



# Minneapolis Police Department 2007 Neighborhood Policing Plan *Como Neighborhood*

## Introduction:

The Como Neighborhood is in the Minneapolis Police Department's Second Precinct.

## Neighborhood Map:



## Precinct Contacts:

Second Precinct		673-5702
Crime Prevention Specialist	Carol Oosterhuis	673-2874
Sector Commander	Lt. Gregory Reinhardt	673-3587
Precinct Commander	Insp. Bob Skomra	673-5702

## Overview:

The Como neighborhood (also called Southeast Como) is named after Como Avenue, which runs through the neighborhood. Como neighborhood is in the University community, about one mile north of the Dinkytown commercial area and the east bank campus of the University

of Minnesota. Its boundaries are the city limit to the east (33rd Avenue SE), the Southeast Industrial Area to the south of Elm Street, Interstate 35W and the Burlington Northern main line to the west, and East Hennepin Avenue and Winter Street NE to the north. The housing stock consists of modest early 20th-century bungalows and Victorian and 1920s-era homes with a scattering of newer duplexes and single-family homes. Many of the larger homes have been converted into student housing. Como has an elementary school, three churches, a mosque, Van Cleve Park and small retail stores. The Como neighborhood population grew faster than Minneapolis' between 1980 and 2000. The neighborhood population increased 12 percent during this period compared to 3.1 percent in Minneapolis. Its close proximity to the University of Minnesota has a significant impact on the age composition of Como residents. The 18 to 24-year-old age group, the largest age group in 2000 at 41 percent of the population, was the only age group to increase between 1980 and 2000. It rose 71 percent.

## Crime Statistics:

Como Neighborhood had an increase in crime from 2004 to 2005. There was a decrease in crime in 2006 when compared to 2005; however there was an increase in assaults and robbery in September 2006. One of the largest concerns in the neighborhood is the noisy and disorderly parties. Because of the high concern by community members, the Minneapolis Police Department conducted party sweeps in the Neighborhoods near the University and wrote 1,850 tags for alcohol related violations during these sweeps and from 911 responses to the problems during 2006.

## Focus for 2007:

- Assaults
- Parties

## Neighborhood Concerns:

- Parties in the neighborhood.
- They feel that there has been an increase in crime in the neighborhood and that seniors in the community feel isolated because of the perception of an increase in crime. This perception occurred when there was a violent assault in September 2006 with an increase during that month in both assaults and robberies. Every other month of the year the number of robberies and assaults either decreased or remained the same, but the media had several articles regarding the month in which there was an increase.
- The neighborhood wants to connect with students early in the school year to decrease the opportunity for crime in the community and to educate the new residents in the community about safety. The neighborhood also sees the need to do youth outreach to decrease crime in the community.

## 2007 Policing Strategy:

The Minneapolis Police Department will:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct will continue to conduct directed patrol in the neighborhood, especially on Friday and Saturday evenings when the parties are most apt to occur.

- The Minneapolis Police Department will do party sweeps in the neighborhoods adjacent to the University of Minnesota. Following the party sweeps, the Crime Prevention Specialist will send letters to the owners of properties where the parties occurred. These letters will either be a warning that the property owner can be fined under City of Minneapolis Ordinance 389.65, or an administrative citation under that ordinance.
- The Minneapolis Police Department will work with the Restorative Justice Community Action, Inc. for alcohol related first offenses in the neighborhoods which are adjacent to the University of Minnesota.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist will contact property owners and will promote the Rental Property Workshop for owners of property in the neighborhood; and will also promote the email alert system for property owners, so they are aware of problems at their address when there is a call for service to their property.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist will develop a handout to address personal safety, and the importance of knowing your neighbors and respecting them.
- The Community Response Team will address problem properties as appropriate including locations where drugs are being sold.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist will distribute crime alerts when necessary.

## Neighborhood Engagement:

While the Minneapolis Police Department has committed to a number of steps to improve policing service in Como Neighborhood, policing is a team sport and residents need to be part of that team. The collaboration of MPD and Residents have committed to the following:

1. Reporting problems in the community by calling 911, 311, and their crime prevention specialists to discuss the concerns and other resources available.
2. The neighborhood will have a walking group to connect with neighbors.
3. The neighborhood will continue its Safety Committee to address crime and safety concerns in the neighborhood.

## 2007 Performance Measures

We will use the following criteria to measure our success in policing the Como Neighborhood:

1. There is a decrease in assaults and robberies of at least 3%.
2. A walking group is established that disseminates information on crime prevention resulting in an increase in the number of people using the city technology to obtain information on crime alerts, crime prevention, etc.
3. There is an increase in the number of people from Como neighborhood who volunteer in the restorative justice program.
4. There will be an increase in block club activities in the neighborhood by 25%
5. There will be a decrease in theft of 3%.