

THEFTS FROM AUTOS IN EVANSTON AND WALNUT HILLS -DISTRICT TWO-

The Team:

CPD's District Two Neighborhood Unit and Crime Analyst, Community members, Business members

Scan:

In January and February of 2024, there was a noticeable increase in Theft from autos (TFAs) and Criminal Damaging incidents (often involving broken car windows) occurring in District Two. Many of the incidents involved multiple cars. Initially the incidents were focused in Walnut Hills and Evanston neighborhoods.

Initial Analysis:

An initial analysis of TFAs and Criminal Damaging incidents showed that between January 1, 2022 and February 1, 2023, there were 97 incidents involving 208 vehicles. In addition, it was reported that multi-vehicle incidents occurred most frequently during the overnight hours.

D2 TFA/CrimDam Incidents			TOD (TIME OF DAY) / DOW (DAY OF WEEK) ANALYSIS (EVANSTON / WALNUT HILLS MULTI-VEHICLE INCIDENTS)													
Neighborhood	Incidents	Vehicles	EVANSTON Multi-vehicle Incidents (4 or more)					WALNUT HILLS Multi-vehicle Incidents (4 or more)								
			DOW	TOD	02	03	19	Total	DOW	TOD	00	02	03	Total		
COLUMBIA TUSCULUM	3	10	Sun		1			1	Sun				1	1		
EAST END	3	7	Mon			1		1	Mon		1	1		2		
EAST WALNUT HILLS	5	6	Sat				1	1	Sat				1	1		
EVANSTON	9	35	Total		1	1	1	3	Total		1	1	2	4		
HYDE PARK	11	18	EVANSTON multi-vehicle events occurred on Sun, Mon, and Sat between 02:00 (2 AM) and 04:00 (4 AM). There was also an event that occurred in the 19:00 (7 PM) hour.													
KENNEDY HEIGHTS	1	1														
LINWOOD	1	1	WALNUT HILLS multi-vehicle events occurred on Sun, Mon, and Sat between 00:00 (midnight) and 04:00 (4 AM).													
MADISONVILLE	7	15														
MOUNT WASHINGTON	7	6														
OAKLEY	22	34														
PLEASANT RIDGE	3	3														
WALNUT HILLS	25	72														
Grand Total	97	208														

Problem Definition/Contributing changes:

There was a high occurrence of crime incidents involving multiple vehicles. Although the crime incidents originally were thought to be neighborhood specific, it was found that the crimes of opportunity were related to the types of locations; i.e. those involving overnight parking and large parking lots. The crime incidents included auto theft, Theft from Auto (TFA) and Criminal Damaging. This CPOP project was multi-phased:

Phase One: 2402PS0003: Focused on hotspots of Evanston and Walnut Hills for multi-vehicle incidents.

Phase Two: 2406PS0006: The original project was expanded to a district-wide CPTED Security Assessment and Analysis for properties involving 1) overnight parking, and 2) 50+ parking spaces. The purpose was to evaluate and assess crime opportunities and provide crime prevention strategies to local businesses to reduce crime in the short term, as well as longer-term solutions.

Secondary Analysis:

Secondary Analysis involved the use of CPTED Security Survey and Assessment.

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Data Development/Collection:




A survey instrument was developed by CAPS and Investigative Command Staff. District Two NLU officers conducted the data collection by meeting with business owners/managers that met the business/parking lot requirements. The survey collected Location/owner information, Location type (business type, parking lot size/type), Security parameters (physical, cameras, lighting, signage).

Data Analysis:

The crime analyst added crime information (Auto thefts, TFAs, Criminal Damaging, Stolen firearms) for each property and selected 6 properties for follow-up (3 hotels/motels and 3 residential housing properties. Initial survey data for the selected hotels/motels and residential housing properties suggest that crime prevention opportunities exist. Collaborative meetings might focus on: 1) security improvements, camera additions/improvements, signage increases/changes/improvements.

