

THE SIMPLE FACTS

Detroit Housing Commission's. Housing Support Section's J 997 Herman Goldstein Award Submission

Perhaps you recall Dragnet's famous character, Sergeant Joe Friday, who was known for saying, "Just the facts, ma'ma, just the facts." Well, we decided to use his approach to inform you about the Detroit Housing Commission's, Housing Support Section and their progress toward the revitalization of Detroit's Public Housing as it relates to security.

In August 1994, the Chief of the Detroit Police Department Isaiah McKinnon and the Executive Director of Detroit's Housing Commission Carl Greene, met to confer on the state of

affairs of Detroit's Public Housing. It was evident that Detroit's Public Housing had become an inhospitable environment for residents and visitors. It was decided that a renaissance was needed to restore public housing to the gem that it once was. They agreed that there was a need for specialized dedicated services by police in the nineteen public housing sites throughout the city of Detroit. They further agreed that the manpower allocation presently being employed in public housing was archaic, as well as inadequate to address the myriad of problems currently existing. Therefore, the decision was made to significantly increase the number of Detroit Police

Officers to meet this challenge. The additional officers assigned this task would be earmarked to work exclusively in the city's public housing communities. The consensus was that there was a definite need for a staff of specially trained personnel who possessed the knowledge, and expertises to design, develop and implement policies, procedures and programs, that would again create the secure living environment once enjoyed by residents of public housing. Finally, it was decided that there must be an embarkment upon a true team concept, if there was to be any chance of realizing a renaissance.

Supervisors, like the police officers considered for selection to the team, needed the aforementioned qualities

and much more. The supervisors selected must be dedicated professionals, with drive and enthusiasm. They should have a vision for the future with the ability to work closely in a team environment, and have the ability to design and implement programs that would address problems of public housing. They must also have to be able to act as liaison between not only the Detroit Police Department and the Detroit Housing Commission but also all of the Federal Law Enforcement entities such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms etc.. .. With this in mind, an extensive search throughout the Detroit Police Department revealed that there were only two

supervisors who met the special prerequisites of public housing. The first supervisor selected was Inspector Frank Ward who had experience



as an under cover vice and narcotics officer. He has worked as a member of the famous Detroit Police Department's "Gang Squad," Forfeiture Section, and has held the position of the commanding officer of the City of Detroit's Law Department. Inspector Ward is an Executive Protection Professional. He has set up and provided executive protection for the City of Detroit's Council President, has served as the Staff

Sergeant of the Criminal Investigation Bureau's Special Crimes Section, and has served as liaison between the Detroit Police Department and the City's court system. He is a Crime Prevention Specialist, a Community Policing Professional, and has been a dedicated police professional with more than 25 years of service. Inspector Ward has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice, and a Master Degree in Public Administration. He is very active in neighborhood and grass root activities. This was only a small sampling of his expertise and accomplishments. The other supervisor selected was Lieutenant Frank Fowler, who has worked plain clothes



and uniform patrol, "Gang Squad," Surveillance, Investigation, Narcotics, Intelligence, and Forfeiture Section. He is a Hostage Negotiator, an Executive Protection Professional, a Crime Prevention Specialist, and Community Policing Professional. Lieutenant Fowler has taught in the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, served as the Commanding Officer and the Administrative Supervisor of the Prisoner Processing Unit, Analysis and Planning Unit, the 224-Dope Hot Lines, the Administration Supervisor of the Narcotics Division's Conspiracy Units, Street

Enforcement Unit, Interdiction, Compliance Units, and the Detroit Police Department's Liquor License Unit and has more than 26 years of dedicated police service. In an effort to complete the selection process Sergeant Patrick Carney of the Detroit Police Department was selected by Inspector Ward and Lieutenant Fowler to head their staff. Sergeant Carney was selected not only because



of his identical list of accomplishments, but also his outstanding organizational ability. Sergeant Carney also has more than 26 years of

dedicated police service. After the selections were made and approval given, the Detroit Housing Commission and the Detroit Police Department entered into an agreement to provide additional police services to Detroit's Public Housing. In February 1995, this historic agreement caused the creation of the Housing Support Section within the Detroit Police Department.



