

1 RESOLUTION NO. 7250

2
3 A RESOLUTION introduced by Councilmember Clark Duffy relating to the
4 implementation of the 2001 Topeka Crime Summit recommended
5 solutions.
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7 WHEREAS, one of the first actions of the new Topeka City Council after the
8 April 2001 elections was to unanimously pass a resolution calling for a City-wide Crime
9 Summit. The Mayor and his administration embraced the idea and provided full staff
10 support; and

11 WHEREAS, on Saturday morning, July 28th, over 250 citizens of Topeka
12 gathered at Washburn University for a community meeting. After a brief opening
13 session, citizens chose one of six breakout topics which included: Abandoned Houses
14 and Code Issues, Business Crime, Drug Houses and Drug Issues, Juvenile Issues,
15 Residential Crime and Violent Crime; and

16 WHEREAS, the breakout groups then formed committees, which held several
17 meetings to explore their respective areas, identify problems, and where possible,
18 suggest solutions. Each committee wrote a report and those reports compiled into a
19 Topeka Crime Summit notebook.

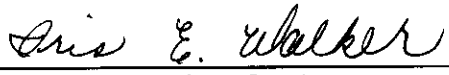
20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Topeka,
21 Kansas that the Council is requesting the following actions be taken by the appropriate
22 responsible parties to begin implementation of the recommendations from the Topeka
23 Crime Summit attached hereto as Attachment "A".

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer shall
25 report progress to the Council of the City of Topeka on implementation of the

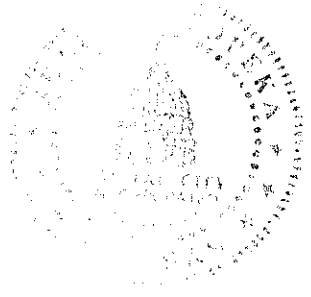
26 recommendations at least quarterly for one (1) year after the adoption of this resolution
27 and at least annually thereafter.

28 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council July 23, 2002

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32 Harry Felker, Mayor

33
34 
35 Iris E. Walker, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
DATE 7/11/02 BY ESL



2001 Topeka Crime Summit

Violent Crime	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
Socio-economic issues			
1. Job Opportunities	2	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to GO Topeka and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
2. Education			
A. truancy/dropouts	3	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
B. higher academic standards	3	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
C. increase accessibility to higher education	4	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Washburn University.
3. Housing Issues			
	4	HND	Begin implementation of the recommended solutions.
Prevention – create a resource council	6	Legal Dept.	Prepare a resolution for consideration by the City Council.

ATTACHMENT "A"

Intervention	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
A. State reclassification of crimes	7	Mayor/CAO	Direct City's lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
B. Study of impact crime	7	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Washburn University and request implementation of this solution.
C. State enhancement of resources for offenders	8	Mayor/CAO	Direct State lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
D. Increase State treatment options	8	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
E. Increase State funding for innovations	8	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
F. Expansion of existing State community services	8	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
Residential Crime			
1. Landlord licensing/registration	2	Legal Dept.	Prepare an ordinance for City Council consideration.
2. Prosecution	3		No recommendation.
3. Legislative – sentencing guidelines/prison space	3	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution
4. Public awareness/citizen involvement	4	Police Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
Business Crime			
1. Arrest shoplifters	2	Legal Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
2. There is no "cost" for arrest	3	Municipal Court	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
3. There are no consequences for flight	4	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to District Attorney and request he implement recommended solution.
		Municipal Court	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
4. No consequences for not paying fines	4	Municipal Court	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
5. Businesses do not prosecute shoplifters	6	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
6. It is hard to catch offenders	7	Police Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
7. Parental responsibilities need to be addressed by the State	8	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

