

City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 8-15-06

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief
From: Captain Thomas A. Johns, District Five Commander
Copies to:
Subject: Third QUARTER District Five PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT – Patrol BUREAU

Category: CPOP Case Case #: SAR0600073 District: 5 Neighborhood: Camp Washington

Coordinating Personnel: Police Officer Shyane Schneider

Description of Problem: Litter

Phase of SARA: Assessment

SARA Documentation

Scanning (state problem): The Family Dollar Store has litter and shopping carts scattered about their parking lot, creating a neighborhood eyesore. The store's exterior lighting is also illuminating the houses across the street all night, causing interior residential illumination. The trash is overflowing the dumpsters and the trash can, which are all in one corner of the parking lot. Litter is not picked up in the lot and blows onto neighboring properties and streets. The collection of litter and shopping carts in the lot is creating a neighborhood eyesore. The shopping carts left in the lot are not readily available for patrons and roll into patrons parked cars and into city streets causing vehicular hazards. Carts get stolen which causes less availability to customers and replacement price to the store.

Analysis (identify factual support): Officer Schneider noticed a decline in the appearance of the Family Dollar store. She was continually stopped while on patrol by neighbors of the store to see if she could do something about the trash and lighting situation coming from the store. Officer Schneider actively solicited opinions from employees of the Family Dollar Store on the exterior conditions and the trash in the lot. The management of the store agreed they had a problem and needed to make changes.

Response (define action taken): New management took over the Family Dollar Store in March 2006. The manager, Andrea Cummins (681-4265), was very receptive and cooperative with the police. She had a very positive and energetic response to all the requests made by the police and by the citizens. Mrs. Cummins has distributed trash cans in target areas of the parking lot and the dumpsters and trash cans are checked and maintained on a daily basis. Employees pick up litter in and around the lot every morning before business hours. Any vehicles left in the parking lot unattended or abandoned are addressed and removed before the end of the work day. Mrs. Cummins does not allow citizens to loiter or perform vehicle maintenance on the store property. The shopping carts are no longer permitted to leave the store. Mrs. Cummins has placed an alarm on each cart so that if a shopping cart passes the front doors an alarm will sound. Mrs. Cummins has completed two things to address the exterior lighting issue. She had covers placed on the lights to direct the light away from the residence, and she also had the targeted exterior store lights placed on a timer to shut off at night soon after store hours. After much business participation and employee involvement, a response was implemented and maintained that has satisfied all parties.

Assessment (document measurement): Po Schneider responded at least bi-daily for several weeks to observe and keep track of results. Po Schneider actively solicited opinions on the exterior conditions of the Family Dollar Store and from the complainants. Citizens, business owners, and community counsel members were asked to monitor the lot for problems and call Officer Schneider with any follow-up complaints or information. Since the plan was implemented, there have been no complaints or calls for service concerning the appearance of the Family Dollar Store or its property. All goals were accomplished and are being maintained by Family Dollar Store.

Police Participation

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

TAJ