

Taking Back the 29

SGT SEAN TRAVERS
OFC VINCE SULLIVAN
TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
MIDTOWN DIVISION



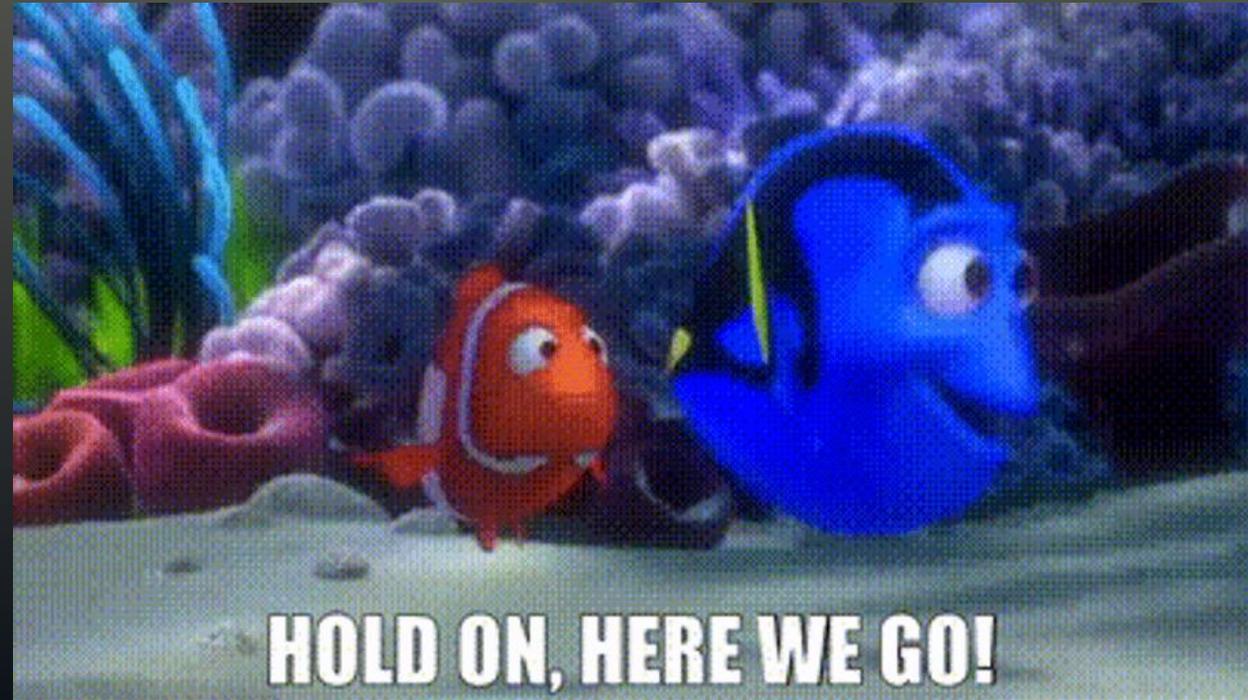


The Community Engagement Squad AKA: Zebra Squad

- Designated specifically to work:
 - Problematic areas
 - Quality of life problems,
 - Community concerns
 - Develop Community Connections

First Project

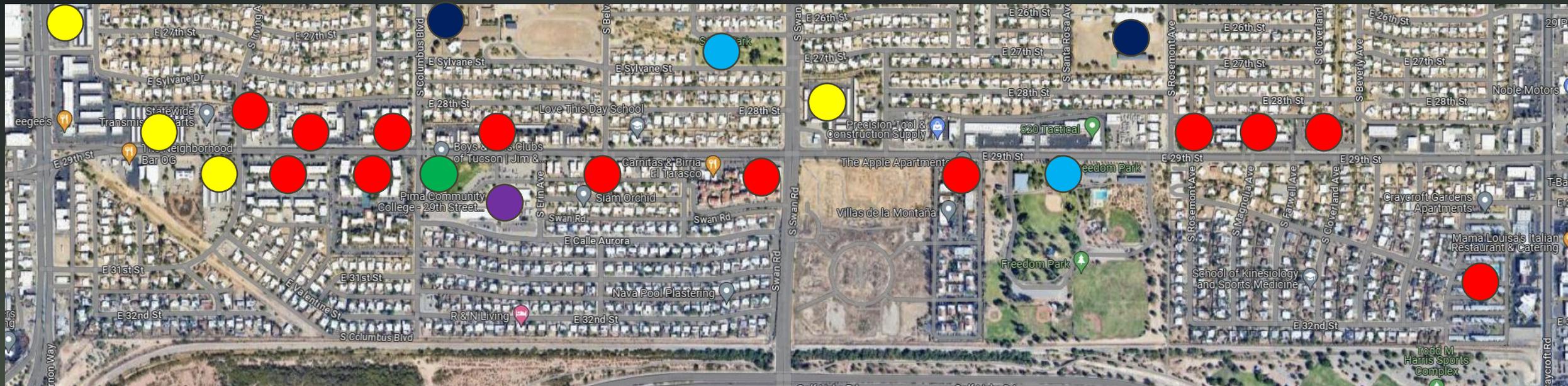
- 29th Street Corridor
- Began 4th quarter 2020
- Area that checked every box showing a need for help



