



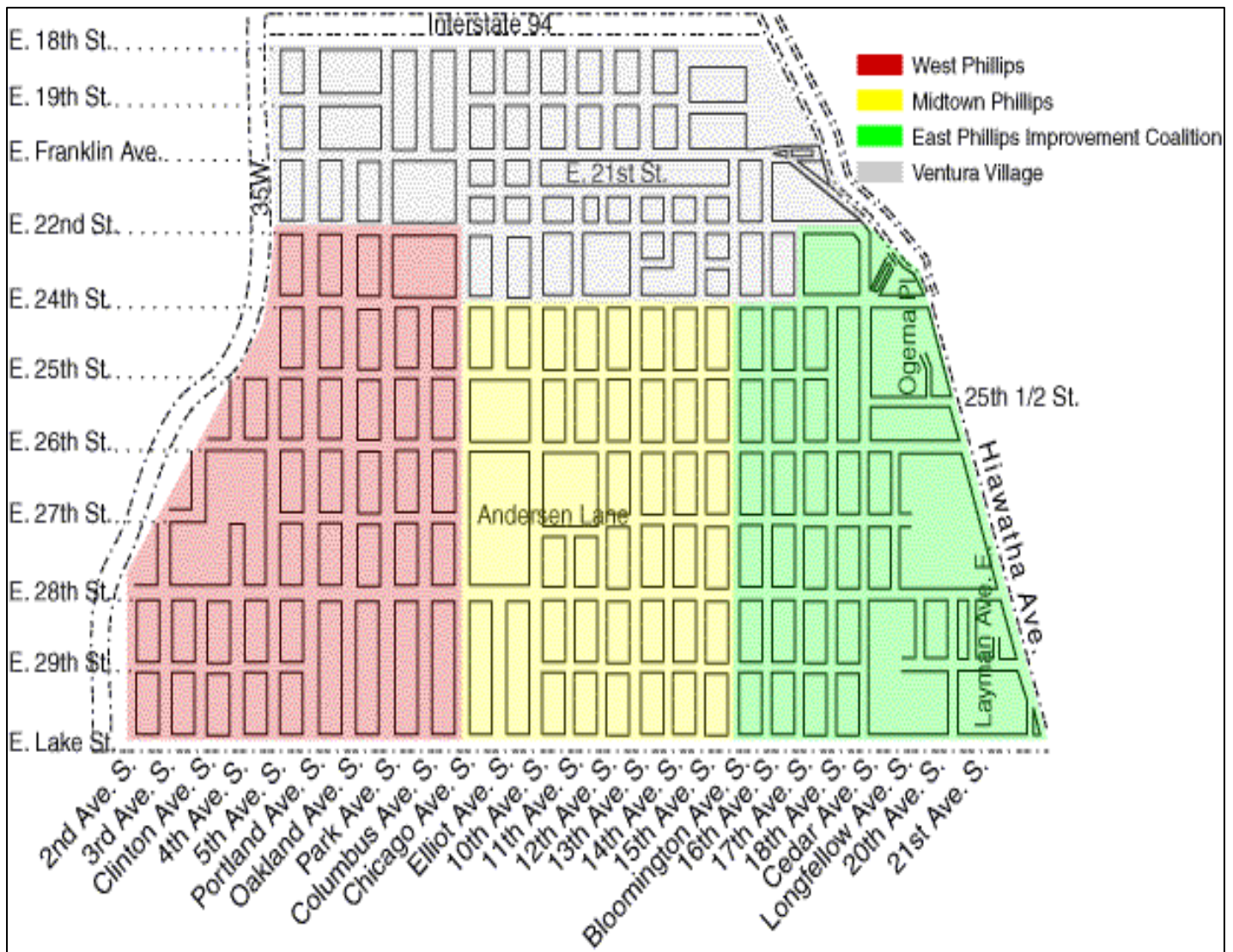
Minneapolis Police Department 2009 Neighborhood Policing Plan

East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, Phillips West
and Ventura Village

Introduction:

The Phillips Area is situated just south of downtown Minneapolis. It consists of four neighborhoods: **East Phillips (EPIC)**, **Midtown Phillips**, **Phillips West** and **Ventura Village**. These four neighborhoods comprise Sector One of the 3rd Precinct.

