



Date January 24, 2008

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

To Mayor and Members of City Council
From Milton Dohoney, Jr., City Manager *MD*
Subject Public Safety Initiative Report and Update

On January 19, 2006, during a press conference with other City leaders, Mayor Mark Mallory launched a "Public Safety Initiative" to address public safety in Cincinnati. The Mayor is requesting the Cincinnati Police Department to provide quarterly updates on its efforts to support the "Public Safety Initiative." This updated information is listed below and is categorized using the original nine points of the "Public Safety Initiative." The information provided encompasses reporting period January 01, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

A MANDATE FOR COOPERATION

The Police Department's involvement in the Crime Stoppers Program continues to greatly enhance methods to receive crime tips. The Department has recently started accepting tips from citizens via a text message program. Tips are received at the Criminal Investigation Section and are monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Citizens are able to provide tips via text message at (513) 352-3050, via telephone at (513) 352-3040, or via the City-sponsored website, www.tipcincinnati.com, which allows citizens to send crime tips to the Police Department via email. These processes continue to allow the person providing the tip to remain anonymous while remaining eligible for a reward if the tip proves valuable.

- Since the beginning of 2007, Crime Stoppers received 3,816 valid tips, which is a reduction of 15% from the same period in 2006. However, the Department and local media continue to promote the use of Crime Stoppers. The tips received during the first eight months resulted in the closure of 774 cases, a 16% increase from 2006, with the arrests of 565 people.

Crimes solved as a result of Crime Stoppers tips include:

41 homicides
52 felonious/aggravated assaults
09 kidnappings/abductions
57 aggravated robberies

Each is a substantial increase from 2006 with the exception of Felonious and Aggravated Assaults, which have declined slightly.

Police Communications Section (PCS), relative to 9-1-1 calls for service made from wireless telephones, is now receiving Phase Two information (GPS coordinates of the call). Should a caller be unable to provide their location, the coordinates will be converted to an approximate street address for emergency service response. All wireless carriers in Hamilton County have completed the necessary testing to ensure the accuracy of their respective towers. Now that the interface has been activated and testing is completed, all Hamilton County wireless carriers are compliant with FCC regulations, which require accuracy within 300 meters of the global positioning coordinates received from the wireless carriers' towers.

The Police Department activated the new Computer Aided Dispatch System on November 27, 2007. The new system replaces the antiquated system implemented in the early 1990's. The system is Microsoft Windows based and provides enhanced functionality and mapping capabilities to assist with the identification of calls from emergency and non-emergency services. In addition, Police Communications Section personnel have developed and implemented a new and accurate Geo-file that contains all new roadways, subdivisions and re-routed roadway in the City as part of the Computer Aided Dispatch Project.

MAKE BETTER USE OF CRIME DATA

In 2006, the Police Department increased the complement to ten personnel assigned for crime analysis. Crime analysts are assigned in each of the five districts, Traffic Unit, Criminal Investigation Section, Central Vice Control Section, Intelligence Section, and Information Technology Management Unit. In April 2007, two crime analysts completed additional training in research with the Alpha Group Center. All other analysts have received training in a basic crime analysis course, an intelligence analysis course, and a criminal profiling course. The crime analysts are making better use of state criminal databases through access to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation's (BCI) databases and meet monthly to discuss crime trends and patterns.

The Police Department is collaborating with Mr. Robert Tillyer, a doctoral student from the University of Cincinnati's College of Criminal Justice. Mr. Tillyer meets with a working group, chaired by a captain. The group has developed revised reporting systems for district commanders to identify hot spots. The revised reports will be identified as the High Activity Zone and Resource Deployment (HAZARD) report. In addition, the Department has purchased updated software for all analysts to aid in identifying crime trends. They are currently attending training conducted by Mr. Tillyer in use of this software. The Department is also researching options related to crime mapping software and hardware to make crime maps and statistics available to the public through an interactive website.

The Police Department continues to advance the use of information in Crime Analysis functions to address crime and disorder within the City of Cincinnati. Crime Analysts continue to develop their proficiency in the latest software packages available. The analysts have completed training in the ESRI Arc-9.2 Mapping Software and utilize the information to identify the High Activity Zone and Resource Deployment (HAZARD) Reports.

Significant results related to the use of crime data to include the use of Contact Card information to identify a suspect wanted in connection for firing shots at Police Officers in District Three.