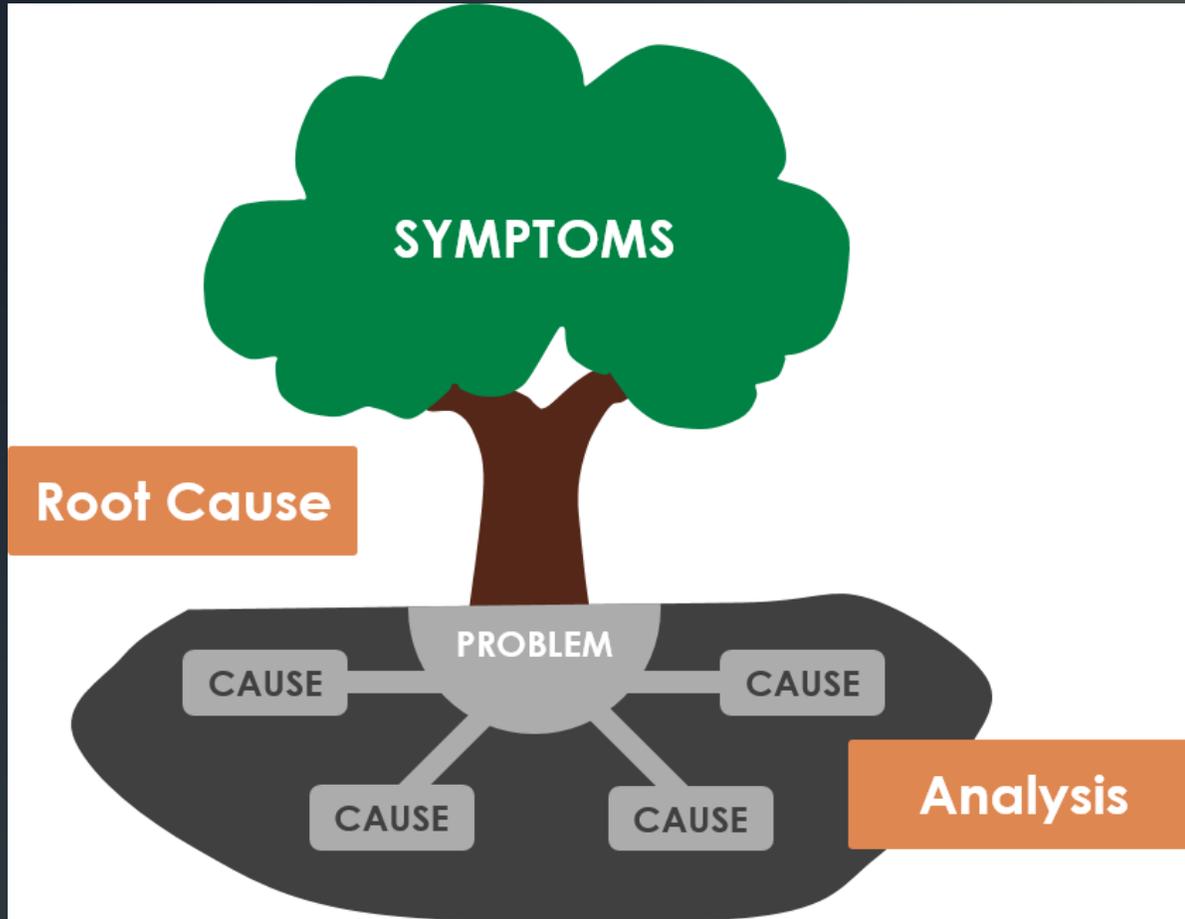
The 29th Street Corridor

- 16 Blocks (2 mi) of 4-Lane Roadway
- 13 Apartment Complexes ●
- K-8 School ●
- Community College Campus ●

