

VV Problem Solving

WORKING DRAFT

November 2023

Problem Statement 1: Shootings in the Vicinity of Chicago and Franklin Avenues

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	Person Assigned	Timeline	
1.1	Gang members hanging out in front of Minneapolis Market, neighboring properties and Peavey Park. They leave litter and intimidate others	A) Hire off-duty police to patrol the area	Ventura Village has hired off-duty police in the past and it worked to reduce problems		•Police officers •Money	• Because the police department is understaffed, it is difficult to find active police officers to hire off-duty	Hire retired police officers, private security, etc.				
	Negative activity spills over onto Elliot Avenue and the alley between Chicago & Elliot Avenues	B) Minneapolis police department provides beat cops for the area long enough to permanently change behaviors	Has worked to reduce problems in the past		•Police officers •Money	• The City Council and Mayor has placed a priority on responding to 911 calls and will not allocate resources for beat cops	• Get City Council and Mayor to change policies &/or to allocate resources • Sue the city to get resources • Ask State and Feds to provide resources	Contact legal firm	Ray		
		C) Reestablish Safety Center/ Sub-Station. Possible sites: 2nd Floor PPL Bldg. at Chicago & Franklin, old Carlson Printing Bldg., Norway House	• Has worked in the past. Could hold office for Kali plus 3 police cars. • establishes a more permanent police presence to deter crime and respond faster.								
		D) Build barriers (e.g. fences, walls, spikes on walls) that prevent people from trespassing onto private property		• Expensive	• Money • Willing private property owners	• Money • City does not consistently enforce "No-Trespassing" postings	Since the city has failed in its responsibility to provide for safety, the city should pay for barriers				
		E) Use geographic trespass to identify and remove court documented criminals from the area									
		F) Post "No Loitering" signs	Homeowner can post anyway	Not enforceable							

	G) No parking on both sides of Franklin Avenue from Chicago to Elliot	Would prevent drug sales between dealers on the street and cars							
	H) Ask property owners to post "No Trespassing" signs								
	I) Encourage more visibility with regular events								
	J) Hire violence interrupters patrol the area		Must vet potential violence interrupters						
	K) Put Karo Syrup or other products on surfaces to discourage people from gathering people could sit							Ray Peterson	
	L) Discourage traffic from using Elliot Ave. & the alley (e.g. Use diverters, permit parking, speed bumps, traffic circles)	Could use on a trial basis to see if this strategy works							
	M) Contact the owner of the Almadina Market and the former Carlson Printing building to find out what his plans are and if he has any crime reducing ideas.								
	N) Conduct study to determine if physical changes could be made to the intersection that would discourage criminal activity							Mary Watson will contact the College of Art and Design	
1.2	Gang members are selling drugs openly on the street and in	A) Enforce ordinances and laws that do not allow this activity.				• Minneapolis City Council.	• Get City Council and Mayor to provide resources		

	H) Enforce no drug sales within 1,000 feet of a school/park (PPL school, Peavey Park, Hope Academy)								
	I) Relocate camera at Chicago & Franklin so that it is monitoring the area where the gang activity is occurring.								
	J) Continue to work with Southside Peacekeeping Coalition								
	K) Identify specific gang members and intervene in their lives and otherwise disrupt the gang that has claimed this intersection as their territory								
1.3	Minneapolis Market seems to be catering to and supporting the gang activity	A) Seek assistance from Attorney General Keith Ellison to address problems with Minneapolis Market and the gang activity	Helped address a similar problem on the North Side			Not enough 911 and 311 calls to document problem	• Revoke Minneapolis Market's business license		
		B) Hold Minneapolis Market accountable for activity outside their store							
		C) Ask Minneapolis Market to stop selling certain items							
		D) Ask Minneapolis Market to hire guards							
		E) Ask Minneapolis Market to schedule sufficient staff to properly operate its business							
1.4	Gang members shooting each other and endangering innocent bystanders.	A) Enforce existing gun control laws							

	B) Use existing laws to arrest and prosecute gang members								
	C) Reactivate Gang Task Force								
	D) Use City-wide Gun Task Force more often	Need to use often enough to disrupt activity permanently		Gun Task Force consists of DEA, FBI, MPD, Henn. Cty Sherriff, Metro Transit Police		Need to talk to Inspector Gomes			

Problem Statement 2: Encampments

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	
2.1	It takes up to two weeks to shut down an encampment once it is established.	A) MUID is asking for immediate shutdown of encampment	Would prevent deaths and crime	Camp might just relocate unless moving the camp is blocked		City is not following its own policy on encampments and not enforcing it equally.			
		B) Contact the "Homeless Response Team" to see if they have set a closure date for the encampment at 13th & 24th							
		C) Ask Mike Goze to come to a problem solving meeting to share his ideas							
2.2	Neighbors in the vicinity of encampments are being victimized. This is in part because certain groups of people are not allowed into the camp but hang	A) Provide 24 hour police presence/ security within a four block radius of the camp to prevent crime	Would reduce violence against neighbors, destruction of property/ vandalism, burglary, intimidation, public use of drugs, etc.		-Police - Private security - Violence interrupters	City is not willing to allocate resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek help from Governor/ National Guard • Seek help from Hennepin County Sheriff 		