All officers up through the rank of captain have been trained on the new in-car field reporting system, COPS MART, in marked police vehicles. This new system is a county-wide project that replaced the obsolete Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) in marked police cars with state-of-the-art Mobile Data Computers (MDC). Officers have access to more information in their cars, including mug shots and Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) photos, which assist in the identification of individuals being queried by officers in the field. COPS MART will eventually allow for various reports to be collected electronically. Instead of having an officer handwrite the report and a data entry clerk keystroke the data in later, the officer will keystroke the data into the computer allowing for instant data access. This will provide virtually instant access to data collected and enhance the crime analysts' ability to provide a more timely analysis of criminal activity.

The Police Department has completed testing of the COPS MART technology and system integration in the fall of 2007. A field evaluation of the electronic field reporting software, PacketWriter, is scheduled for implementation on January 20, 2008 in District Five. District Five personnel will conduct testing of the field reporting for Auto Accidents and Contact Card in preparation for expansion to the entire Police Department prior to May 1, 2008. As officers develop proficiency in the system additional electronic field reporting modules, i.e. Arrest Reports, Offense Reports, etc., will be implemented in the field with expected full system activation by the end of 2008.

In addition, the Police Department is currently testing technology known as the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR). This camera system is installed in a police vehicle and is designed to read and store license plates while both the police vehicle and subject vehicle are in motion. The officer is alerted to those license plates with delinquent, or unpaid, parking tickets and wanted information when the license plate is queried against the database.

The Police Department's evaluation of the Kustom Signal inc. Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system was extremely successful and efficient for multiple functions. The Police Department has purchased seven ALPR systems for deployment throughout the City of Cincinnati. The expectations include an increase in apprehensions of wanted suspects, stolen vehicle recoveries and payment of outstanding fines that have become delinquent.

The Department has implemented a project to build a comprehensive Records Management System (RMS) as another method to make better use of crime data. The Motorola Corporation is developing a modular system that will integrate most of the Department's data/records into a central repository to provide stronger relationship analysis by the crime analysts. RMS will be integrated with a new Computer Aided Dispatch System (scheduled to go live in November 2007) and COPS MART field reporting. This will allow cases to be built from a single source, starting with the initial call for service through the arrest and prosecution, which will greatly enhance the analysis and investigative abilities of the Department.

Implementation of the RMS project is divided into five phases, based upon system tasks. Implementation of Phase One will begin in April 2008 and Phase Two will begin in October 2008.

The Police Department continues to develop the Records Management System according to the implementation timeline.

The Information Technology Management Unit has made training available to all officers on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) system. The OHLEG Search Engine provides law enforcement with a simple, yet useful, investigative tool. The OHLEG-SE is capable of securely querying numerous data sources, including financial crimes information and pharmaceutical-related issues, which are maintained by many law enforcement agencies throughout the state, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and the Sex Offender Registration Network (SORN). This new investigative tool will assist in identifying suspects, coordinating investigations with other law enforcement agencies, and apprehending wanted persons.

All Department personnel have received extensive training on the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) and incorporated it into their daily duties. The most significant being the identification of a suspect wanted in connection to a homicide by utilizing information in the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway.

The Department continues to review new technology that will enhance our operations. The Information Technology Management Unit is researching options to purchase Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) for field units that do not have access to car-based MDC systems.

No Change on this, we continue to look for more funding and have identified vendors and technology consistent with the Department goals for the project.

Currently, a crime surveillance camera project has been delayed due to projected City of Cincinnati budget limitations and an inability to monitor the cameras. The pilot project with City Watcher demonstrated the need for a more robust and reliable system. No funding has been obtained from the requested Federal funding, which has been included in the Fiscal year 2007 Federal Budget (House Resolution Bill 5672). However, community groups, such as the East Walnut Hills Area Council and Walnut Hills Community Council, have been successful in obtaining control of the existing cameras through the passage of City ordinances. These two neighborhoods should have cameras linked and monitored with volunteers by the end of this year. In addition, the College Hill Forum is requesting the transfer of the five cameras that were assigned to its community.

AGGRESSIVELY ENFORCE FORFEITURE AND PROPERTY SEIZURE ORDINANCES TO TARGET MID-LEVEL DRUG DEALERS

The Department's vice and drug units have merged into a unified Central Vice Control Section (CVCS). A Mid-Level Drug Unit, focusing on higher level traffickers, was created within CVCS. The Department has established a partnership with the local Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office, which results in a DEA agent working in our office every day and a CPD officer working in the DEA office every day. The additional access to money, equipment, manpower, intelligence, and computer database information at no additional cost to the City, combined with the emphasis on higher level dealers, has resulted in an increase in both drug and asset seizures.

During 2007, CVCS officers recovered 7,110 pounds of marijuana, including 6,262 pounds recovered as the result of the cooperative effort with the DEA. Powder cocaine seizures by CVCS also rose 60% over 2006.

Although vehicles seized under asset forfeiture laws have decreased 50%, (74 vehicles) during 2007, currency seizures has substantially increased to \$979,488.00, a 74% increase over 2006.