- Boys and Girls Club ●
- City Park ●
- Storage Facilities ●
- Pedestrian Bridge



Getting into the Community



- Statistics were run
- Spoke with the residents
- Spending real time in the community
- Looking into the real root of the problem



- Bad Reputation for crime and violence
- No community relationship-low community trust of the police
- Not much pro-active work in the area
- Long history of gangs and violence-Numerous multi-generational families
- Run down appearance

What Was the
Community Saying?

What Did We Find?

- Congregations of the houseless population at empty businesses
- Large run-down Department of Economic Security Complex
- Community that wants to have pride but needs help
- Large Refugee Population
- Lack of Community Pride
- Run down apartment complexes



Breaking Down the Problems: Violent Crime

18-year-old identified as victim of shooting near 29th Street, Columbus Boulevard

By Anthony Victor Reyes Jul 8, 2021



By Anthony Victor Reyes



TUCSON (KVOA) - The individual who died in Tuesday's shooting in midtown was identified by Tucson Police Department Thursday afternoon.

At around 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, 18-year-old Felix Alexandrew Pichardo was found

- Multi-generational gang/narcotic families
- No fear of committing violent actions at any time
- Historic violent crime activity in the area
- Take the fear away from the community
- Remove the problematic element

Overcoming Stigma

- Low trust due to low presence
 - Can't have faith in what isn't there
- Police do not respond and if they do nothing is done
- Criminal element not in fear of police
- Bringing the community together

Counteracting the Issue:

- Constant presence/follow up
- Making more arrests
- Apartment complex clean outs
- Surveillance cameras were a huge help
- When community support goes up criminals will not want to stay in that area



Working the 29

- Apartment complex clean up
- Combat the crime from multiple angles
- Connecting with the local residents and businesses
- Collaborate with community members for local events
- Build the trust, enable the community, and work as a collective whole

Stolen Vehicles and Catalytic Converter thefts

- This was in the peak of the Catalytic Converter thefts
- Stolen cars were often found in the back area at certain complexes
- Constant pro-active patrols
- Working with management on repeat offenders and cameras
- Repeat arrests moved offenders out of area

Bringing the Community Together



Community Events

HOLIDAY EVENTS (EASTER, HALLOWEEN, CHRISTMAS)



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



INTEGRATING OFFICERS INTO THE SCHOOLS



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETINGS



COMMUNITY CLEAN UPS



29TH STREET COALITION
TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRUNK OR TREAT



FREE FAMILY EVENT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27

5PM-7PM

PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE 29TH ST CAMPUS

MUSIC-GAMES-CANDY & MORE!



TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
WITH 29TH STREET THRIVE



**PHOTOS WITH
SANTA**

**16 DEC 9AM-12PM
FREE**

Please bring donation of canned or boxed foods for:
Digital Photos | Hot Cocoa | Holiday Fun

Jim & Vicki Click Boys & Girls Clubhouse 1935 S Columbus Blvd

Contact sean.travers@tucsonaz.gov for more info

Thank you to our amazing partners:



**SAT
JUL 22
9AM-1PM**

TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT
29TH STREET THRIVE
TUCSON PARKS & RECREATION

29TH STREET BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

WATER GAMES

**& RESOURCE FAIR
AT FREEDOM PARK**

5000 E 29th Street

For Families from Alvernon to Craycroft, 22nd to Golf Links

Food Trucks, Water Games with the Police, Music,
Ready, Set, Rec! Games, Jumping Castles,
Health Clinic & Resources (inside Freedom Park Center)



520.837.5359 laura.lopez@tucsonaz.gov 29thStreet.tucsonaz.gov

& more

Subject to change based on availability



Cleaning up the neighborhood

- Working with management to update complex looks
- Keeping up on graffiti
- Cleaning the pedestrian bridge
- Community rebuilding itself
- Old abandoned DES building