This Section's mandate was to significantly reduce or eliminate crime, and the fear of crime thereby creating an atmosphere of peace and

tranquility in the city of Detroit's Public Housing Communities.

The Detroit Housing Commission, through the efforts of the Housing Support Section, designed a series of programs to address the problems of public housing in the city of Detroit.

The first program implemented addressed the problem of negative community relations. This problem was solved by the implementation of community policing. Level one of this program was the selection of those members of the Detroit Police Department committed to the doctrine of Community Policing. Level two of this process was the selection of training. Level three was the

scheduling and completion of the training. The officers were selected and the training was conducted by Michigan State University, The National Center for Community Policing, The School of Criminal Justice, College of Social Science, and the birth place of "Community Policing." The courses were entitled "Community Policing" and "Supervision and the

Community Police Officer."

A /Additionally, a course entitled "Enhanced First line Supervision" was added to the initial phase of training for supervisory personnel who were selected to become part of the over all



housing revitalization.

The second program implemented was to address the problem of self empowerment and community involvement. The approach used in solving this problem was the creation of a "Citizen Foot Patrols" in

each housing development. The first stage of this project was to enlist volunteers. The second stage was organizing them into a working team, by teaching a basic chain of responsibility and scheduling. The third stage was training the volunteers in foot patrol techniques, reporting, radio and telephone procedures. They were then issued jackets, flashlights and caps. Finally,



an officer would patrol with them on for approximately thirty days or longer. This is done in an effort to help build confidence within the volunteers. One of the units organized within the "Citizen

Foot Patrol" is the "Graffiti Unit," This unit is trained in detecting, photographing and the eradicating graffiti. Like



the communities outside of public housing, many have fallen victim to this display of juvenile misconduct. The Housing Support Section has embarked upon a campaign of eradication of graffiti in public housing. This undertaking serves to both study and document graffiti. The study can occasionally reveal its creator and often tell of an incident which has occurred or is about to occur. Additionally, and perhaps most important, it can tell who is involved in the incident depicted.

Immediately after the preserving process is completed, the removal process begins. The process begins with the notification to the maintenance staff. In any case where the person or persons are identified and found to be responsible they are aggressively pursued criminally and if found to be a resident, the lease violation process begins. This program is under the tutorage of Sergeant Lawrence Porter of the Housing Support Section. Sergeant Porter has attended a seventy-two-hour Trainer's Course presented by the Virginia Crime Prevention

Association, entitled "Resident Patrol Training of the Trainers Course."

The third program implemented was a "Residents Monitor



Program." This program was implemented as an extension of the "Citizen Foot Patrols." It allows residents to be the "Eyes and Ears" for police at senior citizens high rise apartment buildings. It also allows them to earn a stipend for that activity. The training for this effort was conducted by the staff of the Detroit Metropolitan Police



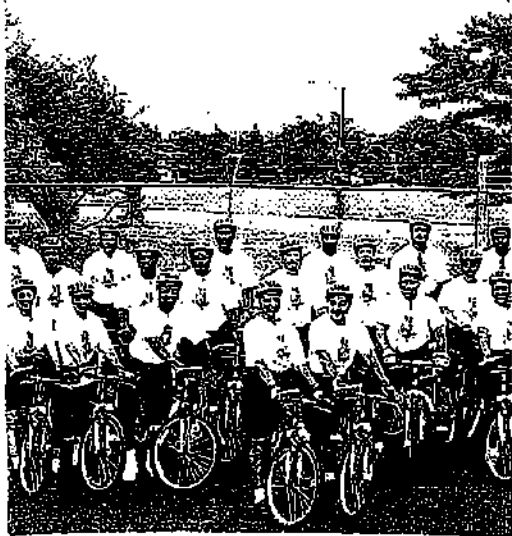
developed and implemented to solve the problem of inaccessibility of patrol vehicles. The "Equestrian and Bicycle Patrol" not only serve as an excellent community policing tool which allows personal contacts with residents, but also affords the officers a higher point of observation, speed of approach, accessibility and finally the "Equestrian Patrol Officer" could be used in crowd control situations. The Police "Foot Patrol" and Residents "Foot Patrol" also takes on some of the same characteristics of the "Equestrian and Bicycle Patrol." However, the response is much slower and the observation points are lower. The patrol efforts which include residents allowed them to assist in their own security, which breeds community involvement and