Neighborhood Map:



Precinct Contacts:

3 rd Precinct Desk	612- 673-5703
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Sector One Crime Prevention Specialist - Don Greeley	612-673-3482
Precinct Commander – Insp. Lucy Gerold	612-673-5786

Overview:

The Phillips Community is located south of downtown Minneapolis. It extends from Interstate 94 on the north to Lake Street East on the south and from Interstate 35 on the west to Hiawatha Avenue on the east. The community takes its name from Wendell Phillips, a 19th century abolitionist. Phillips is comprised of four neighborhoods - **East Phillips (EPIC), Midtown Phillips, Phillips West and Ventura Village**. Residents are primarily made up of African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, Somali, Asian and white.

In recent years there has been a boom in development. A few examples are the new Christo Ray School in Phillips West, the Midtown Exchange and Global Market in Midtown Phillips, a business and community renaissance along Franklin Ave in Ventura Village, and the Franklin Station Town homes in East Phillips. In addition the East Phillips neighborhood association, in partnership with the Mpls Park Board is moving rapidly toward the creation of a new, multi-million dollar community building in East Phillips Park.

The Midtown Greenway Bicycle trail bisects the Phillips Area along the old 29th St. rail corridor. It's used by commuters and recreational cyclists and walkers. Ride east to the Mississippi River or go west and ride all the way to Chaska.

For more information about the Phillips Community go to:

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/neighborhoods/phillips_profile_home.asp
<http://www.pnn.org/>

Overall crime in the four neighborhoods has been dropping steadily. (Re: tables below).

Crime Statistics

Offenses	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Totals	% Change 2003 - 2008
Part One Crimes								
** Homicide	15	9	7	5	4	3	43	- 20
** Rape	46	35	58	49	54	40	282	- 13
** Robbery	349	358	394	222	220	179	1,722	- 49
** Aggravated Assault	288	230	327	266	187	188	1,486	- 35
Burglary	287	394	363	430	385	408	2,267	+ 30
Larceny	1,024	1,070	1,147	930	920	931	6,022	- 9
Vehicle Theft	416	442	391	326	291	218	2,084	- 48
Arson	27	25	16	16	15	18	117	- 33
Part One Totals	2452	2563	2703	2244	2076	1985	14,023	- 19
Selected Part Two Crimes								
Simple Assault	895	892	893	852	819	664	5,015	- 26
Weapons	74	51	74	67	81	78	425	- 5
Prostitution	93	67	70	71	61	71	433	- 24
Narcotics	707	596	510	314	306	346	2,779	- 51
Part Two Totals	1769	1606	1547	1304	1267	1159	8,652	- 34
Total - Part 1 & 2 crimes	4221	4169	4250	3548	3343	3144	22,675	- 26

(These stats were compiled from the Geomaster Mapping System)

Comparison 1998 to 2008

Offenses	1998	2008	% Change 98 to 08
Part One Crimes			
** Homicide	10	3	- 70
** Rape	80	40	- 50
** Robbery	417	179	- 57
** Aggravated Assault	377	188	- 50
Burglary	423	408	- 4
Larceny	1466	931	- 36
Vehicle Theft	458	218	- 52
Arson	41	18	- 56
Part One Totals	3272	1985	- 39
Selected Part Two Crimes			
Simple Assault	1554	664	- 57
Weapons	146	78	- 47
Prostitution	753	71	- 91
Narcotics	1062	346	- 67
Part Two Totals	3515	1159	- 67
Total - Part 1 & 2 crimes	6787	3144	- 54
** Violent Crimes	884	410	- 54

(These stats were compiled from the Geomaster Mapping System)

Sector Outreach – From MPD to the Community:

3rd Precinct Sector One staff receives input about community concerns on an ongoing, regular basis directly from the community. Precinct staff meet regularly – at least monthly - with community members at the four neighborhood association meetings, Community Crime Prevention Initiative (CCPI), block clubs, the American Indian Safety Council, MUD, two Courtwatch efforts (one community wide and one for Little Earth Housing, with the Midtown Phillips Rental Property Owners Group and our Criminal Justice Community Partners Initiative.

The membership in most of these organizations overlaps. Most of the key players attend multiple meetings. Precinct staff also meets with resident groups in a variety of settings through out the year (e.g. Lutheran Socials Services Housing, Ebenezer Towers, Ebenezer High Rise, Collaborative Village, Children's Village). 3rd Precinct Sector Staff does outreach to, and collaborates with the Native American, Somali and Hispanic community.