2018

E 29th St

E 29th St

S Swan Rd

Swan Rd

S Swan Rd

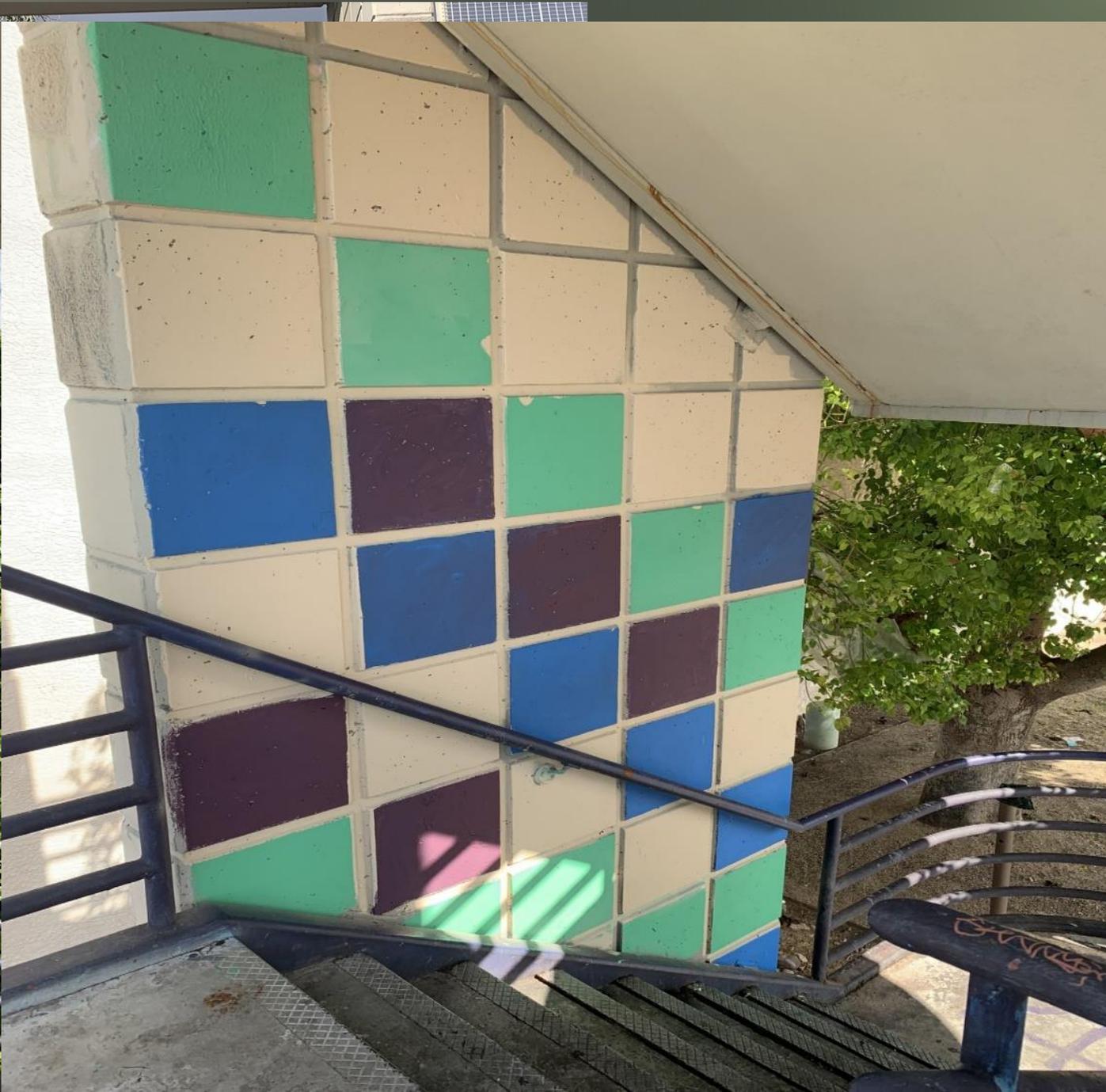
La Abelle Apartments

Villas de la Montaña



COLUMBUS STREET BRIDGE







Success Story

- TC's Carwash
- Open air drug dealing/using
- Very open lot with minimal supervision
- Self initiated a clean up after owner saw issues were being worked



IRVING AVE
1800 S

T's
CAR
WASH
SERVICES
NEW AIR
SHAM MEE



Swing and a Miss

- Anonymous email option for the community
 - Had some traction initially
 - Long-term did not stick



Results:

Crime down (not all but significant enough to see a difference)

