

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental  
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 8/11/06

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief  
From: Lieutenant Arthur T. Frey, Central Vice Control Section  
Copies to:  
Subject: Third QUARTER IBM#06-100 PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT – Investigations BUREAU

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Category: Program / Project Case #: Operation Buyer Beware District: All Neighborhood: All

Coordinating Personnel: Lieutenant Arthur T. Frey

Description of Problem: Open air drug dealing

Phase of SARA: Response

## **SARA Documentation**

Scanning (state problem): Complaints from community representatives and citizens of open air drug dealing.

Analysis (identify factual support): Residents and Non-residents traveling into Cincinnati for the sole purpose of buying drugs from street level drug dealers. Traditional enforcement efforts have not addressed this type of activity until "Operation Buyer Beware" was implemented. Jail overcrowding still remains a problem along with lenient sentencing in the court system.

Response (define action taken): Operation Buyer Beware was developed to target those individuals who are purchasing drugs from street dealers. By increasing the risk of an adverse outcome to potential street level drug purchasers, we hope to decrease the level of blatant, open air drug dealing. This project increases the risk of arrest and could be the catalyst for an addict to seek treatment. An ordinance allowing police to civilly impound vehicles has been passed and implemented since the last report. The ordinance requires a bond payment of \$ 500.00 in order for the vehicle to be released.

Assessment (document measurement): The assessment is ongoing. Media attention has been significant and favorable as is evident from the numerous news stories that have aired on television and printed in newspapers. The community has been very supportive of our efforts in conducting reverse drug stings in their neighborhoods. On several occasions citizens have come out of their homes and cheered while officers were making arrests. To date CVCS officers have made 206 arrests and civilly impounded 85 vehicles. Of the 206 arrests 56 are from out of state. A breakdown by race of individuals arrested shows 122 White, 82 African-American, 2 Other. I believe with a sustained and continued effort there will eventually be a noticeable reduction in street level drug dealing by taking away a base of customers from the street dealers. It is important to note that this is not a quick fix operation but an operation that must be staffed and funded over a long period of time to have the desired results.

## **Police Participation Multiple Bureaus**

Specific Feedback:

### **City Department Participation**

Specific Feedback

Buildings and Inspections

- Community Development & Planning
- Fire Department
- Health
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Parks
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Engineering
- Water Works