

City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 11/5/2006

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief
From: Lt. Robert Hungler Traffic Unit Commander
Copies to:
Subject: Fourth QUARTER 2006 PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT – Patrol BUREAU

Category: CPOP Case Case #: District: All Neighborhood: City-wide

Coordinating Personnel: Lt. Robert Hungler/Police Specialist Jerry Enneking, Traffic Analyst

Description of Problem: High rate of vehicular crashes, particularly fatal crashes

Phase of SARA: Scanning

SARA Documentation

Scanning: 1. Vehicular crashes, especially fatal crashes, cause high costs in property damage and costs of medical attention resulting from these crashes. Deaths that result from these crashes cause significant grief for families whose members are injured or killed in these crashes.
2. All citizens, those who cause the crashes and those who are victims of the crashes, are victims of these problematic events.
3. The problem areas are being identified by computerized analysis of crashes as to grouping at different locations and ranges of street addresses on individual roadways. Each district has some significant patterns of crashes both in total crashes and seriousness of crashes.
4. The vehicular crash problem is an ongoing problem that no one believes can be totally eradicated. However, through diligence and continued enforcement in the identified problem areas, significant reductions in both total crashes and fatal crashes can be achieved.

Analysis: 1. All crashes are entered by the districts into a crash database.
2. Several reported fields of information are entered into the database from the OH1 reports completed by patrol officers. Prior to this analysis the department encouraged officers to identify areas needing traffic enforcement and only tracked where citations were being issued on a rather random basis. This new process allows the district commanders to give more definitive direction as to where officers should concentrate their efforts.
3. Most of the problem concerning traffic crashes are the result of driver behavior, such as, failure to use seat belt, impaired driving, road rage, etc.
4. Conduct enforcement in identified trouble areas.

Response: 1. Traffic engineering, ODOT personnel and safety groups such as Hamilton County Safe Communities and community groups such as schools and driver training schools assist with educating people on tactics to avoid crashes.
2. The goal of enforcement is to reduce crashes, especially injury and fatal related.
3. The directed patrol conducted by the individual districts helps reach the goal of fewer crashes.
4. Directed patrol has always been conducted but was intensified several years ago.
5. Traffic enforcement is presently only able to be conducted by sworn police officers. However, the community groups are an invaluable resource for educating drivers as to their responsibility in crash avoidance. Continued work with education will always be a large part of crash reduction.

Assessment: Traffic Unit's Analyst has completed several courses of training that allows this individual to more thoroughly analyze the traffic data. Future reports should allow for a response noting some headway in crash reduction.

Police Participation

Specific Feedback: The current crash analysis and directed patrol program has been changed to a monthly directed patrol report versus the past one that analyzed information on a quarterly basis.

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