action against owners and managers. Every month through the City Attorneys' Office, Information Management and the Crime Free Multi-housing Coordinator, properties are notified and meetings are scheduled. During this meeting crime statistics, to include date and time specific (allows properties to increase security patrol coverage etc) are presented. At these meetings, properties are encouraged to be proactive, share information and cooperate with the Police Department. It is also recommended the certification of the Crime Free Multi-housing Program. In addition there are 25 recommendations given to include proven crime prevention methods that will later be addressed in this nomination. This process also addresses the "broken windows theory" by having the management and ownership address quality of life issues of the property.

Under the analysis of the previous three years on a property a lot of information can be brought to light to include on-going criminal activity.

C. RESPONSE

To get a better picture of the type of response observed, I must inform you first of the strength of the Police Department. The Fort Worth Police Department currently has 1,565 sworn Police Officers and 500 civilians and is the seventeenth largest City in the United States with more than 660 square miles that encompasses 10 Neighborhood Patrol Divisions and 83 geographic beats. The Fort Worth Police Department Community Policing Units are comprised of more than 85 Neighborhood Patrol Officers and 5 Neighborhood Patrol Sergeants. These 85 Neighborhood Patrol Officers have conducted more than 40,000 meetings and presentations with citizens and businesses informing them

of crime analysis, prevention methods, and ways to target harden their residence, businesses, apartment communities and neighborhoods.

In addition, this agency was the First Agency in the State of Texas to have a "Citizens on Patrol" Program. The Department has trained more than 450 citizens in the Citizens on Patrol Program (one year time period), had 1050 attend the Annual Awards Banquet. In addition to this, the Police Department has 5 Citizens on Patrol Coordinators that oversee the Citizens on Patrol Program. The Fort Worth Police Department has one of the largest Citizens on Patrol program in the State of Texas.

D. ASSESSMENT

To appreciate and understand the significance the Citizens on Patrol program has made in the City of Fort Worth we must look into our past. In 1990, the City of Fort Worth had the highest murder rate (per capita) in the United States. More than 250 murders occurred in that year along. This was largely due to gangs and crack cocaine in the City. Under the Leadership of Chief of Police Thomas Windham and having only 1,000 officers he reached out to the Community and started the first Citizens on Patrol program in the State of Texas.

In order to appreciate the significance of the Fort Worth Police Departments Citizens on Patrol program, we must look the many additional crime prevention programs, one of which is the Citizens Police Academy Alumni. There has been two Citizens Police Academies which resulted in more 80 in attendance. This agency not only trains adults in crime prevention but also has 4 active Explorer Posts (ages 14-20) that have more than 100 kids actively involved. In addition this agency has instructed two Teen Academy Classes (12 week program for kids 14-20) resulting in more than 75 kids graduating.

E. EXAMPLES

The CFMH Program has certified many apartment communities in the three phase program with a reduction in crime up to 98 percent. In this nomination I have chosen two properties as examples. The First property is the Handley Oaks Apartments. The property at one time was occupied with known criminals to include a large presence of known gang members, individuals that sold narcotics on the property, and on-going crimes to include crimes against property and persons. The Owner who purchased this property was unaware of the criminal element and issues of the property when he purchased. There were numerous meetings with Police Officials and the City of Fort Worth. As the Crime Free Multi-Housing Coordinator the emphasis was to place community values on the property, remove the criminal element through the eviction process, and instill involvement in the citizens through Crime Watch and reporting suspicious persons and vehicles.

In addition all employees of the property is trained in an 8 hour seminar called the Crime Free Multi-Housing Phase I. During the Phase II the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, an in depth security survey determined narcotics were being sold in front of the property. The Office was in the middle of the property and the owner and management were unaware of the criminal activity. It was recommended that the office be moved to the front of the property. In addition the properties gates were inoperable giving access to anyone including the criminal element. All of the gates on the property were secured with card readers, giving access to tenants and emergency personnel only.

More than 20 security cameras were installed. Signage to include criminal trespass, improved building numbers for emergency response, improved doors with dead bolt locks, peep holes and lighting in all areas of the property. All of the tenants on the property signed a crime free lease addendum which stated "any criminal activity to include narcotics, gang, violence, discharging of weapons, prostitution, threats and intimidations" and in additional it holds them accountable for their guests were signed. In addition the property hired a security representative that monitors the property and addresses any violations.

The evaluation criteria that were most important to the Department were a multiple of things. First, of course, the legality of any crime prevention program is important as well as cost and practicality, but the most important criteria were placing the citizen first and the desire for community involvement and improving the quality of life.

I must first state the results of the above listed crime prevention techniques is easy to track by looking at the numbers, however, I believe there are more than just the stats to reducing crime or the amount of calls for police service. I believe that to get a true value of the assessment, we need to look at all of the factors that include a quality of both life, service to the citizens and residents.

The amount of calls for police service, crime and other related issues dropped more than 90 percent. During the CFMH Phase III more than 100 tenants showed up and received crime prevention and awareness training. At this event one of the tenants stated "Officer, I used to be scared to take my trash to the dumpster in fear of becoming a victim. Now, I know this property is safe and I now have my grandchildren that come over not in fear". The fear of crime is one of the hardest things to over come or change.