Drug Issues	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
1. Improve prevention and intervention efforts			
A. Employers need better workplace policies	4	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce requesting that it lead in coordination of this solution.
B. Increase awareness of impacts of drug usage in schools	4	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
C. Increase individual awareness	5	Mayor/CAO	Send letter Interfaith of Topeka and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
D. Increase active community involvement	6	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Interfaith of Topeka and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
E. Increase media awareness	7	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Kansas Press Association and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
F. The State needs to provide more prevention and intervention services	7	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
G. Greater need for governmental involvement	7	Mayor/CAO	Begin implementation of the solution within the City of Topeka and direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution by State government.
2. Improve community-wide action			
A. Increase neighborhood awareness	8	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to Safe Streets and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
B. Improve aesthetic code compliance	9	Code Comp.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
C. Inability to find legal owner of properties	9	Legal Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
D. Underage drinking and truancy	10	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
E. Random gunfire, speeding cars		Police Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
3. Improve communications and coordination			
A. Improve communications between neighborhood groups and the people they represent	10	HND	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
B. Improve communications between neighborhoods and governmental agencies	12	Police Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
C. Improve communication between governmental agencies	12	Police Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution
4. Improve effectiveness of the criminal justice system			
A. The State of Kansas needs to provide more officers/lab personnel	13	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to the District Attorney requesting that he take the lead in coordination of the recommended solution.
B. Offenders are not prosecuted in a timely manner	13	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution. Request the District Attorney lead the community effort to establish a drug court.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
C. Public education	14	Police Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
D. Return to effective work release program	14	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to the County Department of Corrections requesting it begin coordination of this solution.
E. Increase parole times	15	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
F. Parents need to be accountable for knowing location of their children	15	Legal Dept.	Prepare a curfew ordinance for consideration by the City Council.
G. Curfew for persons charged with certain crimes	16	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
H. Revamp sentencing guidelines	16	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
I. Lack of prison times for certain felonies	16	Mayor/CAO	Direct City lobbying efforts to implement this solution.
J. Increase of usage of padlock orders	17	Municipal Court	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
K. Landlord licensing	17	Legal Dept.	Prepare an ordinance for consideration by the City Council.
L. Restrict sale of drug paraphernalia within the City limits	18	Legal Dept.	Prepare an ordinance for consideration by the City Council.

ATTACHMENT "A"

Juvenile Issues	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
Truancy	--	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
Youth gangs	--	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to the District Attorney and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
Property crimes by juveniles	--	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 Attorney and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
Lack of parenting information/skills	--	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to County Health Department and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.
Out of school suspension	--	Mayor/CAO	Send letter to U.S.D. 501 and request it lead the community effort for implementation of this solution.

ATTACHMENT "A"

	Page #	Responsible Party	Requested Action
Abandoned house code issues			
1. Home owner issues	--	HND	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
2. Abandoned houses	--	HND	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.
3. Work with landlords to meet codes	--	Legal Dept.	Prepare a landlord licensure/registration ordinance for consideration by the City Council.
4. Make current laws work better	--	Legal Dept.	Begin implementation of the recommended solution.

CRIME SUMMIT INFORMATION
PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL

October 9, 2001

Crime Summit Committee Report - Violent Crime

submitted by
Thomas Underwood, PhD
Center on Violence and Victim Studies
Washburn University

Background Information

Violent crime was one of the discussion areas for the Crime Summit held July 28, 2001 at Washburn University. Thomas Underwood of Washburn University and Lt. Walt Wywadis of the Topeka Police Department conducted a brief presentation on violent crime and facilitated a discussion with a group of approximately twenty-three citizens and professionals. Gisele Bauer of the Topeka Police Department served as note taker.

Persons interested were invited to the committee meetings held August 7, 14 and 20. In addition to Thomas Underwood and Lt. Wywadis, the following people attended one or more of the committee meetings:

Jim Freel	Gisele Bauer
Tammy Asher	Don Banning
Sara Kiefhaber	Sally Zeller
Marilyn Ault	Mike Padilla
Ric Silber	Tiffany Muller

The focus of the committee meetings was to refine some of the problems identified in the crime summit, identify possible solutions to the problems, note the barriers or obstacles to the solutions, and identify who needs to be involved to address the problem. It was established early in the committee meetings that the essence of these recommendations was not so much the identification of a clear plan to solve these complex problems, but rather to identify areas that need further discussion and study by stake-holders.

Recommendations

Three key problem areas were identified as contributing factors to violent crime in Topeka: socio-economic, prevention, and intervention.

- **Socio-Economic**
This area considers those conditions that lend themselves to conditions of

limited opportunity for advancement. Though not identified as a causal factor, research suggests that socio-economic factors such as low income, poor housing, and limited education increase the likelihood of violent crime. Thus, to address violent crime, the City must respond to these issues.

1. Job Opportunities

The perception of the committee was that many of the jobs available in the community are jobs characterized as service, low-wage, part-time, and/or temporary.

Solution

The solution to this problem is to increase manufacturing and professional job opportunities. Topeka should be promoted to these businesses and industries as a desirable place to locate. This should be done through active marketing of the community assets and financial incentives should be offered.

Obstacles

The lack of a shared vision of Topeka's future was one of the overriding obstacles identified. This includes a lack of organized efforts and limited marketing funds. Further, there may be resistance to offering tax or other financial incentives for fear of income loss.

