



Date 3/8/2007

To Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief

From Captain Daniel W. Gerard, Special Services Section Commander

Copies to

Subject Park Unit 4th Quarter 2006 Problem Solving Report

Category: Program / Project Case #: District: 5 Neighborhood: Mt. Airy

Coordinating Personnel: Sergeant Hank Ward

Description of Problem: Vice related offenses.

Phase of SARA: Response

SARA Documentation

Scanning (state problem): Mt. Airy Forest is a historic destination containing more than thirty percent of the Park Board's total acreage. Citizens of Cincinnati enjoy numerous picnic areas, lodges, and fourteen miles of hiking trails within the forest. Complaints of vice related offenses including alcohol, drug use, but mostly sexual activity increases with warmer weather. Some behavior does not involve sexual activity per se, but involve sexual content that can offend inadvertent witnesses and deter legitimate use of the park. Discarded, used condoms and other paraphernalia are unattractive and potentially hazardous. Our goal is to enhance the forest's natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment of all citizens.

Analysis (identify factual support): Park Board employees who maintain Mt. Airy Forest and park patrons have reported cruising and sexual activity around several lodges that include Stone Steps Lodge, and areas: twenty two and twenty three. Both areas are cul de sac turnarounds. In most cases, Park Board employees flag down uniform patrol officers who are patrolling the park and report the suspicious person or activity. Most problem areas offer public restrooms that are popular locations for sexual activity since the chances of detection by others are thought to be low and violators are able to exit without being identified or apprehended. The restrooms afford violators some privacy and the ability to spot potential witnesses or officers patrolling the area. Many of the shelters are trails are secluded by dense forest vegetations that also allow violators the ability to hide from the police.

Plain clothes officers and covert vehicles were used during the analysis stage to confirm cruising and suspicious activity in and around the public restrooms. Uniform Park Unit officers walked many paths and checked restrooms while increasing highly visible patrol and discovered paraphernalia such as used condoms.

Response (define action taken):

Assessment (document measurement): Police Participation

Specific Feedback:

City Department Participation

- Buildings and Inspections
- Community Development & Planning

Specific Feedback

The Mt. Airy community Council has shown interest in monitoring arrests through the court system as a result of any spectacular arrest in Mt. Airy Forest.

- Fire Department
- Health
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Parks

Park Board employees continue to relay information and provide a source of intelligence to the Park Police

- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Engineering
- Water Works