

City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 08/11/06

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 #: 040042 District: Neighborhood: Northside

Coordinating Personnel: Police Officer Terri Windeler

Description of Problem: Abandoned buildings and drug/disorder complaints.

Phase of SARA: Response

SARA Documentation

Scanning (state problem): Groups of individuals congregate along Fergus Street around numerous vacant and/or abandon houses. These individuals appear responsible for the majority of the crime and disorder on the street. Reports of drug dealing, drug usage, and gunfire are frequent. These conditions create the appearance of neighborhood decline and have instilled fear among those living there.

Analysis (identify factual support): The CPOP Team collected the crime statistics for Fergus Street and the intersection of Fergus and Chase Ave in Northside. These statistics were gathered from October 2003 until October of 2004. During this time period there were 261 calls for service that included Shots fired runs, one shooting, disorderly crowds, assaults, robberies, drug trafficking, drug abuse and family trouble runs. There were 48 part one crimes reported, fifteen arrest were made for various crimes and at least 45 fire and medical runs to the area.

Many community complaints were generated from the Northside Council Meetings, citizens, local businesses and churches.

Response (define action taken): A CPOP team was formed to address the problem. A survey was submitted to the residents to identify their concerns with the quality of life on their street. Other city agencies were enlisted to address specific issues in hopes of eliminating the blight and safety issues associated with the abandoned buildings. The District Five VCS, beat officers, Community Response Teams, and Street Corner Unit targeted this area for enforcement. Enforcement efforts included uniform walking patrols, bicycle patrols, and covert operations. In addition, the Northside Citizens on Patrol gave this area attention during their patrols. The CPOP Team has organized a street cleaning and a “meet and greet” in an effort to get more involvement and buy-in from those living on Fergus Street. In addition, the CPOP Team has drafted a letter to send to the owners of properties on Fergus Street that are either vacant, abandoned, or being used as rental property inviting these owners to actively participate in the problem-solving process.

As of October, the Violent Crimes Squad served a search warrant at 4202 Williamson Place. There was drug trafficking going on inside and outside of this apartment building. The tenant was evicted for permitting drug abuse which resulted in a decrease of subjects loitering on the corner of Williamson and Chase Avenue. This street runs parallel to Fergus Street and is directly related to the problems on Fergus Street. The team also requested a NCERT inspection on 4222 Fergus Street. The residents were collecting piles of junk and storing it inside and outside of the house which

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resulted in a health and fire hazard. The property owner rented a dumpster and is presently working with the tenants on cleaning the property up. There will be a follow-up inspection at the end of the month.

In November, a follow-up inspection was conducted at 4222 Fergus Street by the Fire and Building Inspectors. The property owner successfully removed the piles of junk and garbage that were stored on the property and is in compliance with the city codes.

During the Months of November and December the CPOP Team worked on contacting property owners for permission to have the City Watcher cameras installed on their properties located in the residential and business areas of Northside. The paperwork that was required for twenty cameras was completed at the end of December and turned into the representative of City Watcher. The cameras are expected to be installed in the spring of 2006.

Due to the recent decision by City Council to delay the installation of cameras in the city, the CPOP team would like to monitor the area until they are installed.

There has been an increase of subjects loitering in the area since the CPOP Team has started another project. However, the Mcperry's building that the City of Cincinnati purchased is scheduled to be demolished on the 17th of May and this will be a major victory for the team. This will deter the criminal activity on the corner of Fergus and Chase Avenue.

In May of 2006, the Mcperry's building was demolished and the lot cleaned up. This reduced loitering, drug activity, disorder and litter in the area. The corner was no longer an eyesore to the community and children were able to use the children's park across the street without fear. The city is currently in the planning stages to build condos on the property which will continue to improve the quality of life.

Since June, the corner of Fergus and Chase Ave has stayed the same but unfortunately we are beginning to see some problems with disorder, drug trafficking and loitering around the Apjones and Fergus Street corner. Residents and Police believe this may be a result of the Apjones Café Bar that is located on the corner. There has also been an increase of property owners who have let their property's go back to the previous condition before the project began. The team will continue the response stage and work on issues that have resurfaced.

Assessment (document measurement): N/A

Police Participation Multiple Bureaus

Specific Feedback:

City Department Participation	Specific Feedback	City Department Participation	Specific Feedback
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings and Inspections		<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Development & Planning		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Department		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Engineering	
<input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan Sewer District		<input type="checkbox"/> Water Works	

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