Who

The promotion of the community requires a broad-based effort. Essentially any and all entities are stake-holders. Some of those identified include:

- Chamber of Commerce
- City Council
- County Commission
- Department of Commerce and Housing
- Expo Center
- Labor Unions
- Business and Industry
- Education Institutions (Washburn University, Kaw Area VoTech, School Districts, etc)
- Law Enforcement
- District Attorney
- Airport

2. Education

Concern regarding education was focused on issues of :

- truancy and drop-outs
- inconsistent and/or low academic standards
- lack of access to post-high school education

A) Solution

The truancy/drop-out issue should be addressed at two fronts. First, it is important to identify the root causes of the problem. Concurrent with this exploration, truancy laws need to be enforced.

Obstacles

Exploration of the root causes of truancy/drop-outs may be met with a lack of awareness and interest. An exploration may identify limitations or weaknesses of service agencies and schools, thus a barrier may be a defensiveness or lack of commitment to really delve into the problem. Finally, to really adequately explore the root causes though an extensive review of the literature and/or a study of the community takes a financial commitment which may be lacking.

The obstacles to enforcement of truancy is the resources of law enforcement personnel and a place to house truants.

Who

Considering the two part approach to this problem, the solution involves various agents. To explore the root causes of the truancy/drop-outs:

- Washburn University (Center on Violence and Victim Studies and/or academic departments)
- School District
- Youth Service Agencies
- Law Enforcement

To address the need for greater enforcement:

- Law Enforcement
- School District Security
- School District Administration
- Court Services
- SRS
- Parents
- Students

B) Solution

The solution identified for inconsistent and/or low academic standards was increased parental and community involvement in the schools. Greater involvement should enhance educational accountability. Possibly some sort of incentives for involvement could be explored.

Obstacles

Apathy and time to invest are the primary obstacles to this solution.

Who

The community of school, neighborhood, and business can include:

- PTA's
- School Administration
- Neighborhood Improvement Associations
- Churches
- Businesses

C) Solution

A solution to accessibility to post-high school education is to increase educational money available to city residents. This may be through grants, low interest loans, and scholarships. Also, this may include enhanced awareness of financial resources already present.

Obstacles

The perception of funding as a complex labyrinth only accessible to those with connections and perseverance.

Who

- Washburn University
- Kaw Area VoTech
- Other local post high school institutions
- Business community
- Independent funding

3. Housing

Housing involved several issues all related to decay and blight:

- low income housing is often clustered, thereby keeping the poor in contained pockets that tend to breed crime and violence
- large number of rental properties, especially those with absent landlords who do not take the responsibility to maintain the property
- urban flight contributes the decay of residential neighborhoods

Solution

Encouraging stable neighborhoods was the overriding solution to housing as a factor of violence. Specifically, home ownership in city neighborhoods should be encouraged, possibly through tax rebates or other types of assistance. Further, support should be offered to help neighborhoods organize. While organizations often requires the commitment of individuals, possibly the city can offer supports and encouragement to NIA's and others to enhance activities and commitment to the neighborhood.

In order to control ill-kept and dilapidated rental housing, a solution is to maintain a registry of landlords and to freely levy penalties to landlords who do not maintain the properties.

Efforts should be made to integrate public housing into regular neighborhoods throughout all sections of the city. Large complexes of public housing should be eradicated.

Obstacles

Potential homeowners may not choose to live in certain areas of the city for various reasons. There may be a fear, based on reality or perception, of high crime. There are certain social stigmas based on certain areas, such as the perception that only certain ethnic groups or class of people live in the area. These perceptions may be exacerbated by realtors who steer people away from certain areas.

For persons of low income and/or in public housing, the potential of residing elsewhere besides a neighborhood that may be characterized by blight and crime is limited due to the lack of housing available elsewhere and the limited transportation options to other areas of the city.

Locating absentee landlords may be significant obstacle.

Finally, it is perceived that there is a lack of a congruent overall vision and commitment by the City Council, existing business, and other community leaders. This translates to a lack of resources and support to neighborhoods to stabilize and organize as they may not see the benefit or be aware of resources.

Who

In order to explore low income and public housing issues, and to increase efforts to stabilize neighborhoods, including home ownership incentives, the following should be involved:

- Landlords
- NIA's
- Housing and Urban Development
- Safe Streets
- Housing and Credit Counseling Bureau
- Schools
- Investors
- Citizens
- Realtors
- Churches
- Businesses
- Banks and lending institutions
- City Council
- Chamber of Commerce

In addition, the issue of absent landlords should be explored through representatives from:

- City Attorney's Office
- Code Enforcement
- Law enforcement
- Landlords
- Landlord Association
- NIA's
- City Council

■ **Prevention**

This area considers efforts directed toward the general community and to at-risk populations in order to prevent the occurrence of violence. Specifically, it was the perception of the committee that there seems to be a problem in:

- lack of resources - limited committed money and personnel to truly make an impact;
- lack of services - general prevention, including activities of families and youth, and resources for "at-risk" populations
- awareness of services - lack of public awareness of resources and activities that do exist as well as a lack of awareness by other service providers.