The second property that has become certified is the Spring-brook Apartments 6528 Normandy. This property was actually a property that was the result from a CH 125 (civil remedies). Crime was out of control to include a murder that was a resulted from narcotics transaction. The City Attorneys Office and the Fort Worth Police Department CFMH Coordinator and the Information Management Division had numerous meetings regarding the crime and criminal activity. Meeting with the owner included crime prevention to evicting the criminal element, increasing

the lighting, placing signs for trespassing, improved signs for apartments, towing policy, removing the junk vehicles, addressing issues through the broken windows theory and CPTED. The property completed the three phase CFMH Program and every tenant on the property attended the training increasing awareness, marking their property, inventorying their property to include make, model, serial numbers for better and complete reports.

This property in addition to the above recommendations hired a security representative that monitors the property for any criminal activity. In a 7 month period this property has had one part one crime (burglary of motor vehicle) and calls for police service has become non-existent. The amount of crime reduction with this property is greater than 98 percent reduction in crime and calls for police service.





CRIMINAL TRESPASS AFFIDAVIT
Private Property
NO TRESPASSING
(All Hours)
Violators will be Prosecuted
Section 30.05 Texas Penal Code
You May Be Asked to Show I.D.
Springbrook Apartment Management

UNITS 1-14
6528 NORMANDY RD.

CURFEW HOURS

You must be in your Unit

Monday thru Friday

10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Saturday / Sunday

11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Springbrook Apts. Management



WE HAVE JOINED THE:
FORT WORTH
CRIME FREE
MULTI-HOUSING
PROGRAM



Keeping Illegal Activity
Out Of Rental Property
Fort Worth Police Department

TO AID IN THE PROSECUTION
OF ANY CRIME COMMITTED
AGAINST THIS FACILITY







F. Overview

It's a combination of all the crime prevention programs that has resulted in our success, so I must add everything we do.

The Fort Worth Police Department provides situational awareness training through out the City. The Police Department has also an alliance with the Churches in the City and trained more than 160 local pastors in a twelve week program (Clergy and Police Alliance) and the pastors conduct daily ride outs and respond to critical incidents.

A measure to protect citizens on property crimes has resulted in the Police Department conducting both Operation Identification and Recovered Automated Parts Identification System (RAPIDS) in which thousands of residents have marked their personnel property.

The Fort Worth Police Department has adopted an Academic Excellence Program where school aged children receive recognition in academic achievement and are encouraged to be outstanding citizens. The Fort Worth

Police have received numerous awards for its contributions on the Citizens on Patrol Program.

Another Crime Prevention Program the Police Department promotes is the Identify, Detect and Locate program. Through this initiative the management notifies the Police Department when a prospective tenant applies to move on the property. The management company does the required screening from criminal convictions and credit checks then sends the tenants information to include name, date of birth, identification and or drivers license. A check through the data base to determine if the person has any outstanding warrants ensures the person is not wanted from any crimes.

Every month the Chief of Police (Jeffrey Halstead) meets with the Citizens on Patrol Captains and shares information on a quarterly basis with the Crime Control and Prevention District. Every quarter a Citizens on Patrol class is instructed with the average class of more than 100. Also on a monthly basis each Citizens on Patrol group go to shopping centers etc for recruitment etc.

Under Chief Hallstead's leadership and guidance quarterly public forums are conducted to open the communication between the citizens and the Department. This is significant in understanding the needs of the citizens and the community and many positive changes have been implemented with this forum.

In addition each Neighborhood Patrol Officer meets with their Citizens on Patrol. Some NPO's have numerous Citizens on Patrol groups based on the neighborhood in which they live. There are 83 beats in the City of Fort Worth with Citizens on Patrol Groups in more than 80 beats in the City. The Fort Worth Police Department believes in long term working relationships in partnership with the City.

The evaluation of our crime fighting efforts is a daily continuous effort in addressing the criminal element. Also the analysis of tracking crimes is vital tool to place patrol personnel in "hot areas", for enforcement etc.

The implementation of the crime prevention programs is the duties of the Neighborhood Patrol Officers in addressing the issues on each of the 83 beats in the City.

Concerns when the CFMH Program first started with the criminal element moving to other parts or sides of the town. With the success of the program the other Neighborhood Patrol Divisions soon learned the success of the program and implemented the program in their areas.

Lastly the Fort Worth Police Department has the largest gang unit in the State of Texas. Both an Intelligence Unit and Enforcement the Police Department has

identified thousands of individuals associated with gang's affiliations and the educational part of the Unit reaches out to all schools in our City for prevention and intervention. In addition all schools in the City of Fort Worth have a School Resource Officer assigned to prevent crime and to develop positive relations with the students, teachers and parents.

The Fort Worth Police Department innovative and problem-oriented policing (POP) projects have achieved measurable success in resolving recurring specific crimes, disorder and public safety problems as listed above.

The above programs have addressed every type of part one crime and all of part two crimes to include narcotics, prostitution and gang activity. In addition part of the success is through an increase of information by Information Management on the weekly and monthly reports which helps to identify crimes to include time and area specific. By sharing this information the Department has increased the awareness of the citizens and neighborhoods. The constant recruitment of citizens in the crime prevention programs to include the Citizens on Patrol and increasing the Crime Watch

The Fort Worth Police Department Crime Prevention programs can not be measured by one nomination as it has affected many lives and will continue to do so. Thank you for your consideration.

1. Agency and Officer Information:

- Officer Allen Speed South/East Bureau CFMH Coordinator
- Sgt Danny Maldonado Supervisor CFMH Coordinator
- Sgt. Jimmy Stanford, Information Management Supervisor
- Officer Mike Wiles, Information Management
- Lt. Jimmy McCarthy, NPD Commander
- Captain Gene Jones, East Division Commander
- Deputy Chief Charlie Ramirez, S/E FOB
- Chief Jeffrey Halstead, Chief of Police

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