gave all involved a sense of empowerment. This proactive patrol function also gave notice that there was a zero tolerance of crime in public housing. The "Equestrian Patrol" is headed by the senior officer assigned to this patrol. The officers assigned to this type of duty under went eighteen weeks of training. This training was conducted by the Detroit Police Department's "Mounted Section."



The training for

the Bicycle Patrol" was conducted by Sergeant Lewis Bray of the Housing Support Section. Sergeant Bray is a



Detroit Police Department trainer for "Bicycle Patrol" and has completed a one week training program conducted by "the Law Enforcement Bicycle Association" and certified by the "Association of Michigan Law Enforcement Counsel."



The sixth program implemented was a "Weekly Community Forum." This is a scheduled meeting which takes place at one of the housing developments each week. The meetings are designed to hear the grievances of residents of each site. All residents of public housing are welcome and can voice their concerns and grievances. The "Weekly Community Forum" has in attendance the Executive Director, or his designee, Commanding Officer of the Housing Support Section, or his designee, the department heads of maintenance, management, revitalization and planning. This program allows the residents to not only voice their concerns and complaints but give the resident a chance to talk face to face with the person

responsible for rendering relief. It also gives the residents a chance to thank that department head for the help rendered.

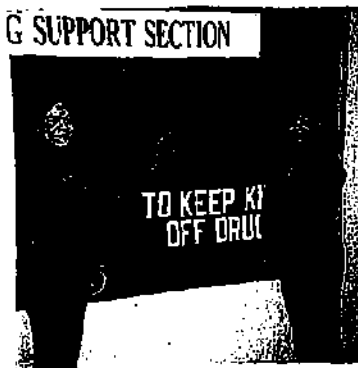
As a result of these meetings, a program entitled "Send Housing Out Please" (S.H.O.P.) was developed. This program was designed primarily for seniors but not exclusively. In the numerous weekly meetings held, a familiar theme kept reappearing. That theme was "I called 911 and no one came until two hours later, by then the music had been turned down. I called 911 and told them that a group of teens were in the parking lot drinking and playing loud music again, but they never came." Time after time it was explained that if the residents would call the Housing Support Section, we would

surely respond and take the necessary action. The telephone numbers and hours of operation would be given out and additionally, cards with the telephone numbers would also be distributed. Inexplicably, the response at next meeting became, "I can't remember your number Inspector, I wrote it down but it got misplaced, I had your card but I lost it, I wasn't at the last meeting, so I didn't get one of your cards or the telephone number of the Housing Police." This was the spring board for the "Send Housing Out Please" (S.H.O.P.), which is a one-sided adhesive placard indicating "911" is for emergencies, and that the S.H.O.P. for a cop number, is the Housing Support Section's telephone numbers. The print on the placard is large to enhance its readability. This placard is to

be placed on the telephone's headset for quick and easy reference.

D I A L 91 1-EMERGENCIES-MURDER, RAPE
ROBBRIES, B & E's IN PROGRESS AND EMS
THEN
DIAL 237-2670 OR 237-7467
"S.H.O.P."
(SEND HOUSING OUT PLEASE)

The seventh program implemented was a Drug Awareness Reduction Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. This program actively addresses drug addiction and proliferation in and around schools attended by residents of public housing. This program is maintained by Police Officers Tonya Wilson and Dena Allen who both have



completed an eighty-hour international D.A.R.E. training program conducted by the Crime Prevention Section of the Detroit Police Department.