2009 Community Concerns:

Based on **discussions with community members** and a **written survey**, the top three Phillips Area community concerns are:

1. **Street level narcotics activity, related prostitution. (See Appendix B for map)**
2. **Narcotics/other criminal activity related to vacant, abandoned, boarded buildings.**
3. **Problems associates with poorly managed rental property.**
(E.g. drug activity, noise, disturbances, housing inspections related issues)

2009 Policing Strategy:

The Minneapolis Police Department has two citywide goals; reduce crime and improve relationships with the community it serves. We believe the best way to accomplish these larger goals, as well as to address the major concerns of the Phillips community, are through a proactive policing approach.

Criminal Justice Community Partners (CJCP)

In January of 2009 we implemented CJCP to focus on law enforcement and community resources on a small, manageable, geographic area in the Phillips community. The activity is directed at street level narcotics activity, prostitution and other livability crimes. The choice of the current "target area" is based on resident complaints, 911 calls, the observation of police staff who work those areas and crime statistics/analysis.

The partners include residents, business people, community resource people, law enforcement (police staff, probation officers, and city and county attorneys) and other interested attendees.

CJCP meets monthly. The time is used to update one another, report on the results of our strategies and efforts, get additional input from the affected residents and plan for our next steps.

Once an area has been selected, law enforcement activity is focused in that area. Arrests are monitored. Information about those offenders arrested in the area is compiled and provided to police, probation officers and residents. The officers use the information to support their enforcement work. The community uses the information to be more effective in calling 911 when they see offenders in the area committing crimes or violating court or probation restrictions. Residents are also asked to write Community Impact statements used by prosecutors when these offenders appear in court.

There is a strong focus on crime prevention. The resident partners participate with an emphasis on implementing crime prevention strategies and block club organizing. The Crime Prevention Specialist uses the initiative to recruit block leaders and organize block clubs where people are receptive.

As part of this effort, 3rd Precinct Problem Property Officers and Community Response Team focus on particular properties – occupied and vacant, that support the street level criminal activity in the target area.

Targeting a particular area does not diminish enforcement efforts in other parts of the Phillips Community. The law enforcement partners continue to work in the other areas of the community as always.

When the Partners decide to move into a new area, the goal is always to "hold the ground we've taken", so that problems don't return.

MEASURING SUCCESS- Criminal Justice Community Partners.

- ✓ Success is measured by the community. When community members can say that problem criminal activity has stopped or dramatically subsided in the target area we will know that we have been successful.
- ✓ We will track arrests.
- ✓ We will track the number of community impacts statements the community submits
- ✓ We will track the number of new block clubs and other crime prevention efforts.

Focused Efforts On “Customers” To Reduce Prostitution

Street level prostitution is a major concern in South Minneapolis. By some estimates, 60% of the prostitution occurring in Minnesota is occurring in the 3rd Precinct. The four neighborhoods in Phillips are heavily impacted by this crime (re: map Appendix A).

Past efforts to address this problem include:

- Arrest and prosecution of prostitutes and their customers (“Johns”).
- Prosecution was very heavily weighted against the prostitutes with relatively light consequences for the customers.
- Working with residents to deter the customers by sending “John letters” to individuals seen frequenting high prostitution areas. The MPD has engaged the community in this process for many years. Residents will identify vehicle license numbers. A letter is sent to the listed owner of the vehicle, describing when and where the vehicle was observed.
- A long standing Restorative Justice Program that allows customers who are arrested and charged an alternative to traditional prosecution. Under the sanction of the Hennepin County Courts, they must meet with and work with the community they’ve offended in, do some community service and “own up” to their crime.
- Referring prostitutes to programs that specialize in helping them deal with their drug addiction, their mental health issues and provide long term support so they can get out of prostitution.

These efforts, while having an impact, have not seriously reduced prostitution simply because the volume of the problem is so big. Prostitution is driven by demand. The 3rd Precinct is currently looking at ways to reduce the demand; that is: drive the customers away.

The Minneapolis City Attorney recently decided to post pictures of those arrested for prostitution on the city website as well as on Clear Channel billboards. The hope is that fear of being caught and the resulting embarrassment will deter prostitution customers.

The City Attorney recently announced that the legal penalties for prostitution have been increased, especially for the customers.