Cincinnati Municipal Code Chapter 759, which was passed in late 2005, imposes a civil fine of \$500 for a vehicle used in a drug or prostitution offense. During 2007, 102 cars were impounded civilly under this ordinance. This has resulted in the collection of approximately \$25,000 in civil fines. In addition, 3,564 arrests were made with the enhanced marijuana enforcement section, CMC 910-23.

TARGET THE FIFTY MOST VIOLENT CRIMINALS IN CINCINNATI WITH AGGRESSIVE POLICING STRATEGIES

The Department continues to break new ground on identifying and apprehending the City's "most violent and most wanted" suspects. Each district maintains its own list of the ten "Most Wanted" offenders, which highlights offenders with outstanding warrants. Every two weeks, supervisors from every investigative unit in the Department, the University of Cincinnati Police Department, and other local law enforcement agencies meet to share information and discuss recent crime trends.

In May 2006, the Department became an active member of the Southern Ohio Fugitive Apprehension Strike Team (SOFAST). This partnership is headed by the U.S. Marshals' Office and includes members from Immigration; Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF); the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office; Hamilton County Probation; the Ohio Parole Authority; and others. The primary purpose of SOFAST is to apprehend sex offenders and subjects wanted on serious felony warrants. In the first eight months of 2007, SOFAST apprehended 326 wanted subjects and served 593 warrants.

On July 31, 2007, the Department began the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV), which is a community effort similar in nature to the Boston Project. It is a multifaceted violence reduction strategy. The four facets of the program are; law enforcement community, community services, the moral voice of the community, and sustainability.

The law enforcement community is comprised of, but not limited to; the Cincinnati Police Department, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, the United States Attorney's Office and Hamilton County Adult Probation and Parole.

From the law enforcement standpoint, an intensive and ongoing intelligence gathering effort identifies violent groups operating in Cincinnati. Once identified, probation and parole personnel identify which members of these groups are presently under community control. In addition a mandatory hearing is held and the individuals are summoned before the members of CIRV in an official court setting. On July 31, 2007, the first mandatory probation and parole meeting was held. Facets of CIRV spoke before the group of individuals from their standpoint. Another upcoming mandatory meeting will be held in the near future.

COORDINATE MEDIA, COMMUNITY PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING, AND CITIZENS ON PATROL TO TARGET THE FIFTY MOST WANTED

The Department collaborates with Channel 12 News on a "Wheel of Justice." Every Wednesday the wheel, which features wanted subjects, is spun. Information about the subject who is selected is provided throughout the day on Channel 12 News broadcasts. Since the beginning of 2007, this partnership has yielded 50 arrests. Information regarding wanted individuals, who either reside or congregate in a particular neighborhood, is disseminated to community partners during community council and business association meetings and at Citizens on Patrol and Community Problem Oriented Policing meetings. Depending on the severity of the crime, this information may be placed on the Citizen Observer website.

CALL ON U.S. ATTORNEY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTORIAL CASES THEY ACCEPT FROM CINCINNATI

The Intelligence Section reviews all cases involving violent recidivist offenders and meets regularly with representatives of the ATF and U.S. Attorney's Office to consider cases for federal prosecution. Prosecuting these cases on the federal level has resulted in an average of seven years incarceration upon conviction, with no eligibility for probation or parole. In 2006, the U.S. Attorney accepted 33 Cincinnati cases for federal prosecution with additional cases being investigated.

In 2007, the U.S. Attorney's Office accepted 19 cases for federal prosecution under Project Disarm. There are 13 additional cases pending acceptance for prosecution. The Department continues its aggressive pursuit of federal prosecution for serious violent offenders.

As stated in a previous update, the Intelligence Section, in cooperation with the U.S. Attorney, obtained nine indictments of members of a violent criminal enterprise known as the "Grimmie Network." All members of the Grimmie Network had previous criminal convictions, making them eligible for federal prosecution under the Violent Crimes In Aid of Racketeering (VICAR) statute. To date, eight of the nine have been arrested and are awaiting prosecution by the U.S. Attorney.

ENHANCE OUR EFFECTIVENESS BY STRENGTHENING OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In addition to the partnerships mentioned above, the Department has a longstanding relationship with the Regional Enforcement Narcotics Unit (RENU). During the first eight months of 2007, agents with RENU have seized 191 pounds of cocaine, 6.9 pounds of heroin and 615 pounds of marijuana along with drug assets totaling \$3,012,077. Agents have arrested 156 individuals and seized 59 weapons.