The eighth program implemented was the Community Relations Program. This program was established to address the needs of seniors in public housing as it relates to organizing "Apartment Watch," a program that has seniors checking on each other daily, "Fire Safety," a program which teaches seniors what to look for as it relates to fire hazards and fire evacuation, "Crime Prevention," which teaches how to minimize the opportunity for crime, and entertainment and exercise related to geriatric care. This

Police Officers Patricia Holmes and India McKinley.



Both officers have completed the eighty-hour Crime Prevention Course. These officers also serve as liaison between the Housing Support Section and the Detroit Fire Department. They stay abreast of procedures as they relate to fires or toxic spills and the proper evacuation of seniors from high-rise buildings. Officer Holmes is currently studying in the field of geriatrics.



The ninth program was implemented is called the I Sign (I.S.) Program. This program is an extension of the Community Relations Program which deals with the special needs of the hearing impaired residents of public housing. This program is maintained by Police Officers India Mckinley, Jacqueline Grundy and Nancy Bennett.



The training for this was conducted by the Day School for the Deaf and Gloria's Hands Incorporation. Both schools offered Instruction in "American Sign Language" and lasted approximately one year. Currently, the decision to incorporate foreign

languages is under consideration but has not been implemented.

The tenth program was brought about through complaints from residents at a weekly meeting. This program entitled "Operation Haul Away" was developed to address the problem of abandoned or inoperable motor vehicles. The program is maintained by Police Officer Orlando Rivera.



The program allows the officer to tow all vehicles creating what is believed to be a storage place for drugs, eye sores, a danger to children, or spare

parts for road side mechanics.

The officer was trained by the Detroit Police Department's Abandon Vehicle Task Force.

Additionally, this officer acts as liaison between the Detroit Department of Public Refuse Collection Packers and the Housing Support Section.

Another program developed from the weekly meetings is a program entitled "Operation Rip Ride." This program enlists the assistance of the Detroit Police Department's Narcotics Division. It targets the buyers of narcotics in and around public housing. The program combines surveillance and the arrest of the buyers as they drive away from a location where narcotics are being sold. If the person is found in possession of the drugs, he is

arrested and the vehicle is confiscated and processed for forfeiture.

Additionally, a program of "Gun Tracking" has begun. This program is maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (A.T.F.). This program identifies the owners, sellers and traffickers of firearms in and around public housing and the country. The program receives all reports of firearms coming into the possession of the Housing Support Section, conducts a national search into the history of the firearm. The history permits comparison with other firearms histories to ascertain whether there are any similarities in buyers, sellers or transferees. In those cases where there are similarities, cases will be

developed. Training in firearms identification has been offered to the officers of the Housing Support Section by (A.T.F.), however a date for this training has not been approved.

The following is an article and a graph related to the Housing Support Section's contribution to the guns confiscated by the Detroit Police Department.

Detroit cops confiscate 2,942 guns in '96, up 51% from '95

Weapon seizures rise across the city despite decline in violent crime.

By Larry Byrns
Staff Writer, Birmingham Bureau

WASHINGTON — More firearms have been confiscated from Detroit's 9th police precinct than from any other area in the city, a new federal study shows.

From 1994 through 1996, police confiscated 998 firearms in the 9th precinct, more than in any other, according to reports compiled by the Detroit office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Of that total, 260 guns were confiscated from juveniles.

Renee Lynch, 70, who has lived in the precinct for 54 years, said she is not surprised by the numbers.

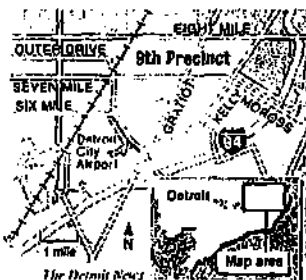
"There is a problem in the 9th precinct, and I wish somebody would do something about it," said Lynch, who is treasurer of Detroit Area Residents East, a neighborhood group. "We're having a gang problem."

Lynch noted that the Comerica Bank branch, where an apparently deranged gunman killed three people March 11, is in the 9th precinct.

