



# Living Well

All neighborhoods are safe, healthy and uniquely inviting

## What strategies are working?

### EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PROBLEM PROPERTIES AND LIVABILITY ISSUES

- The ordinance dealing with conduct on premises and the 4th Precinct's task force in north Minneapolis are being used effectively to address livability issues.
- The City and County are working to align what we see on the streets with the standards set by the nuisance ordinance. We meet on the first Friday of the month and tackle the top problem properties. The problem properties stay on the list until they're resolved. When they're resolved, we move on to the next set of properties.

### INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Our agencies work very well together. Professionals work together; there aren't big divides among organizations. There are strong partnerships among community entities.
- There is coordination among a wide variety of community groups. People are willing to work together.
- When people believe the issue is pertinent and the conversation is purposeful, residential engagement is working.

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- Shot Spotter is helpful when it's interpreted correctly.
- With access to good information about properties, people can work to solve problems.
- We are prepared for emergencies and major events thanks to behind-the-scenes planning and a commitment to sharing information.
- The Folwell neighborhood did a great seminar on what happens when you call the police.

### ATTORNEYS AND PARALEGALS IN PRECINCTS

- The attorneys and paralegals who work in the police precincts are making a difference.
- Residents are aware that there's more to the judicial system than a revolving door, and that's because of the attorneys at the precincts.
- Court Watch works because of the relationship among the community, the City and the County.

### PROACTIVE POLICING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- In 1991, the Minneapolis Police Department was reactive. Today, it is proactive.
- The Minneapolis Police Department's capacity in CODEFOR (Computer Optimized Deployment Focus on Results) helps the County prosecute crime. The level of resources applied to this is exemplary.
- Emergency medical services, fire and police response times are incredibly good. We have achieved the highest resuscitation rates in the nation. Today, we are the gold standard.
- The Cub Foods stores in north Minneapolis get great responses from police, fire and emergency medical services. We benefit from the relationship with the beat officers, and we look forward to officer visits.

## What strategies are not working?

### WE AREN'T GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM.

- Of the cases the County prosecutes, more than 80 percent involve young African-American males. Prosecuting crime isn't getting to the underlying problem, and we're not talking about this.
- Too many judges view nuisance and livability cases as a waste of time. They don't understand this is a plague that drives people out of Minneapolis because it impacts people's daily lives. Nuisance crimes drove Target out of north Minneapolis.

# Living Well

## All neighborhoods are safe, healthy and uniquely inviting

---

### **GANGS ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND GUNS ARE READILY AVAILABLE.**

- So many shootings relate to gangs, but the gang problem is more difficult to control than it was in past years. In the 1990s, we could better intervene because gangs were more structured. These days every block has a separate gang, and those gangs move and change constantly. Many gangs aren't really gangs, just loose associations of people. Unlike structured gangs that were centered on doing business, these groups have no structure and don't operate for a mutual benefit. It's a situation where a few people get mad, and somebody pulls a trigger. These are simply kids whose only power is a gun and a street reputation. If we don't break the gang cycle, we won't impact violent crime.
- Our gun control strategy is not working. We aren't looking under the right rock. Yet an 11-year-old can deliver three guns to a fight.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS NOT WORKING AND INFORMATION IS LACKING OR MISLEADING.**

- Our community engagement process is not working. The bad guys know more about the process than the good guys. Crime victims don't know the process after the police take a report. People don't understand why they have to wait after they've called 911. People don't understand the problem property process.
- The kumbayah stuff around residential engagement is a waste of time. Residents want to participate, but we drown in the process. It's a waste of time to go to a forum about community engagement. People don't want to come out for some vague topic. They want to come together to solve a problem.
- YouTube videos don't reach the right people. Nobody is watching them.
- The published Shot Spotter data needs to be more informative. Every Shot Spotter call is a red dot. Residents don't differentiate what the red dots mean. Loud sound, fireworks, gun fired? Residents are upset every Wednesday when the data comes out.

### **RESOURCES ARE LACKING.**

- The City's 311 app doesn't have the ability to accept information about some housing violations because of technology constraints.
- Data sharing among agencies is limited by gaps in our technology system.
- Some businesses — cell phone stores and barbershops, for example — do not need a city business license to operate. We're missing an opportunity to set basic standards of operation in our community.
- Urban Scholars and Step-Up are programs for good kids. There are no programs to teach job skills to at-risk kids.
- When cuts in Local Government Aid resulted in the elimination of the SAFE Team in 2003, the connection between precincts and groups with resources to solve problems disappeared. (Note: Funding for the SAFE Team has been restored.)
- The collapse of our health care system has meant that people aren't connected to primary care. With no place to go, they use emergency services as their health care. Emergency management services get back only about 40 percent of the fees it is owed for ambulance service.

## Working in partnership, what strategies could we pursue?

### **REACH OUT IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.**

- Simplify how we explain the problem property process.
- Help people understand what goes on behind the scenes when they call 911. Explain how calls are prioritized and why the police can't always show up right away. People need to know they aren't being ignored.
- Find ways to explain what happens behind the scenes after you report a crime.
- Involve people in a meaningful way that has a clear purpose. Bring people together to solve problem in their neighborhoods.

# Living Well

## All neighborhoods are safe, healthy and uniquely inviting

---

### IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY AND DATA SHARING.

- Help residents understand Shot Spotter so they can differentiate what the red dots mean and whether the dot indicates a loud noise or a shooting.
- Find a way to report housing complaints using the City's 311 app.

### CREATE A JOB PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK TEENS.

- Create a job skills program for kids who are getting into trouble or are struggling. Ask each business to give a job to one at-risk kid.
- Convene a corporate presence and solicit recommendations on how to teach jobs skills to at-risk kids and employ people between the ages 16 and 21.

### OFFER JUDGES TRAINING ON THE IMPACT OF NUISANCE CRIMES.

- Enhance the new judge training process to include presentations from victims and community members about the impact of nuisance crimes on livability.

### CREATE AN EARLY ALERT SYSTEM FOR PROBLEM PROPERTIES.

- Set up an alert system for properties that generate an inordinate amount of emergency calls so we can intervene to solve the underlying problems.

### REQUIRE EVERY MINNEAPOLIS BUSINESS TO HAVE A GENERAL BUSINESS LICENSE.

- Require every business in the city to have at least one type of general business license that sets basic standards of operation and gives City officials the right to walk in the door to address problems.
- Take greater advantage of the County nuisance statute and revoke licenses from problem businesses.

### SUPPORT THE MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

- Keep applying resources so the Minneapolis Police Department can remain proactive. If we make north Minneapolis safe, businesses will return.
- Acknowledge that not all police precincts have equal need.
- Pressure precincts to do more if they aren't effectively engaging their communities.

This conversation had representatives from Minneapolis City Council, Mayor's Office, Fire Department, City Attorney's Office, Regulatory Services, City Coordinator's Office, Police Department, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services, Folwell Neighborhood Association, Little Earth, Shiloh Temple and Cub Foods.