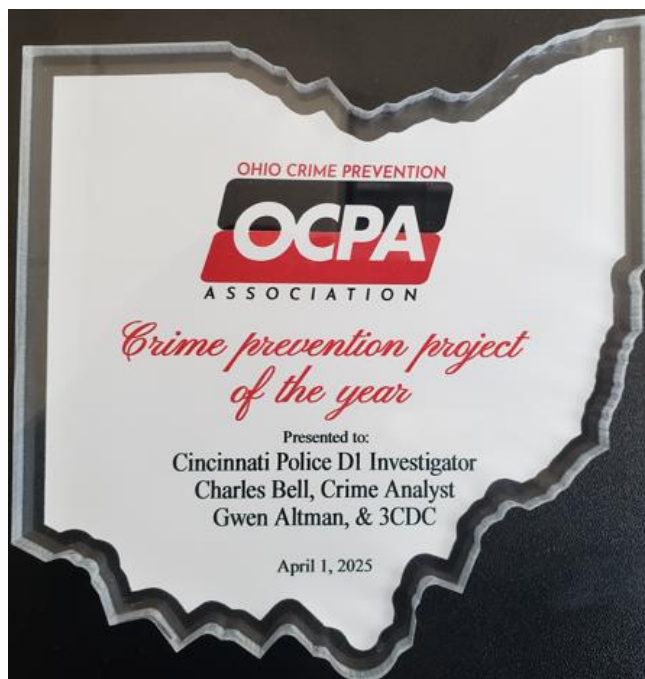


## COMMERCIAL BREAK-INS IN OVER-THE-RHINE -DISTRICT ONE-



### **The Team**

CPD District One, CPD's Crime Analysis and Problem-Solving Team (CAPS), 3CDC, Findlay Market, Model Management, & Urban Sites.

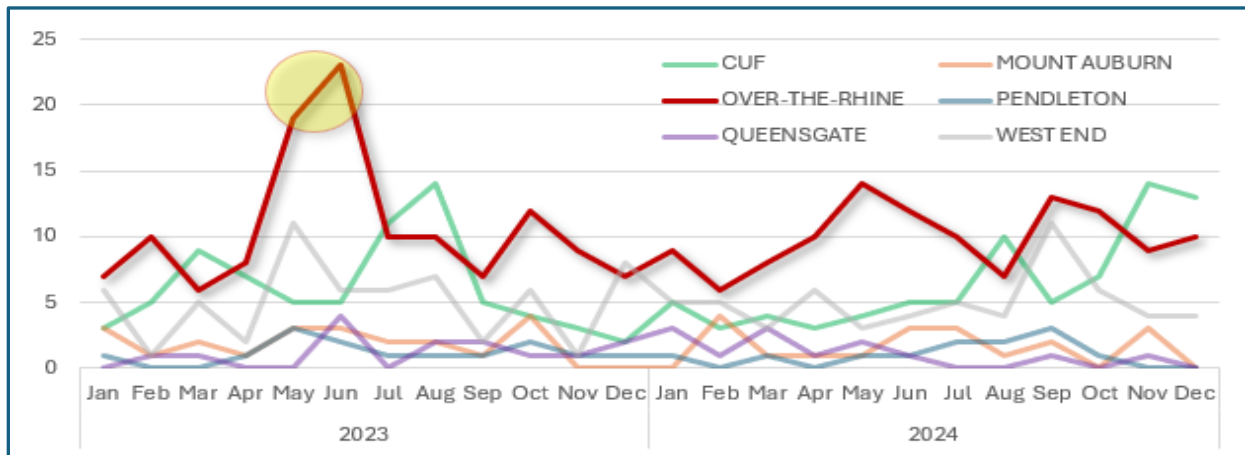
### **Introduction**

The Over-the-Rhine (OTR) neighborhood, situated immediately north of the City's Central Business District, is high density area, which includes hundreds of small businesses. Bars, restaurants, and retail spaces line many of OTR's streets, often with commercial and/or residential properties above. Given the density of local businesses here, break-ins have been a consistent problem managed by District One investigators and officers.