In an effort to identify the sources of guns used in crimes, the ATF began examining the records of guns seized in Detroit and several other law enforcement jurisdictions in 1989. Initially, the agency traced only those guns captured from drug dealers. But in 1993, it expanded its project to include violent crime.

Last year, Detroit police confiscated 2,942 guns, 832 of them from juveniles. That total was a 51.6 percent increase over the 1,940 guns seized the previous year despite the city's overall decline in violent crime.

"Most of those were seized in some sort of crime," said Charles Demski, assistant special agent in charge of the Detroit ATF office.



In the 9th precinct, there was a 39.7 percent increase in total gun confiscations, from 269 in 1995 to 404 last year.

But the largest increase occurred in the 5th precinct, also on the east side, where gun seizures rose to 363 compared to 86 in 1995, a 322 percent jump.

For Catherine Rowe, executive director of the Friends of Parkside neighborhood association in the 5th precinct, the data were startling.

"I didn't know we had so many guns in the area," Rowe said. "We don't have all this gunfire. In the past we did, but it's quieted down over the past three or four years."

The number of guns taken last year rose in all but one of the 13 precincts. In precinct 12, which encompasses Palmer Park, there has been a steady decline since 1994, when the number of recovered guns was 310. Last year, just 137 guns were seized, a drop of 55.8 percent.

In the 2nd precinct, on the west side where Schoolcraft intersects Grand River, there has been a steady rise, with gun confiscations soaring 107 percent, from 188 in 1994 to 389 last year. The precinct had the third highest total of guns seized during the period.

"I'm upset and outraged," said Laura Cole, president of the Hartwell and Neighbors Association, who said she intends to run for City Council. "We have to start tackling that problem."

The rise in the number of guns seized last year comes after a decline in 1995 compared to 1994. The increase also comes as the number of federally licensed gun dealers in Detroit has plummeted by 80 percent, to 92 from 468 in 1993, the ATF reported in late January.

Detroit police officials did not respond to several requests, including one in writing, that they discuss the ATF reports.

Demski said he could draw no conclusions from the data. "Our only purpose is to determine where these guns are coming from."

To that end, the ATF's trace pro-

ject has led to numerous prosecutions. In March 1996, Walter Williams III of Detroit was sentenced to 18 months in prison after investigators found that he had illegally sold more than 500 handguns in Detroit.

Although alarmed by the number of guns on Detroit streets, commu-

nity activist Lynch says she is not about to run for cover.

"I'm not going to crawl in a hole and be a prisoner in my own home," Lynch said. "I do a lot of volunteer work in the community and I'm going to continue. A lot of people move to the suburbs, but there are problems out there, too."

Guns confiscated from 1994-96

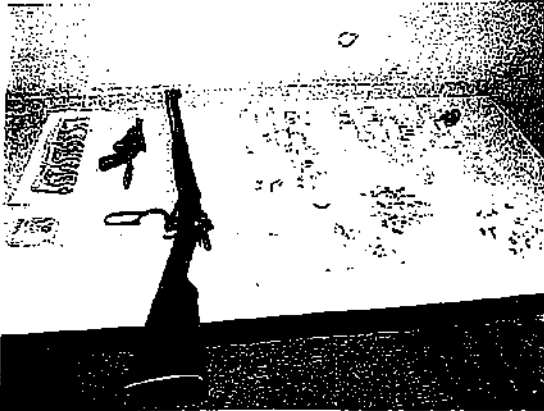
First column is all guns that were taken; the second is guns taken just from juveniles:

Precinct	1994	1995	1996
1st	14 1	2 1	10 1
2nd	188 41	254 62	389 78
3rd	68 14	50 8	51 9
4th	185 47	125 31	209 55
5th	224 48	86 26	363 83
6th	253 59	214 48	313 77
7th	153 29	112 22	123 26
8th	227 51	164 29	263 57
9th	305 83	289 94	404 103
10th	312 56	245 46	380 66
11th	206 37	152 38	200 43
12th	310 43	172 25	137 21
13th	132 19	75 15	150 16
Totals:	2577 527	1940 445	2942 632

Source: Detroit office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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How the Housing Support Section impacted the Detroit's Gun Confiscation during the years 1994, 1995, 1996.

	Total Guns Confiscated	Total Guns Confiscated	Total Guns Confiscated
PRECINCT	1994	1995	1996
3	68	50	51
5	274	86	363
6	253	214	313
7	153	112	173
11	206	157	200
11	132	75	150
TOTAL	1036	694	1200
H.S.S.	69	90	49
% Of Total	6.67%	12.75%	4.08%

Although the total number of guns confiscated by the H.S.S. appears to be minute or reflect a small percentage, it must be realized that this percentage reflects guns confiscated by the thirty-six (36) of forty (41) patrol officers assigned to the Housing Support Section versus approximately 200 patrol officers assigned to each the above listed precincts. Further, the number of guns confiscated is also an indicator of the downward trend in criminal activity within the City of Detroit's Public Housing Commission



The final program which is being aggressively pursued is a program we would like to entitle Citizens On Notice To Act Civilly Towards Society (C.O.N.T.A.C.T.S.) This program is being instituted with the assistance of the United States Attorney Saul Green of the United States Department of Justice, and Agent Katie Takus of the United States Department of Housing Urban Development Office of Investigation, the Detroit Police Department's Special Crimes Section and Narcotics Enforcement Division, and the Detroit Housing Commission. This program will assist in the execution and maintenance of the "One Strike You're Out Policy" which will afford the Housing Support Section the ability to not only assist in the adoption of stricter screening and eviction

procedures, but also the maintenance of computerized records of those in violation of policy. It will provide the capability of instantly revealing whether an applicant has either been evicted from one of the nineteen sights throughout the city. It will track the recorded arrests, tickets or investigations by the Housing Support Section. Further, the system will determine whether the arrestee is a resident of public housing, lessee, or occupant. It will incorporate the use of the Computer Assisted Gang Enforcement (C.A.G.E.) and the Computer Assisted Narcotics Enforcement (C.A.N.E.) systems.



As a result of the security program and management's commitment to establishing a responsive, cohesive, and an efficient property management team, the Detroit Housing Commission was removed from HUD's troubled list.

An Excerpt Taken from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development State of Michigan Office of Public Housing Management Assessment Program (P.H.M.A.P.) Confirmation Review

INDICATOR #11, RESIDENT INITIATIVES - GRADE A

This indicator encourages a partnership between residents and PHAs to develop and implement a resident initiatives agenda to create self-sufficiency opportunities and maintain viable, safe and drug-free public housing developments.

This indicator requires the DHC to certify that the Board of Commissioners has adopted policies and implemented procedures to support and encourage activities in the areas of: (1) anti-drug strategy/security; (2) resident participation/management; (3) home ownership opportunities; and (4) economic development / self-sufficiency. Further, we found significant activity in all of the above areas. Therefore, in accordance with the criteria of this indicator, the DHC's PHMAP grade in this indicator is an A.

The anti - drug strategy /security component of this indicator was demonstrated by a strong working relationship between DHC and the Detroit Police Department. The Police Department established in FY 1995 the Housing Support Section to provide community policing in public housing communities. The tracking of crime problems in the DHC's developments shows a decrease in arrests for Part I crimes and an increase for Part II crimes for FY 1996, with the combination of Part I and II totaling 2,580 arrests, compared to FY 1995 arrests of 1,764. More importantly, the perception by the residents and management staff in the developments is that there is a greater police presence, making the developments safer, as well as the perception that police are very responsive when called. The activities being implemented by the Community Relations Officer in the DHC's senior buildings have also contributed to this feeling of a safer neighborhood. The Detroit Police Department's Housing Support Section D.A.R.E. Officer worked in the schools where the public housing youth were attending. Additional, prevention activities were also targeted for the youth through the Police Athletic League, with limited participation by public housing youth.