Community has more pride and ownership

Community is more self reliant

Large attendance at community events

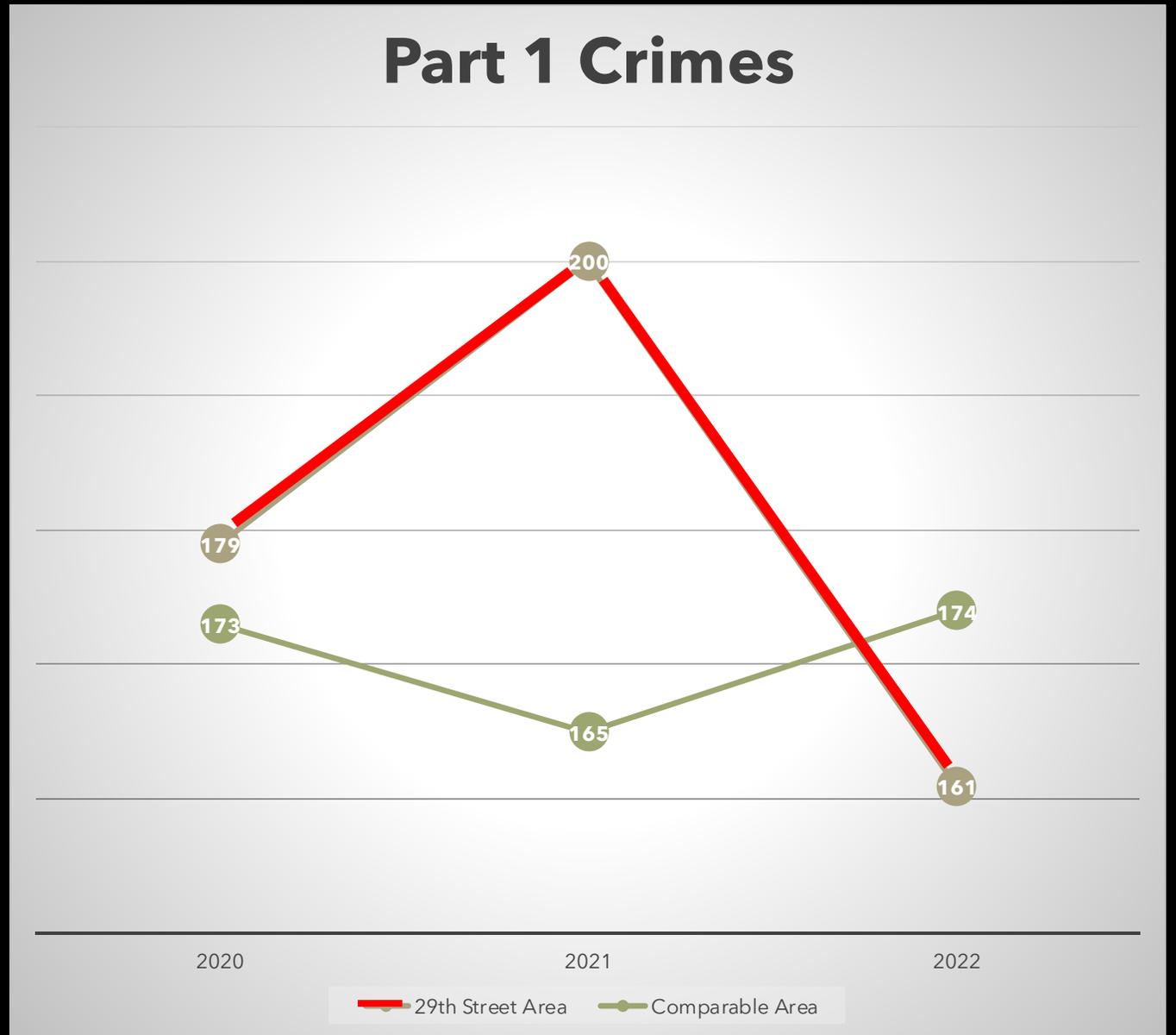
Community has more resources to go to instead of always calling the police

