

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental  
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 11/1/06  
resolved 10/6/06

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief  
From: Sergeant Stephen W. Saunders, District One First Relief CPOP Sergeant  
Copies to: Captain Kenneth S. Jones, District One Commander  
Subject: Third QUARTER District One PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT – Patrol BUREAU

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Category: CPOP Case                      Case #: SAR0600096                      District: 1                      Neighborhood:

Coordinating Personnel: Sergeant Stephen W. Saunders

Description of Problem: Two large homeless encampments have generated complaints from citizens who have observed the problem from the Suspension Bridge in the area of Mehring Way and the foot of the Suspension Bridge along the Ohio River. The complainants were concerned with the homeless occupants engaging in aggressive panhandling and the overall blight of the area due to the structures that have been erected and the amount of trash and debris that has accumulated in the area.

Phase of SARA: Assessment

## **SARA Documentation**

Scanning (state problem): These homeless encampment have been in existence for several months and been the source of several complaints from area businesses and passers by due to the excess trash and debris, public consumption of alcohol, and the stench from the subjects urinating and defecating in public. Additional citizen complaint and a complaint from the Recreation Department, who is responsible for maintaining this area of the riverfront, prompted the response to this problem.

Analysis (identify factual support): Complaints from area businesses and passers by who observed the problem and requested attention due the blight and public health concerns. The subjects living at this location are also engaging in aggressive panhandling in the area of Paul Brown Stadium and Great American Ball Park. A large concentration of trash and debris has accumulated due to the consumption of alcohol and food items. The stench due to the public urination and defecation was very present upon inspection of the area.

Response (define action taken): The Director of the Cincinnati Homeless Coalition, Ms. Georgine Getty, was notified on August 29, 2006, in order to initiate outreach efforts prior to the issuance of a trespass warnings to the inhabitants. Mr. Brent Chasteen, Downtown Cincinnati Incorporated (DCI), homeless outreach worker was contacted and has initiated efforts to engage the subjects living at this location.

On September 28, 2006, "No Trespass" signs were installed in close proximity to the homeless encampments. On September 29, 2006, District One officers identified 19 trespassers in two locations along the riverfront. 7 individuals were warned for Criminal Trespass at 300 E. Mehring Way (a previous site for a homeless encampment in 2003) which was the source of a recent complaint from U.S. Bank Arena and included in this problem due to the close proximity to the initial complaint location. 12 individuals were warned for Criminal Trespass at 207 Water Street. All of the notifications were made according to CPD procedure 12.111.

On October 3, 2006, after the 72 hour waiting period expired, District One officers returned to these locations to determine if the homeless subjects complied with the warnings and left the sites. The

Form 17 Quarterly Problem Solving Report

same 7 individuals who were warned at 300 E. Mehring Way were present, however they collected their personal belongings and left the encampment without incident. The site at 207 Water Street (on the Ohio River) was abandoned.

A work crew from the Hamilton County Queensgate Correctional Facility, a Public Works crew, and Recreation Department employees assisted in the removal of trash and debris from these sites. Only one item of personal nature was held for owner. The remaining items at these locations were discarded due to exposure to the weather or contamination due to mold, mildew, and human waste.

Assessment (document measurement): After several weeks from the removal of the trespassers and the accumulated trash and debris in these locations the response has been affective. There is no evidence to support the trespassers have returned to the area and the complaints of this behavior have deminished.

### **Police Participation Bureau**

**Specific Feedback: Compliance with establish procedures and coordination with various city and county departments were key factors in addressing this problem in a timely manner.**

### **City Department Participation**

### **Specific Feedback**

Buildings and Inspections

Community Development & Planning

Fire Department

Health

Metropolitan Sewer District

Parks

Public Services

Assisted with removal of trash and debris.

Recreation  
matainance crews for removal of trash and debris.

Further identified the problem location and assisted with

Transportation & Engineering

Water Works