

# Community Task Force Community Workshop #5

6:00-8:30 PM, Ethiopian Community Center

Thursday, May 22 2014

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Hotspot: Rose Street

## Facilitators:

- Raphael Mondesir
- Charlotte Gill

## Understanding where we stand in the problem-solving process & where we are going

From the CAD data:

We still observe a high number of unidentified disturbance calls

- these are calls that most likely did not escalate to a more serious matter (burglary, assaults, etc...)
- the rate of assaults and thefts is still high
  - we're keeping our priorities!

## New risk factor: Lack of Landlord engagement

When Landlord are not responding to threats and risk factors, the whole community is exposed!

\* landlords are authority figures and they can:

- get tenants involved
- raise awareness

## Community Handlers:

We need to identify and engage the "Handlers" in the community (i.e. individuals who have clout and have earned people's trust and can influence the youth in a positive way) --- by engaging the Handlers we are pushing the pressure points of these youths and steer them toward changing their behaviors!

these include:

1. Parents
2. Landlords
3. Community Leaders
4. Business owners
5. Seattle Police Officers (SPD)

## Specific strategies that could help us target risk factors (thefts and assaults):

*\*\* we need to employ a mix of several approaches \*\* (this list is not exhaustive)*

- A. INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF COMMUNITY LEADERS (*especially religious leaders for Somali and Ethiopian communities*)
  - a. youths need people they can look up to
  - b. people they respect and listen to
  - c. will these leaders have a similar effect on youths from different ethnic groups?

## B. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

- a. flyers
- b. visit businesses and residences
- c. roadside outreach events with the help of SPD
- d. involve retired mentors from the business community
- e. bring in the experts for more comprehensive outreach to businesses
  - i. the Rose Street Team could be a steering committee for these efforts

## C. REACH LANDLORDS

- a. landlords are authority figures and they can:
  - i. get tenants involved
  - ii. raise awareness
  - iii. increase as well as improve crime reporting

## D. MOTIVATE BUSINESS OWNERS

- a. bring business people to the table
- b. consider getting someone to counsel business owners in RB
  - i. someone from the local business board
  - ii. owners need to understand the risk associated with being silent about crime
    - thefts
    - losses
    - bad reputation, etc...
  - iii. they need to feel motivated to respond to issues regarding:
    - crime
    - parking lots and cleanliness
    - storefront visibility
    - CCTV monitoring

## E. INCLUDE SPD OFFICERS IN OUR EFFORTS

- a. Police can reach out to landlords and bring issues to their attention and they have to enter into an agreement to target the problem
- b. this is called a "*Correction Agreement*"
- c. this is related more specifically to the Nuisance Property Law (cf)
- d. Drug Free Zoning:
  - i. juvenile justice officials can help us designate specific areas as "drug free" zones
  - ii. SPD can help enforce this measure

## F. ACKNOWLEDGE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN RB

- a. embrace these differences
- b. emphasize the need for collaboration across ethnic/religious groups
- c. let's help decrease the misconceptions about:
  - i. what the police really does and their priority (help and protect.. not arrests )
  - ii. immigrants are valued residents, not the least for their culture and their entrepreneurial spirit
  - iii. different groups can work together to achieve peace and safety for all

G. IDENTIFY NUISANCE PROPERTIES

- a. these properties need to be identified
- b. let's keep a list that we continually update
- c. we will contact their landlords (see bullet point C above)

H. INVOLVE THE CITY AND MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a. ask the city to do some "curbing" works on the sidewalk =s around Wabash (public works)
- b. get the city to fix lights and lamp posts

I. SURVEY THE COMMUNITY

J. DEVISE A SET OF METRICS SO WE KNOW HOW WELL WE ARE DOING

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**In summary:**

- 1. talk to handlers
  - a. motivate landlords
  - b. involve business owners
  - c. bring in community leaders
  - d. request SPD's support
- 2. increase visibility of community leaders
- 3. outreach and education
- 4. motivate business owners
- 5. identify nuisance properties
- 6. involve the city and the Mayor's office
- 7. survey the community (we'll be doing this very soon!)
- 8. Devise success metrics