### **Problem Identification**

In spring and early summer of 2023, OTR break-ins spiked, nearly doubling historic averages. Initial scanning determined 71% of all District One burglary/breaking and entering offenses occurred in OTR, although District One serves six total neighborhoods.

## COMMERCIAL BREAK-INS IN OVER-THE-RHINE -DISTRICT ONE-



### Findlay Market businesses frustrated by break-ins and crime

by Cassy Arsenault, WKRC | Fri, July 21st 2023, 1:43 PM EDT



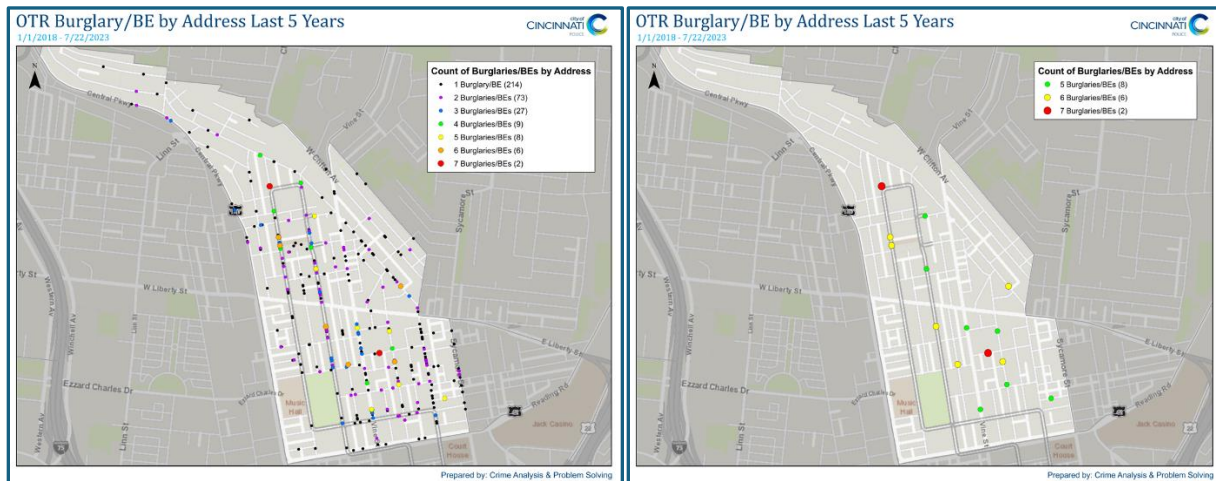
### Analysis

Analysis revealed that 45% of these offenses occurred at bars and restaurants, pointing to the potential that specific methods, operations, and items were being sought by offenders. Further analysis began to focus primarily on two prongs: repeat locations and repeat offenders.

#### Repeat Locations

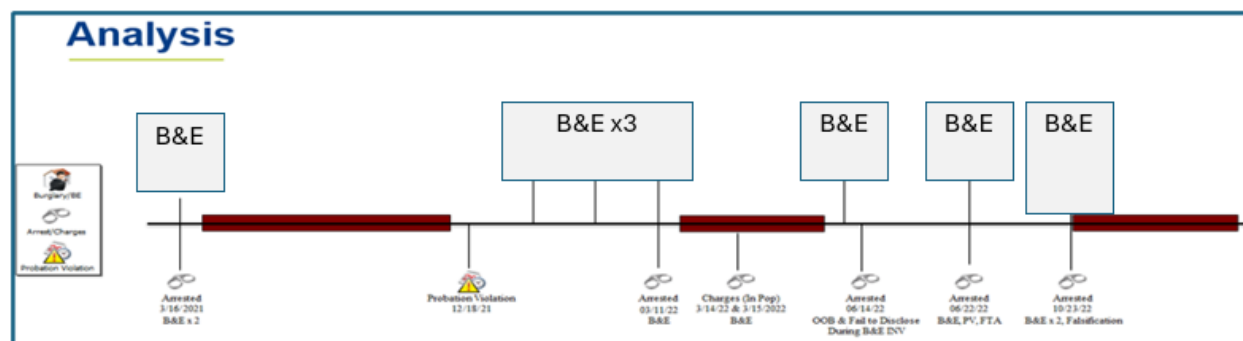
Looking at a five-year period, numerous addresses were found to have been victims of five or more break-ins. Many others had been broken into more than once.

