

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental  
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 10/4/06

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief  
From: Lieutenant Kurt Byrd, Intelligence Section Commander  
Copies to:  
Subject: Third QUARTER 2006 PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT – Investigations BUREAU

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Category: Program / Project                      Case #:                      District:                      Neighborhood: All

Coordinating Personnel: Sergeant Jeffery F. Hunt, Supervisor, Intelligence Section

Description of Problem: Project Disarm

Phase of SARA: Assessment

## **SARA Documentation**

Scanning (state problem): Significant annual percentage increases in homicides, felonious assaults, and robberies involving firearms.

Analysis (identify factual support): Problem Scope:

### 1. Project Disarm – Other: Gun Violence

#### A. Who is involved?

- i. Victims – predominantly young, male, and black adults.
- ii. Offenders – mostly young, male, and black adults and most of which have prior criminal records.

#### B. When does the problem occur?

All times, mostly between 2100 and 0200, Wednesday night through Sunday morning.

#### C. Why is this a problem? What are the consequences?

Victims and their families suffer, offender's families suffer, and the City as a whole suffers when there is a perception that the city is unsafe.

### 2. Were any "best practices" resources utilized? Was any research done to combat the problem/concern? (via <http://192.168.100.200/cpop.library.aspx>).

Best practices – Yes. During 2001, Project Disarm was modified to emulate the successful Project Exile and Operation Ceasefire implemented in several states. Since then, Project Disarm has been used as a "best practices" model and emulated in Northern Kentucky and Dayton, Ohio. Annually, analyses are repeated to determine the focus of time and location.

### 3. What is the goal or end result expected?

Decreased criminal use of firearms as manifested in decreased homicides, felonious assaults and robberies involving firearms, incidents of carrying concealed weapons, and possession of weapons while under disability, and seizures of weapons resulting from criminal offenses.

Response (define action taken):

1. Recommended specific actions that address problems/concerns for the reporting quarter:

Continue ongoing relationship with the United States Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to federally prosecute the most violent offenders and gun traffickers, whenever possible, so they will receive the longest terms of imprisonment. To continue to educate street officers in the collection of gun evidence and preparation of gun cases. Continue to educate investigators in identifying and prosecuting gun trafficking cases.

2. Actions actually taken:

Over the past several years efforts have been made to attack gun issues on several fronts. In 2003 we prosecuted 36 cases federally resulting in an average term of imprisonment of 119 months. These cases arose from actions initiated by street officers arresting dangerous felons in possession of firearms. In 2004 we shifted our focus somewhat and trained our firearms investigators to become more effective at building gun trafficking cases. This resulted in six major gun trafficking cases, including the largest single case gun seizure in department history. Changes in the Ohio Revised Code in 2005 increased the penalty for Having Weapons under Disability effecting the criteria determining which cases would most benefit from federal Prosecution and the total number of federal cases decreased slightly. There has been limited amount of publicity for the program, including several billboards and a limited number of Public Service announcements. We continue to present a block of instruction to each academy class on processing gun evidence and federal prosecution. A presentation on Project Disarm is provided on a regular basis to each new investigator's course offered by the academy. An instructional video was made to be offered as roll call training to suburban agencies. In 2006 one of the goals was to utilize Project Disarm to combat gang networks. There is currently an ongoing investigation involving an identified gang network which will result in multiple federal indictments.

A. Resources/Sections/Units

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Attorney's Office, and the Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney.

Assessment (document measurement):

1. Progress made toward identified problems/concerns:

A. Measurement of progress:

i. Gun Arrests by Department:

452 in the first three quarters of 2006 compared to 414 during the same period in 2005.

ii. Property/Contraband Confiscated:

1140 firearms seized during the first three quarters of 2006 compared to 1082 during the same time period in 2005.

B. Degree of Success:

No impact. The homicide rate continues to increase.

Specific Feedback:

**There are 16 cases from 2006 in the federal system compared to 17 during the same period in 2005; however, there is a current ongoing complex case targeting an identified gang network which will result in multiple federal defendants. This is consistent with one of the goals for 2006.**

**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