On January 15, 2007, RENU agents arrested a Texas man after a search of a semi tractor trailer resulted in the recovery of 135 pounds of cocaine, the largest seizure in Hamilton County. Further investigation led RENU to arrest two Cincinnati area businessmen and seize over \$1 million. In August 2007, RENU agents seized \$511,293 from a truck driver on Interstate I-74. On August 24, 2007, agents arrested four individuals from Covington, Kentucky; Indianapolis, Indiana; and the community of Evanston in Cincinnati, Ohio and seized 5.6 pounds of cocaine and 1.3 pounds of

heroin. Agents seized \$508,000 from the individuals in Cincinnati which provided DEA agents in Indianapolis with information that led to the seizure of an additional \$502,000 at a residence in Indianapolis.

In the fourth quarter of 2007 the Regional Narcotics Unit arrested 44 suspects resulting in the seizure of 57.49 pounds of cocaine, 1765.77 grams of heroin, and 127.38 pounds of marijuana and \$541,939.80 worth of assets. For the year 2007, the Regional Narcotics Unit arrested 215 suspects resulting in the seizure of 249.75 pounds of cocaine, 4909.92 grams of heroin, and 748.49 pounds of marijuana and \$3,567,692.50 worth of assets.

Other Department cooperation with surrounding law enforcement agencies include:

Project Safe Neighborhoods, continuing anti-gun efforts in our partnership with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

Project Defense, a partnership with Hamilton County Probation.

Project Ceasefire, a partnership with Ohio Parole Authority, Hamilton County Probation, and Hamilton County Juvenile Probation.

FOCUS ON TRUANCY SWEEPS

Through August, 2007, the Department has conducted truancy sweeps resulting in 365 truancy arrests. This school year, starting in September of 2007, the Department partnered with the community and the Cincinnati Board of Education to focus more on habitual truants. We focused on the causes/reasons for their attendance problems and matched the students with different social services to meet their needs. Since its inception, our new "Fight Against Truancy" has resulted in 19 students being returned permanently to school. In addition, there have been 64 additional arrests for curfew violations.

CONCLUSION

The Police Department is committed to the reduction of crime in our neighborhoods, especially violent crime. For the year of 2007, Homicides have declined 21%, Part I crime has declined 8.1%, violent crime has declined 12.0%, and Part II crime has declined 2.6%.

Numerous strategies have been outlined in this report, many of which have been developed and implemented during the last several months. The Department has a new Strategic Plan that guides the efforts of its work force. This Strategic Plan is comprised of five strategic directions: Public Safety, Community Partnerships, Personnel Development, Resource Management, and Technological Advancement. This Strategic Plan is a fluid document and continues to evolve as the Department moves forward.

The Department continues to strengthen its ability to identify and respond to changing crime trends. The Department is confident in the strategies that it has implemented and its ability to reduce violence in our city. Due in part to the many variables influencing criminal behavior, the most effective means of controlling criminal activity

involves the Department's constant evaluation of crime trends and the use of real-time analysis as an aid in the deployment of resources.

The Department's crime reduction plan is in place and well managed. The Department is using technology to evaluate crime trends and develop strategies to address them.

The single most important factor that will contribute significantly to crime reduction in our city is the networking of all City resources, internally and externally, in conjunction with building and maintaining community partnerships focused on reducing crime. Community Problem Oriented Policing efforts throughout the City and full compliance with the Collaborative Agreement are integral parts of our global effort to reduce crime.

The Department continues to work in partnership with the community to improve the quality of life for our citizens. The Department is committed to utilizing cutting-edge technology and the most effective and current crime control techniques available in both patrol and investigative operational plans.

There are several areas, however, that significantly impact crime patterns that we must continue to monitor and improve upon to successfully reduce violent crime in our city. These areas include:

Jail Overcrowding: Our jail system is controlled by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. The jail has been at capacity for many years causing the early release of criminals and frustrating the efforts of our law enforcement officers. Female inmate space is extremely limited and constantly at capacity. Because of this, officers are often unable to physically arrest females who commit non-violent offenses.

Recidivism: The vast majority of violent crimes are committed by repeat offenders or offenders on probation or parole. Probation and parole officials are controlled by the Hamilton County Courts. Closer monitoring by probation and parole officers will enable them to identify violations quickly, while also encouraging those who legitimately deserve a second chance.

Community Service Agency Performance: Each year, the City donates millions of tax dollars to private organizations claiming to give aid to the poor and needy citizens or to assist with re-entry programs for those who have served their debt to society. Many of these agencies do not provide the level of service they purport when applying for funding. Performance measures should be strictly maintained and monitored to ensure programs are performing at levels needed to produce desired results. Community based re-entry programs with job training and placement assistance, would greatly aid citizens legitimately trying to change their lives.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W.C. Vincent".

cc: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief