

**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.

<b>D2 TFA/CrimDam Incidents</b>			<b>TOD (TIME OF DAY) / DOW (DAY OF WEEK) ANALYSIS (EVANSTON / WALNUT HILLS MULTI-VEHICLE INCIDENTS)</b>									
<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>EVANSTON</b>				<b>WALNUT HILLS</b>					
			<b>Multi-vehicle Incidents (4 or more)</b>				<b>Multi-vehicle Incidents (4 or more)</b>					
			<b>DOWTOD</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>DOWTOD</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Total</b>
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	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
HYDE PARK	11	18	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>WALNUT HILLS multi-vehicle events occurred on Sun, Mon, and Sat between 00:00 (midnight) and 04:00 (4 AM).</b></p>									
KENNEDY HEIGHTS	1	1										
LINWOOD	1	1										
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		
						Firearms	Total	
Top	ID			Address	Neighborhood	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 PROPERIES INFORMATION						2023-2024		
						Firearms	Total	
Top	ID			Address	Neighborhood	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

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

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**Responses:**

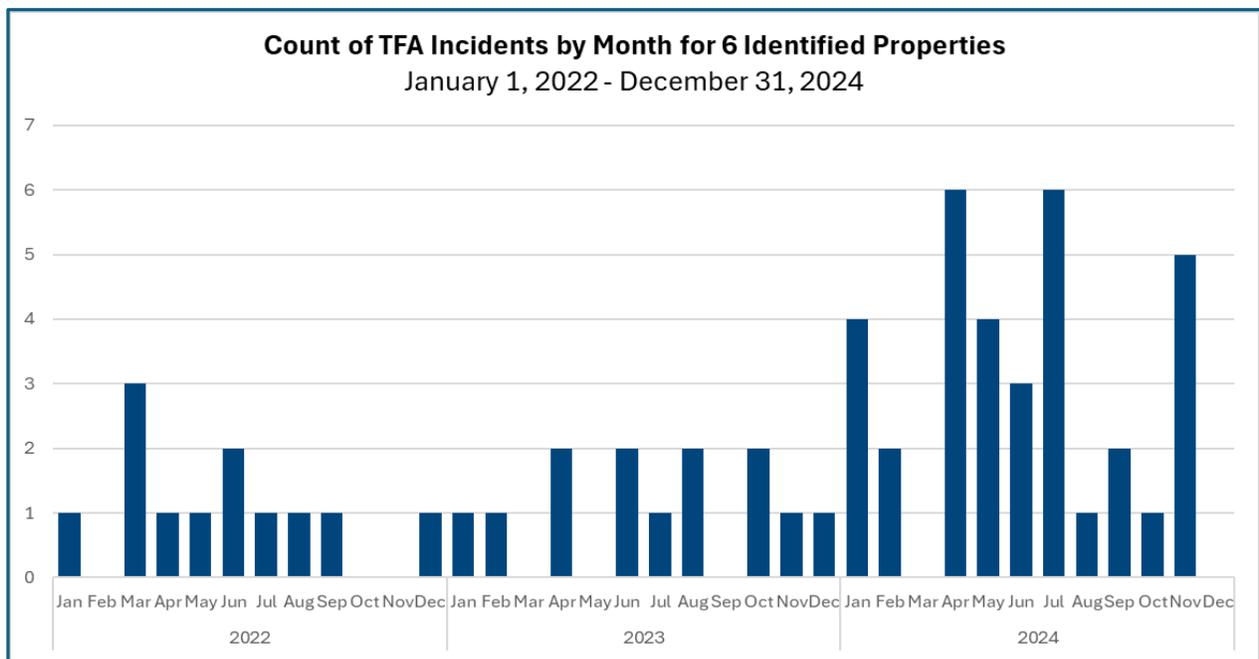
The response phase of this process is multi-phased and involved the following:

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 complexes<sup>1</sup>, 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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:**

<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>SECURITY ASSESSMENT</b></div> <p><b>Parking lot/garage Security Assessment for properties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>located in District Two</li> <li>with overnight parking</li> <li>Lot/garage with 50+ parking spaces</li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #004a7c; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Assessor Information:</b></div> <p>a. Completed by (CPD): _____</p> <p>b. Completion Date/Time: Date: ___/___/2024 Time: ___:___</p> <div style="background-color: #004a7c; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Location Information:</b></div> <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"> <li>Directly contacted and advised of security assessment</li> <li>Directly involved in assessment (present at assessment)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">1   Page</p>	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>SECURITY ASSESSMENT</b></div> <p><b>Parking lot/garage Security Assessment for properties located in D2 with overnight parking and lot/garage with 50+ parking spaces.</b></p> <div style="background-color: #004a7c; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Location Type:</b></div> <p>a. Location Type (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hotel/motel</li> <li>Apartment Complex (If apt, est. 2BR apt monthly rent: \$ _____)</li> <li>Business (requiring overnight parking)</li> </ul> <p>b. Lot type (Check all that apply.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open/surface lot</li> <li>Underground</li> <li>Above ground</li> <li>Half open/half covered</li> </ul> <p>c. Number of parking spaces (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 – 75 spaces</li> <li>75 – 100</li> <li>More than 100</li> <li>Notes: Enter any info that may be relevant: _____</li> </ul> <div style="background-color: #004a7c; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Security Parameters:</b></div> <p><b>Parameter #1: Physical Security</b></p> <p>a. Describe lot perimeters/barriers. (Check all that apply.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fenced/gated</li> <li>Underground</li> <li>Keycard</li> <li>Attendant</li> </ul> <p>b. Number of egress/entrances/exits: Total: _____ For Vehicles: _____ For pedestrians: _____</p> <p>c. How secure would you rate this property? (Check one.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully-secured – Defined lot barriers, keycard/attendant secured, max 2 egress</li> <li>Partially secured – Defined lot barriers, no keycard/no attendant, max 2 egress</li> <li>Unsecured – open to public, minimal perimeters, multiple egress</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">2   Page</p>
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