HOTEL/MOTEL INFORMATION						2023-2024		
Top	ID			Address	Neighborhood	Firearms	Total	
						Stolen	Incidents	Vehicles
1-Hotel/Motel	2	HotelMotel	SpringHill Suites	610 EDEN PARK DR	Walnut Hills	2	12	70
2-Hotel/Motel	5	HotelMotel	Homewood Suites	4605 Factory Colony Ln	Oakley	2	6	72
3-Hotel/Motel	16	HotelMotel	Hilton Garden	2145 DANA AV	Evanston	1	6	25

HOUSING PROPERTIES INFORMATION						2023-2024		
Top	ID			Address	Neighborhood	Firearms	Total	
						Stolen	Incidents	Vehicles
1-AptComplex	3	AptComplex	Woodburn Exchange	2533 WOODBURN AV	Walnut Hills	1	10	14
2-AptComplex	21	Condo	Columbia Tower	1815 WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT RD	East Walnut Hills	0	9	21
3-AptComplex	11	AptComplex	The Boulevard	3225 OAKLEY STATION BV	Oakley	0	4	36

Security Assessment (Hotel/Motel):			
Property:	 SpringHill Suites	 Homewood Suites	 Hilton Garden
Neighborhood:	Walnut Hills	Oakley	Evanston
Crime Data (inc/veh):	12 inc/70 veh	6 inc/72 veh	6 inc/25 veh
Lot Type:	Open Surface, Underground	Open Surface	Open surface, Underground and above ground
# Parking Spaces:	More than 100	More than 100	More than 100
Security Rating:	Unsecured	Unsecured	Unsecured
Cameras:	Yes (1 camera)	No	No
Lighting:	Sufficient	Sufficient	Sufficient
Signage:	Yes (valuables)	Yes (valuables)	Yes (valuables)

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Responses:

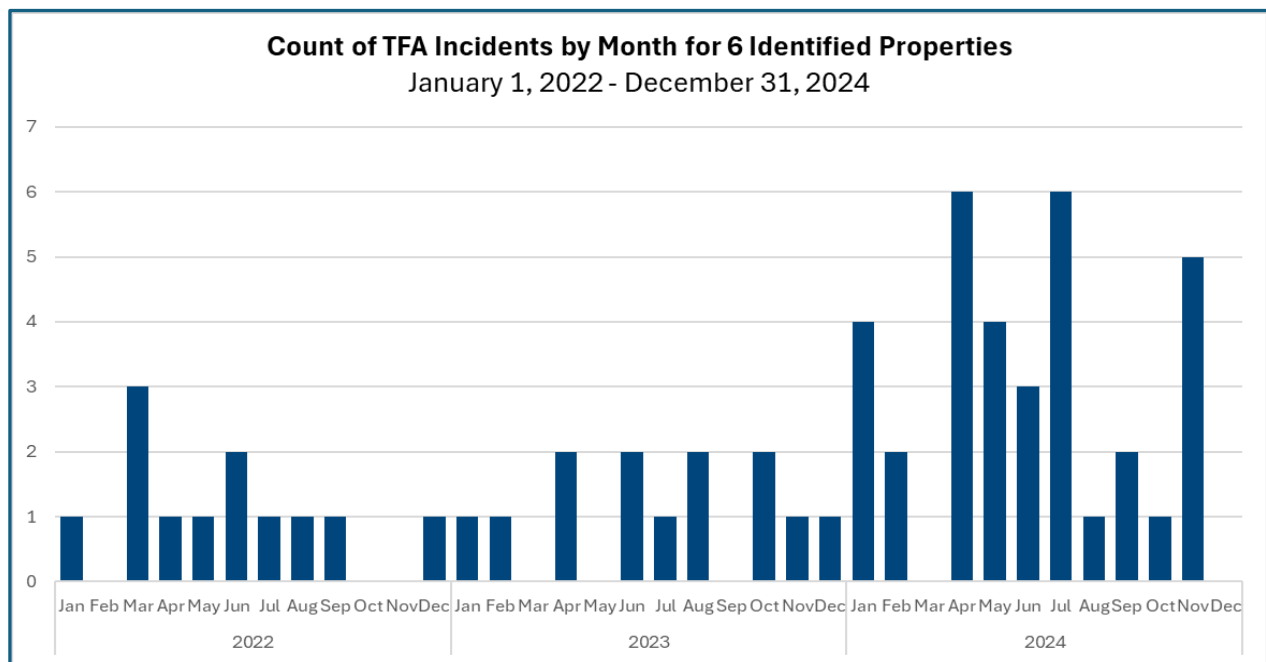
The response phase of this process is multi-phased and involved the following:

1. NLU **met with managers/owners** of selected properties in collaborative problem-solving efforts (done during initial survey meeting)
2. Items discussed and suggestions for improvement were **shared with property owners**
3. **Regular check-ins** will facilitate documentation and continuation of problem-solving efforts
4. A **review of crime data** was completed at regular intervals to monitor and assess relationships between improvements and current crime levels.
5. **Lessons learned were developed and shared** with other properties in District Two that may be experiencing similar crime.