Ongoing and maintained relationships

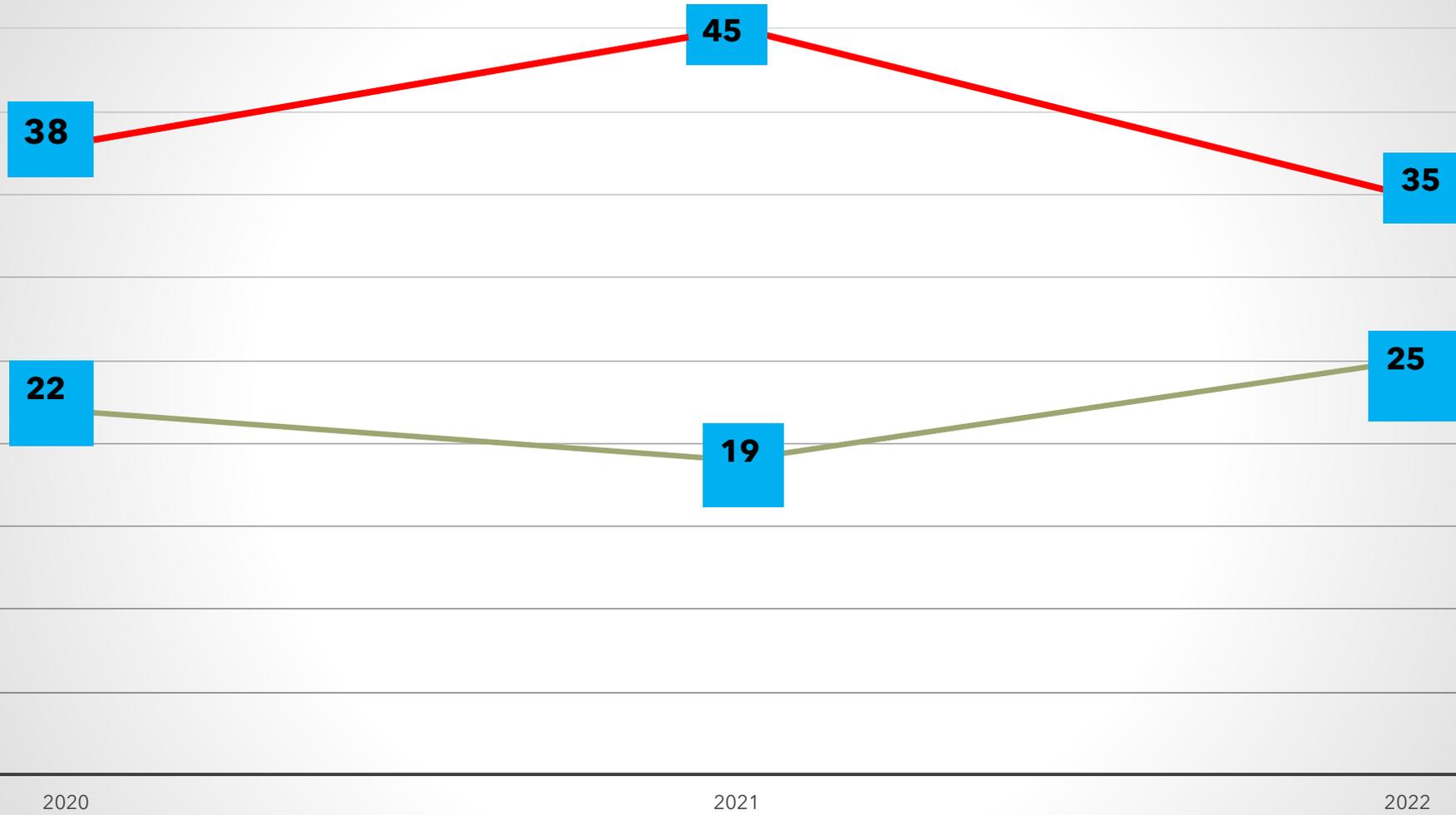
Community more likely to make a police report

Part 1 Crimes:

- Murder
- Sexual Assault
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Burglary
- Larceny
- GTA
- Arson