	around the camp and trespass	B) Establish volunteer "escort" patrol that would escort non-residents through the neighborhood and provide friendly reminders to interrupt criminal behavior.								
2.3	There is no support for residents who live adjacent to the camps.									
2.4	Vulnerable residents in encampments are being victimized by criminals	A) Provide security within encampments and do not allow criminal elements to enter encampments	Improves safety within camps	Criminal activity moves into the areas immediately adjacent to the camps						
2.5	Once an encampment is removed it simply relocates a few blocks away	A) Prevent enablers from organizing and helping people move to new campsites								
		B) Establish data base and record of all individuals in an encampment. Use information to both identify problems and resources each person needs and also to issue citations for any violations of law								
2.6	Encampments in or near Ventura Village are perceived as an American Indian issue because many of the occupants are American Indian	A) Ask to attend the MUID subcommittee meetings on the Unsheltered/Opioid Crisis Response as observers								

2.10	There is garbage all around the vicinity of the encampment that is not being picked up	A) Get city solid waste department to cooperate in picking up trash.	Most often the trash is on city property and they should pick it up						
2.11	Location of the encampment is preventing/curtailing near-by organizations from providing services to their regular clientele								
2.12	Because of the number of unhoused people in the area, many establishments are closing their bathrooms for public use. This creates a problem for regular customers who are also barred from using the public								
2.13	There is a group of people who are enabling the encampments and helping people move to new camps when a camp is closed								
2.14	There is a sense of community that develops within encampments that makes it difficult for an individual to make a decision to leave	Need to create alternate sense of community that supports individuals to make a decision to leave an encampment and make decisions that will improve their life.							

2.15	There is no city ordinance that addresses encampments								
2.16	The police will no longer remove isolated tents before they become encampments because it takes up too much of their time	A) Contact Inspector Gomes and tell him that removing isolated tents is a priority for the neighborhood no matter how much time it takes	In the long run this would save police time because it would reduce 911 calls related to problems created by encampments						
		B) inundate the city with 911 calls regarding isolated tents no matter how frustrating the lack of police response							

Problem Statement 3: Trespassing

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	Person Assigned	Timeline
3.1	People who hang around the periphery of encampments are trespassing on neighboring properties to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> temporarily store belongings. go to the bathroom (This is a hazard). steal have sex get water 	A) Post City issued no trespassing signs	Police are not enforcing no trespassing on posted properties	Police are not enforcing no trespassing on posted properties		Police are trying to enforce no trespassing on posted properties, but if there are too many people, they can't do it alone	If the city will not enforce no trespassing, the city should pay for the fencing and other security improvements.			
		B) Politely ask people to leave property	Most people will leave if asked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People will often come back 			This could save the city in the long run by reducing policing costs			
		C) Build fences, construct other barriers, add lighting, install		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costly for property owners 						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place to rest or sleep. • shoot up drugs 	D) Remove city barriers to building wrought iron fences: allow for 6 foot tall fences in front yards; allow fencing to be next to sidewalk instead of on property line, allow gates to swing onto sidewalk space.	In addition to providing physical barriers, this will make the area look like someone cares about it	• Takes constant vigilance					Ray Peterson will draft language to change ordinance
	E) Establish grant program for fences.							
	F) Develop list of contractors that build fences and organize group purchases to reduce costs.							
	E) Provide a place for camp occupants to go to the bathroom e.g. purchase and service if can't rent				Companies will not rent porta-potties to the city	City should buy the porta-potties instead of renting them		
	D) Call 911							
3.2 People are entering buildings to sell drugs, to rob and attack tenants, or are looking for a place to sleep	A) Hire security							
	B) Educate tenants about need to follow security protocols							
	C) Install cameras to identify problem							
	D) Set up special tactical security force (publicly funded) that stays at a property until trespassing stops							
	E) Evict tenants who do not follow security protocols							

	F) Require owners to have alarms on building entry doors that alert them to improper entry.								
	G) Require owners to hire security and that security staff keep a log and report the names of people who were blocked from entering or kicked out of the building								
	H) Require that resident floors be separated from common areas with locked doors. I) Remove areas where people can sit or hang out	Would make individual units more secure							
3.3	People are entering vacant buildings looking for a place to sleep and/or take drugs. They often are setting the building on fire.	A) The city needs to do a better job of boarding up vacant buildings and monitoring them to make sure they stay boarded. B) The city needs to act more quickly to take away rental licenses C) Require video monitoring of the building D) Require owners to hire and provide 24/7 security, E) Increase the annual cost of owning a vacant building. Base the increase on the number of units in the building							

