

CRIME AND DISORDER AT OTR SENIOR CENTER -DISTRICT ONE-

The Team:

District One Neighborhood Liaison Unit Officers,
Corporation for Findlay Market
Over-the-Rhine Senior Center
Meals on Wheels
Crime Analysis and Problem Solving

Scan:

In the winter of 2023, District One Neighborhood officers identified the Over-the-Rhine Senior Center at 1720 Race Street as a 'hot spot' location where drug sellers and users frequently gathered for illegal activities.

Analysis:

Preliminary analysis revealed a high call volume at this location. A total of 40 calls for service were placed between May 2023 and May 2024 to this location. Call types included disorderly subjects, drug use and possession, overdose, trespass, unwanted persons, and assaults. Officers also observed a significant accumulation of refuse and trash at this place.

The brick half wall in front of the center was used by subjects to sit and use drugs, and to hide their illicit substances when approached by officers. Many housing unstable persons used the front of this place to store belongings or discard food leftovers. The City's DPS routinely cleaned the area, but it required constant maintenance. The poor visibility that the half-ledge provided increased opportunities for crime here. In addition to the Senior Center staff dealing with persistent trespass issues, many residents and Findlay Market staff and patrons complained about adverse effects.

Response:

In April of 2024, District One officers collaborated with Findlay Market staff, Over-the-Rhine Senior

Center staff, and representatives from Meals on Wheels to discuss the installation of planters on the brick ledge. The goal was to tackle the issues of loiterers using illicit substances on the ledge and to improve the appearance of the Senior Center's frontage. Findlay Market generously donated some large planters and dirt that had been in storage. By the end of April 2024, Findlay Market staff installed planters on the brick ledge at no cost.

On May 16, 2024, Meals on Wheels purchased flowers, which were then planted by Meals on Wheels staff, Senior Center patrons, and District One NLU officers in a collaborative effort. Several residents approached the group during the planting session, expressing their satisfaction with the neighborhood's beautification and their optimism about the positive impact it would have.



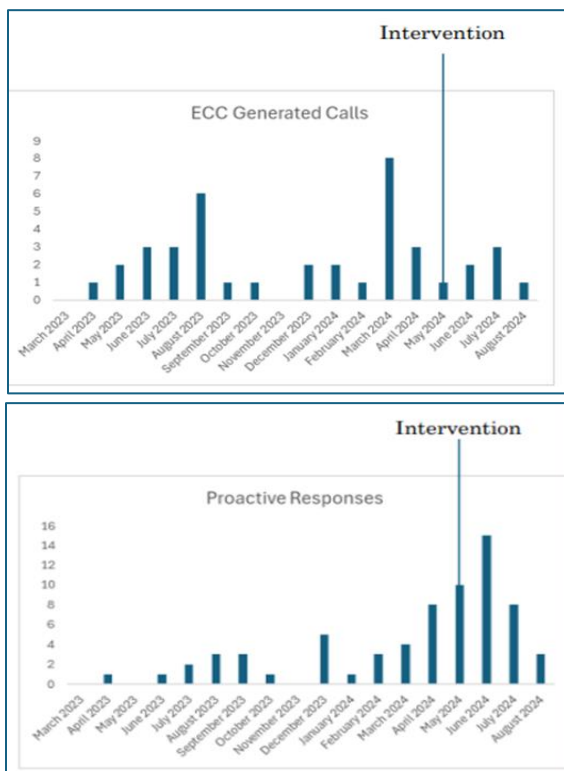
Assessment:

In the days that followed, Findlay Market officers closely monitored 1720 Race Street, inspecting planters for signs of vandalism or illicit items that

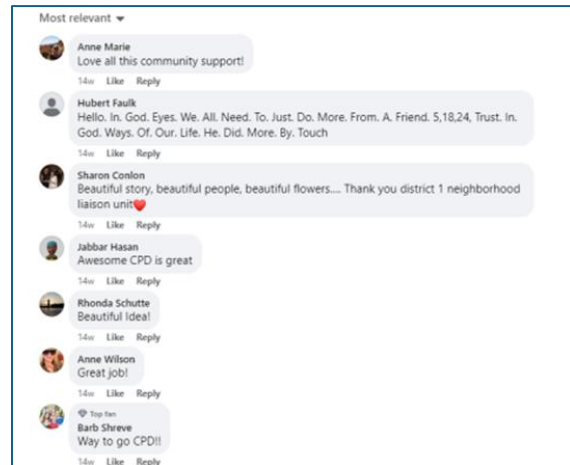
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might have been hidden within. By the end of May 2024, Findlay Market officers were granted access to the Senior Center's surveillance cameras. The officers closely monitored the activities occurring behind and in front of the ledge, leading to numerous arrests related to drug activity and sales. Officers continued to collaborate with Senior Center staff, issuing trespass warnings and citations to individuals who were persistent in causing disturbances here.

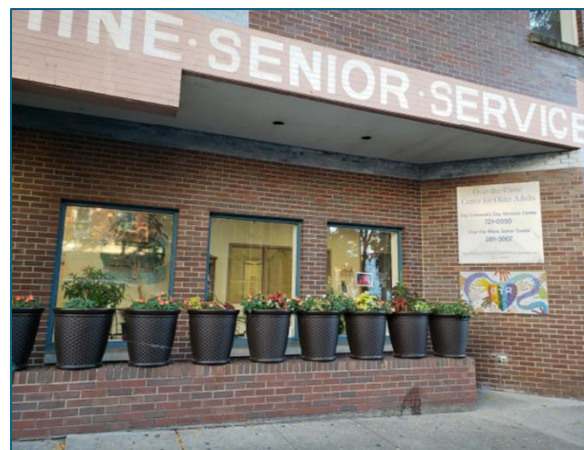
As shown in the bar charts below, the number of calls for 1720 Races Street dropped significantly during the month of the intervention, while proactive responses such as suspect stops, investigations, and directed patrols increased as officers maintained close monitoring of the area.



The community's response on social media was overwhelmingly enthusiastic and supportive.



In conclusion, the intervention at 1720 Race Street represents a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing complex issues surrounding drug-related activities and environmental neglect. The initial implementation of planters and flowers, supported by the collaborative problem-solving team has led to a noticeable improvement in both the aesthetics of the area and the overall community response. The significant drop in calls for service and positive feedback from residents underscore the early success of this project, although it is too early to understand long term effects.



Outcome: Harm Reduced