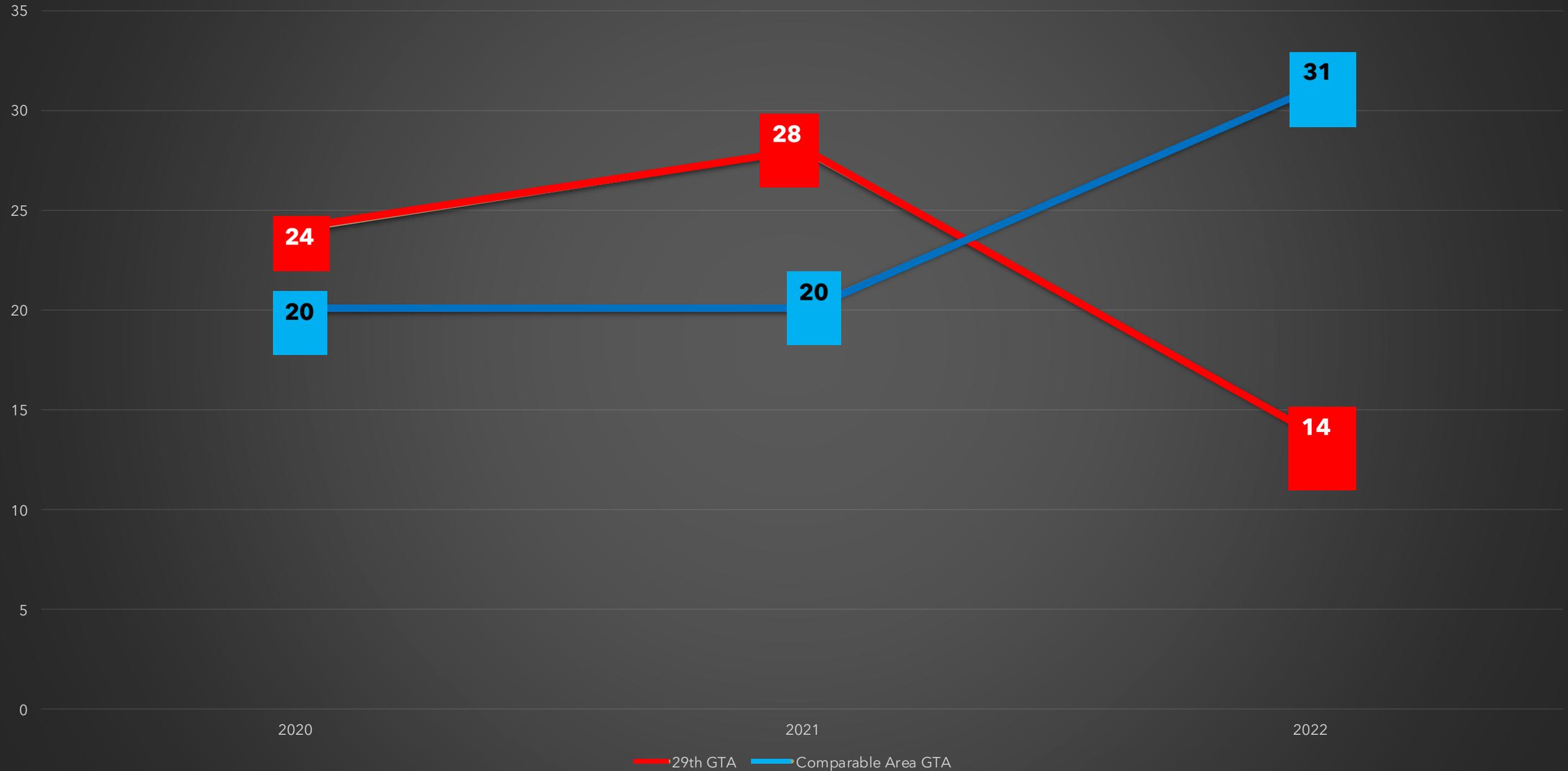


Aggravated Assault



— Agg Assault 29th — Agg Assault Comparable Area

Stolen Vehicles



Statements From the Community:

"As longtime residents, my husband and I have seen this area go from being less desirable with ongoing crime to a neighborhood that feels safe and a part of a true community. You see more people out walking their dogs and kids riding their bikes, back to becoming what it once was."

“For years, one of the apartment complexes that we owned was always being **ran over with crime, anything from break-ins to vacant apartments, vandalized, car theft up to shooting and murders.**

Once **TPD dedicated this time team to this area,** they concentrated on being able to show constant presence at this complex by driving through all the time, doing walks/**working with management, and educating and speaking with residents to build a relationship with them.**

With the officers being able to do all of this, it helped recover numerous stolen vehicles, wanted criminals and **we saw a community come together again. Kids feel safe to play outside,** residents being comfortable calling 911 or non-emergency number to report issues and/or just willing to speak to officers regarding what they may have seen.

I can say our **crime stats went from sky high to this program starting to dropping drastically.”**

Questions?



Sgt Sean Travers
Tucson Police Department
Sean.Travers@TucsonAZ.gov

Ofc Vince Sullivan
Tucson Police Department
Vincent.Sullivan@TucsonAZ.gov