5.3	Because of the safety & condition problems almost all residents who have any access to any other transportation mode do not use the light rail or bus. Public transportation has become a transportation mode of last resort or for some not a choice at all. Many residents are isolated in their homes without access to essential services.					It will take significant prolonged improvement to change the negative public perception of public transportation.				
5.4	The chain link fencing marks the neighborhood as blighted and dangerous and creates a very negative first impression for any visitor	A) Replace with more decorative and permanent fencing, e.g. wrought iron			The state has replaced the chain link with wrought iron style fencing but the City or County has not.	There are too many jurisdictional differences to establish a coherent design.				
5.5	People are openly drinking and doing drugs at the stations and on the trains/buses.	A) Establish secure waiting area that you cannot enter without a ticket. This area to also include elevator and stairs.								
		B) Metro transit to provide security staff on platforms and trains/buses to enforce rules			Metro transit had two security staff on the Franklin Light Rail platform on 11/18/23 and one on the train.					
		C) Replace D & C line buses with buses that you can pay the fare on-board.		The northbound ticket pay stations at Chicago & Franklin do not accept cash						

			Many people not buying tickets and riding for free - no one checking for tickets.						
5.6	The Franklin Ave. Light Rail Station is in a state of disrepair. Many of the window panels are broken and missing. Some remaining pains are "fogged up" or very scratched. Some glass shards remain. The base of the shelters are rusting out. Don't know if heating elements or elevators are working.	Ask Met Council to provide better maintenance.							

Problem Statement 6: Car Jacking/Breaking into Cars/Stealing Cars

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	Person Assigned	Timeline
6.1	People are having their cars stolen	A) Don't leave keys in car.								
		B) Use wheel locking device.								
		C) Establish a publicly accessible database for stolen cars so that anyone can enter a license plate number and find out if it belongs to a stolen vehicle								
6.2	People are breaking into cars	A) Don't leave anything visible in the car.								

Problem Statement 7: Blight on Franklin Avenue (Graffiti, Boarded Windows, Litter, etc.)

Problem Statement 9: Electronic Connectivity Desert and Lack of Other Service

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	Person Assigned	Timeline
9.1	No USI fiberoptic service									
9.2	No Century Link fiberoptic service									
9.3	No T-Mobile 5G Service									
9.4	No EVIE car rental service									
9.5	No Hour Car hubs (closest hubs are Mpls. Convention Center and Global Market)									

Problem Statement 10: Need to mitigate the likely negative impacts of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	Person Assigned	Timeline
10.1	Ventura Village may be excluded from participation in the court ordered environmental impact statement	Contact City to express our interest of being involved.							Ray Peterson	
10.2	Negative impact of new construction built/proposed under the 2040 plan									
10.3	Challenges of reverting back to the 2030 plan	Contact City to find out which zoning ordinances are being used to evaluate projects.							Ray Peterson	

Problem Statement 11: Public Urination/Defecation and Loitering

	Problem Statement	Strategies	Pros	Cons	Resources Needed	Barriers	Options	Next Steps	Person Assigned	Timeline
11.1	People are urinating in public. This is especially a problem in areas around	A) Need to identify ordinances and laws about public urination.								
	encampments. Have also found fecal material on benches within bus stops.	B) Provide greater access to public restrooms				Many businesses are severely restricting access to their public restrooms				
		C) Provide porta-potties as a temporary alternative to public restrooms				Companies are refusing to rent porta-potties to the City				
		D) Need to identify laws that require businesses to provide access to public restrooms.								
11.2	People are loitering in areas where they do not belong.	Identify laws regarding loitering.								
11.3	People are panhandling and openly requesting money at the entrances to businesses.	Identify ordinances or laws regarding panhandling on both private and public property.								

Multi-Problem Strategies		Person assigned
1 Meet with new Community Safety Commissioner (Todd Barnette) to discuss our problems - Irene from Council Member Osman's office will set up a meeting. Talking points include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our list of problems and strategies • Our desire to develop partnerships and relationship development • Our approach of not just trying to move problems but trying to solve them 		Irene/Thor
2) Contact legal firm to discuss possible law suit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encampments - failure to have a uniform city policy that is not arbitrary and capricious and that results in a concentration of encampments in low income and minority neighborhoods • Inconsistent enforcement of ordinances resulting in lack of enforcement in low income and minority neighborhoods. The City enforces most ordinances only when there is a complaint. This requires a call to 911 or 311. The 6th Ward has a history of low volume of calls to 911 and 311. This is likely because low income and minority residents do not trust the City and are afraid to involve the police or other City departments or do not know how the system works. • Franklin Light Rail Station and D busline - failure to keep these stations in a safe and clean condition that is similar to stations in other neighborhoods 		Ray

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of Mpls. City Council to act in good faith to bring the number of police up to full force as required by the court decision. Note actions of the council to fail to offer competitive salaries or retention bonuses resulting in recruitment failure and police leaving. • Failure of companies to provide services to our neighborhood similar to bank redlining. • Lack of access to public restrooms 	
<p>3) Create more positive activities on Franklin Avenue to displace the criminal activity and that make Franklin Avenue a regional draw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub for antique/second hand stores • Weekly flea market/garage sale • Talk to FABAs, Norway House and AICDC about recruiting businesses • Recruit destination businesses • Seasonally or culturally themed markets 	
<p>4) Research and identify city ordinances and state laws that are not being enforced in Ventura Village</p>	Patti

Possible Priorities

- 1) Encampment
- 2) Light Rail Station
- 3) Chicago & Franklin