## COMMERCIAL BREAK-INS IN OVER-THE-RHINE -DISTRICT ONE-



### Repeat Offenders

District One's analyst worked closely with the primary investigator for these offenses, and they looked carefully at a few repeat offenders to better understand the individual impact on this problem. The team studied timelines of offending, incarceration, and re-offending, noting that a few chronic offenders were believed to be committing many offenses. (One offender timeline is shown below).



### **Responses**

Offender oriented responses included:

- Increased investigative attention, particularly for repeat offenders
- Improved real-time knowledge about repeat offenders' status
- Increased communication with Hamilton County Prosecutors
- Increased community engagement with the court system
- Planning activities exploring social service/re-entry attention for repeat offenders


## COMMERCIAL BREAK-INS IN OVER-THE-RHINE -DISTRICT ONE-

Location oriented responses included:

- Increased documentation of methods of operation during report taking stage (i.e. photography of points of entry, detailed narratives regarding known methods)
- Additional city cameras for a hotspot in proximity to Findlay Market
- Personalized security surveys, conducted by a district investigator and a crime analyst
  - Written recommendations, provided to property manager
  - Repeat locations were prioritized, but surveys were also publicly offered to any interested business in OTR
  - Follow up with major property owners, including 3CDC, Model Management, Urban Sites, and Findlay Market to assist with implementation of target hardening recommendations, and to align crime prevention messaging to the community

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<p>Assessment Date: 08/30/23      Name: _____          Name/Title: _____      Phone #: _____          _____      Email: _____</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Security Assessment</h3> <p>Location/Business Name: _____</p> <p>Video Camera: <u>Yes/No</u> <u>All</u> Functional: <u>Yes/No</u> <u>NA</u> Video Retention Period: <u>4</u> Days          Video Camera Quantity: <u>15</u> Video Hard Drive Make: <u>Hard Drive</u>          Video Camera Placement (I/E): <u>11x interior and 4x exterior</u>          Security Alarm: <u>Yes/No</u> Exterior Alarm: <u>Yes/No/Unk</u>          Security Alarm Glass Break Sensor: <u>Yes/No</u> Window Glazing: <u>Yes/No</u>          Security Alarm Alert First Contact: Police/Key Holder (Time Till First Call) <u>Min 2</u>          Valuables Visible from Outside of Location: <u>Yes/No</u>          Safe on Property: <u>Yes/No</u> Sturdy Safe: <u>Yes/No/NA</u>          Cash Locked in Safe or Off Site: <u>Safe</u>          Cash Drawers Left Open at Closing: <u>Yes/No/NA</u>          Leave on Lights at Closing: <u>Yes/No</u>          Door Latch Shield (Plate Cover): <u>Yes/No</u></p> <p><u>After Action Assessment: The location has 15 cameras installed, 11x interior and 4x exterior. One camera is not working. The video retention period is four days. The location does have an alarm installed. Currently, it is unknown if the business has an exterior alarm speaker. On review of the location, I did not see one. Currently, it is unknown who the first call is placed to in the event of an alarm drop. Currently, it is unknown how long till the first call is placed after the alarm is triggered. There is no glass-break sensor attached to the alarm system. There is no window (glass) protection on or over the windows. Bottles of alcohol are visible from the outside. P.O.S systems are secure, but the business tablets are not. There</u></p>	<p><u>is a safe inside the location, but it is not secured. Cash is locked inside the safe at the close of business. Cash drawers are left open at the close of business. Interior lights are not left on at the close of business. The exterior doors do have latch shields.</u></p> <p><u>Recommendation: All cameras are elevated, but they have good coverage. I would recommend lowering a few cameras that cover points of entry and the bar (approx. 6ft high). Get all cameras back to working order. The four-day retention period allows for great picture resolution; however, camera footage must be saved as soon as possible. If you lower the resolution it will allow for a longer retention period but reduces the video quality. I recommend adding a glass break sensor to the alarm system. To address the issues of the bottles being observable from the outside, I recommend lowering the window shades. The business has a lot of windows, and I would recommend glass reinforcement (i.e., window film, decorative window bars, armor glass, double pane glass). I recommend the police being the first contact when the alarm is triggered and making the time for first call one minute. The safe that is on property needs to be secured (i.e., by bolting it down). Until the safe is secured, I would not recommend leaving money on location. I recommend securing all tablets at the end of business. I recommend leaving the interior lights on at the close of business.</u></p>
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By October of 2023, District One completed security assessments at thirteen of sixteen top repeat locations, while the other three were determined to be unnecessary (due to changes in use). Thirteen additional surveys were conducted at other locations, for a total of twenty-six.