We’ve begun a public relations effort to warn potential customers of the dangers of consorting with prostitutes (e.g. disease, the very real danger of becoming a victim of violent crimes like robbery, and in the case of people in the United States illegally, deportation).

We are looking at ways to better reach out to the prostitutes more effectively to get them the help they need to get off the streets.

MEASURING SUCCESS- Focused Efforts On “Customers” To Reduce Prostitution

- ✓ Keep track of the numbers of arrests for prostitution related activity - both the customers and prostitutes.
- ✓ Working with the city attorney, keep track of the numbers of customers who are prosecuted and the outcomes of their prosecutions.

- ✓ Publicize the arrests of customers and our anti prostitution efforts (website, billboards, radio and TV spots and other efforts) to discourage “Johns” from seeking prostitutes.

Problem Properties

At any given time there are approximately 100 or so “problem properties” in the Phillips area. These properties fall into several categories:

- Occupied properties where drug dealing and other types of criminal disturbances are occurring (e.g. noisy parties, tipling houses).
- Vacant properties that are open to trespassers and are being used for criminal purposes.
- Vacant properties that may be a hazard to the community (structural issues, vacant property with live gas lines, etc.).
- Businesses that are creating problems for the community

We have a Problem Properties Officer assigned to the Phillips area whose primary responsibility is to address issues related to these properties. The Problem Property Officer works in collaboration with the Crime Prevention Specialist, the Community Response team and Housing Inspectors.

Approaches to these issues include:

- Contacting the occupants who are creating problems.
- Contacting the owner of the property to get them to take steps to address the problems.
- Securing or boarding properties that are open to trespass and harboring criminal activity.
- Enforcement at properties where drug dealing is occurring.
- Working with business licensing inspectors to do enforcement and document problems for possible license revocation.
- Work with the City Attorney's office to enforce the Rental Licensing and Noisy Assembly Ordinances.
- Work with the County Attorney's Office to enforce the state Nuisance Laws
- In March the Crime Prevention Specialists and Problem Properties Officers meet with the city housing inspectors to share information and talk about how they can better collaborate to address problem properties.
- Work directly with rental property owners/property managers. Enforcement of the Rental Licensing and Noisy Assembly Ordinances as well as the State Nuisance laws, allow us opportunities to work with rental property owners. In an effort to be more proactive and preventive we set out to organize rental property owners. In the fall of 2007 one of our block leaders who owns and manages rental property and the Crime Prevention Specialist began organizing rental property owners; the Midtown Rental Property Owners Group.

The group met four times in 2008 and once so far in 2009. Currently we have about 80+ rental property owners involved. We offer them assistance with specific police related problems they are having; steer them to other resources they need; provide training in various aspects of successfully managing rental property and offer them an opportunity to network with one another. The group is currently working to create a website.

MEASURING SUCCESS – Problem Property

- ✓ Create and implement a better system to quantify the number of problem properties, and how the problems are resolved.

Community Involvement

Successful policing practices that produce long term solutions nearly always require a commitment from the community. We've surveyed the community for three years. We asked the question: **"Should/can the neighborhood address these concerns"? "If so how?"** This year's responses included:

- "Yes-by building neighborhood watch teams and having more people willing to look out for crimes and reporting them right away (911)"
- "Yes- open communication is key – have meetings, get to know your neighbors and local businesses – get the word out that we know what these criminals are doing and that we (as a community) will work together with police to enforcement to prevent crimes."
- "I could call the police when I see illegal driving behavior. I would like to do more but don't know what is appropriate".
- "I think the neighborhood should stick together. I think we should make signs that say "neighborhood alliance against crime" and put them in front of houses to visibly show other undesirables in the area that we are not going to tolerate it and we are watching them like a hawk."
- "Call 911"

The ideas raised in this years surveys are already available and being done.

- ✓ "Building neighborhood watch teams" – translates into organizing block clubs.
- ✓ Posting signs that say "neighborhood alliance against crime" translates into becoming trained as a block leader and holding a first block club meeting. Once that is accomplished the city will provide a **Watch force Sign** to post on your block.
- ✓ "Calling 911"

Outreach

Do a better job of teaching the community about the options they have to work more closely with the law enforcement community and each other. We know that some of the concerns residents have can be addressed directly by them, working together, with a little guidance. In order to create long term solutions the community must be a part of it.