Assessment:

A formal assessment of the changes implemented, and data analysis or current crime levels has not been conducted.

Among the 6 hotels and/or apartment complexes¹, there was little change in thefts from auto.



Outcome(s):

Short term: Security assessments/suggestions to businesses

Long term: Undetermined – follow-up assessment will need to be conducted.

¹ 1815 William Howard Taft Rd, 2145 Dana Ave, 2533 Woodburn Ave, 3225 Oakley Station Blvd, 4605 Factory Colony Ln, 610 Eden Park Dr

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Appendix: Survey Instrument:

SECURITY ASSESSMENT	SECURITY ASSESSMENT
<p>Parking lot/garage Security Assessment for properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">located in District Twowith overnight parkingLot/garage with 50+ parking spaces	<p>Parking lot/garage Security Assessment for properties located in D2 with overnight parking and lot/garage with 50+ parking spaces.</p>
<p>Assessor Information:</p> <p>a. Completed by (CPD): _____</p> <p>b. Completion Date/Time: Date: ____/____/2024 Time: ____:____</p>	<p>Location Type:</p> <p>a. Location Type (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hotel/motelApartment Complex (If apt, est. 2BR apt monthly rent: \$ _____)Business (requiring overnight parking) <p>b. Lot type (Check all that apply.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open/surface lotUndergroundAbove groundHalf open/half covered <p>c. Number of parking spaces (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">50 – 75 spaces75 – 100More than 100Notes: Enter any info that may be relevant: _____
<p>Location Information:</p> <p>c. Business Name: _____</p> <p>d. Owner Company Name (if different): _____</p> <p>e. Address: _____</p> <p>f. Neighborhood: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>g. Business Phone (Main #): (____) _____-</p> <p>h. Business Contact Name: _____</p> <p>i. Business Contact Phone: (____) _____-</p> <p>j. Business Contact Email: _____@_____</p> <p>k. Check if business contact was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Directly contacted and advised of security assessmentDirectly involved in assessment (present at assessment)	<p>Security Parameters:</p> <p>Parameter #1: Physical Security</p> <p>a. Describe lot perimeters/barriers. (Check all that apply.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fenced/gatedUndergroundKeycardAttendant <p>b. Number of egress/entrances/exits:</p> <p>Total: _____ For Vehicles: _____ For Pedestrians: _____</p> <p>c. How secure would you rate this property? (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fully-secured – Defined lot barriers, keycard/attendant secured, max 2 egressPartially secured – Defined lot barriers, no keycard/no attendant, max 2 egressUnsecured – open to public, minimal perimeters, multiple egress
<p>1 Page</p>	<p>2 Page</p>

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<p>Parking lot/garage Security Assessment for properties located in D2 with overnight parking and lot/garage with 50+ parking spaces.</p>	<p>Parking lot/garage Security Assessment for properties located in D2 with overnight parking and lot/garage with 50+ parking spaces.</p>
<p>Security Parameters (con't):</p> <p>Parameter #2: Camera Security</p> <p>a. Is there a camera/multiple cameras on the lot? (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes (on lot)No, but camera within viewable distanceNo, but dummy cameras existNo cameras <p>b. How many cameras are on the property? _____ (write in number)</p> <p>c. Are existing cameras all in working order? (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">YesNo <p>d. Are existing cameras monitored? (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Actively monitoredPassively monitoredNot monitored <p>e. How long do is video kept? (Check one and write in number.)</p> <p>Hours: _____ Days: _____ Weeks: _____</p> <p>Parameter #3 – Lighting Measures</p> <p>a. Does sufficient lighting exist? (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sufficient - Fully litPartially lit/pockets of poor lightingPoorly lit/no lighting <p>b. Are there any barriers to visibility that might need to be addressed? (i.e. overgrown vegetation, dumpster placement, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Yes (write in): _____No	<p>Security Parameters (con't):</p> <p>Parameter #4 – Signage</p> <p>a. Does signage exist for the following? (Check all that apply.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Surveillance (i.e. "Property monitored by electronic surveillance")Valuables (i.e. "Do not leave valuables in vehicle")Firearms (i.e. "Cannot carry firearms onto property") <p>Crime Data:</p> <p>Parameter #5 – Crime (Past 3 years of data will be queried for the property address by CPD Crime Analyst)</p> <p>a. CFS: _____</p> <p>b. TFA: _____</p> <p>c. Criminal Damaging: _____</p> <p>d. Auto Thefts: _____</p> <p>Completed by CA: _____ Date: ____/____/2024</p>
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