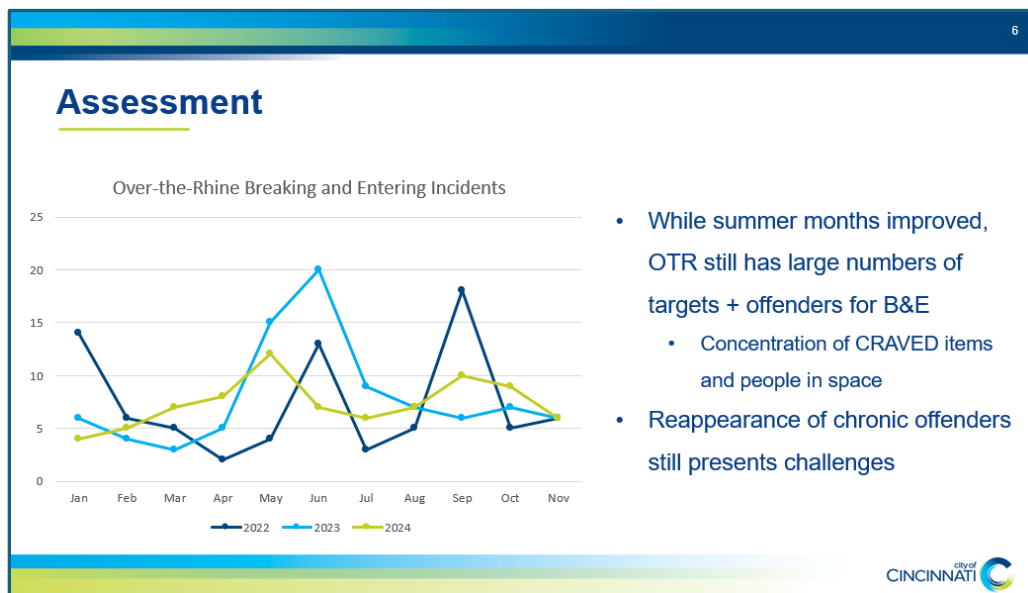
## COMMERCIAL BREAK-INS IN OVER-THE-RHINE -DISTRICT ONE-

By December of 2024, fifty-one security assessments had been completed in the focus area.



### Assessment

This project was launched following a significant spike in OTR Break-Ins during the early summer, 2023. Following launch, offenses declined through the remainder of the year, and generally into 2024. A summer spike was largely avoided in 2024.



In 2025, Burglary/BE persisted and began expanding into nearby neighborhoods. In the first 6 months of 2025, there have been more Burglary/BE targeting alcohol than all of 2024 and 2023. In fact, this OTR and Business area made up 92% of the City's Breaking & Entering specifically targeting alcohol.

**Outcome:** \*ongoing\*