Crime Prevention/Block Club Organizing

All of our efforts allow opportunities to promote crime prevention. Recruiting and training block leaders and supporting active block watches is a priority.

In 2009 we have two new opportunities to recruit block leaders and organize block clubs.

- One piece of our Criminal Justice Community Partners Initiative is pulling in residences in the target area and expecting them to work with us to get there block club active or start one.
- Also we will be starting a block outreach/organizing effort with the Banyon Program in East Phillips. We will be meeting with existing block leaders and contacts as well as reaching out for new block leaders to organize additional block clubs.

We will continue to:

- Work to promote the formation of more crime prevention based block clubs in the four neighborhoods in the Phillips area by:
- Do outreach through our email networks, and at community meetings to increase participation in Block Leader Training.

- Doorknock specific blocks where problems are occurring to recruit block leaders and get block clubs organized.
- When appropriate, make it a requirement for those calling with complaints about community problems to take Block Leader Training and help us organize their block(s).
- Continue to promote the benefits of having an organized block club.

Statistical Performance Measures

1. A reduction of total Part 1 Crimes (in particular violent crimes) by 5%
2. A reduction on the number of problem properties by 10%
3. A reduction in narcotics and prostitution related criminal activity.
4. An overall increase in the number of active block clubs by 5%

PHILIPS AREA – 2008 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN RESULTS

2008 Policing Goals

Street Level Narcotics/Prostitution:

- Enforcement details- with the focus on the repeat offenders
- Directed beat patrols (foot and bike)
- Focused activity by Community Response Team in areas with high levels of narcotics/prostitution activity
- Work with residents/businesses in affected areas to create a positive community presence as a deterrent to criminal activity (e.g. block clubs, work with rental property owners)
- Promote Court watch participation to impact sentencing for repeat offenders (Re: CLEAN)

(COMPLETED)

Problem Property Initiative:

- Assign a problem Property Officer specifically for Sector One.
- Focus on boarded buildings and occupied addresses known for criminal activity done in conjunction with 3rd Prec. Problem Property Officer(s)/SAFE Staff/CRT
- Work with housing inspections problem property staff to address inspections related issues in vacant, boarded, abandoned buildings.
- Encourage residents to report problems related to boarded, vacant buildings.

(COMPLETED)

Problems in Rental Property:

- Outreach to rental property owners in effort to provide them with tools and information needed to prevent problems from arising in their buildings.
- Promote city sponsored Rental Property Owner Workshops at community meetings, through our email alerts and in our contacts with rental property owners. .
- Continue to enforce the Rental Conduct Ordinance 244.2020
- Continue to enforce the Noisy/Unruly Assembly Ordinance 395.000

- Working with community members, organize rental property owners in the Sector so we can work with them more effectively.

(COMPLETED)

2008 Neighborhood Engagement (Community Partnership):

- Work with the neighborhood associations, and other existing community organizations to promote more community events/activities that can prevent crime

(COMPLETED)

- Promote more resident/business involvement in the CLEAN/Courtwatch efforts.

(COMPLETED)

- Work with residents to be more effective reporters of crime and problems through our Block Leader training, at community meetings and other events. We will do presentations and use written material and put out informational tips on our email alert network.

(COMPLETED)

2008 Performance Measures:

The Phillips Area (Sector One) will measure results by the follow goals:

5. A reduction of total Part 1 Crimes (in particular violent crimes) by 8%
 - ✓ **In total Part One Crimes were reduced by 4.3 % from 2007 to 2008**
 - ✓ **Violent Part One Crimes (homicides, Rapes, Robberies and Aggravated Assault) were reduced by 12% from 2007 to 2008**
6. A reduction on the number of problem properties by 10% -
 - ✓ **The number of problems properties remained relatively constant. While many were resolved, new problems occurred.**
7. A reduction in narcotics and prostitution related criminal activity based on Part Two statistics.
 - ✓ **The only way to measure narcotics and prostitution crimes is by arrests. In 2008 we had a 16.4% increase in prostitution arrests and a 13% increase in narcotics arrests from 2007**
8. An overall increase in the number of active block clubs by 10% - **Not completed**
9. The creation of one active Rental Property Owners group in the Sector - **Completed**

End of 2009 Neighborhood Plan; 2008 Results for the Philips Area

Appendix A

2008 Maps: Narcotics & Prostitution Arrests