Solution

The recommended solution is to develop a city-wide coordinated effort to address an overall vision and plan for prevention. This involves the development of a group charged with establishing overall goals, to identify existing services and gaps in services, and to provide specific recommendations. This should include a study to clearly identify existing services, personnel, and the mission of those services as well as a review of promising practices in other communities. Finally, services and activities need to be promoted to the general public and service community.

Obstacles

The significant obstacle to this solution is the issue of turf, which may involve agency sense of ownership, money, and/or jurisdiction. Also, prevention is not very tangible, it is difficult to clearly demonstrate impact, thus it is not often viewed as cost efficient.

Who

The initial development of a resource council should include, at the minimum:

- City Council
- Law enforcement
- Battered Women's Task Force
- Schools
- Health agencies
- Community Resource Council
- all social service agencies

A survey of existing services may include the above with association with:

- Washburn University - Center on Violence and Victim Studies
- or other entity

Promotion of activities may include the above and:

- Media
- Civic organizations

■ **Intervention**

Intervention refers to responses that are made toward those who have committed acts of violence. Interventions may range from treatment to correctional supervision and/or incapacitation services. The impression of the committee is that there is a lack of adequate treatment options and supervision of offenders ranging from community-based to community-based.

A) Solutions

There should be an evaluation of the classification of crimes. It was perceived that there are some acts that should be considered within the purview of violent crime and, possibly, there are some acts that are considered more serious than what they should be. This evaluation should focus on whether the community (city, state) is focusing on behaviors that are harmful to the public.

Obstacles

It is recognized that any reclassification of laws is a legislative process that is time consuming and characterized by diverse public sentiments.

Who

- Legislature

B) Solutions

It was perceived that justice agency representatives and service providers do not really understand the impact that violent crime has on an individual and a community. Training should be provided to professionals from justice agencies (law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, corrections), mental health, social services, health care, legislators, and so forth.

Obstacles

Funds for training is always an issue. There tends to be a reluctance to devote the time required for quality professional training. Finally, there is often a lack of investment by practitioners to get training on victim issues.

Who

- Washburn University - Center on Violence and Victim Studies
- Victim service agencies

C) Solutions

In order to enhance resources for offenders there needs to be an increase in community participation. These include businesses, service agencies, volunteers, and offender families.

Obstacles

The perception that offenders do not need or deserve resources is a primary obstacle.

Who

- ACLU
- Criminal justice system

D) Solutions

Increase treatment options for offenders, especially in regards to substance abuse and mental health.

Obstacles

Money for enhanced resources.

Who

- Criminal justice system
- Service providers

E) Solutions

Increase funding for programs through innovative sources, such as proceeds from drug dealers, vice taxes, and offender fines.

Obstacles

Even with innovative funding, the dollars earned would probably be very limited to make meaningful change.

Who

- Legislature
- Victim programs
- Criminal justice
- Department of Revenue
- Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

F) Solutions

Explore expansion of existing community supervision regarding responsiveness to offender, victim, and community needs. This includes, but is not limited to hours and location of services. For example, community

supervision should not be just an 8:00 a.m. top 5:00 p.m. service located in an office downtown.

Obstacles

Limited funds and personnel make expansion difficult. Also, with increased exposure outside regular business hours and environment, security may be an issue. Finally, attitudes of resistance to change may be a significant barrier.

Who

- Court Services (probation)
- Community Corrections
- Parole
- Judges
- Community representatives (churches, service providers, etc)

General Recommendations

Even though there were many in the committee who were content experts in at least some of these areas, it was apparent that much discussion was based on perception and ideology. With this in mind, a very critical aspect of the City addressing violence is the need for independent research regarding causes of and community responses to violence. This also includes identification of promising practices that may be considered.

A component of any initiative regarding responses to violence must be evaluation. Good evaluation, though not necessarily complicated, in complex and should consider multiple indicators. Again, this is something that should be conducted by an independent source.

Finally, the need for vision was a common general theme. In order for any real strides to be made in addressing violence in the community, a vision must be stated and promoted. A vision statement should be developed from multiple stake holders, such as those who contributed to the Crime Summit.

L
Crime Summit 2001- Residential Crime
Final Report

Submitted by
Larry Magill
Kansas Association of Insurance Agents

Committee Information

The Residential Crime Committee was formed from an initial meeting at the Crime Summit. There were thirty-two people present for the initial meeting; many representing insurance businesses, law enforcement, housing organizations, NIAs, NAs, as well as Washburn University. Larry Magill of the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents facilitated this meeting, presenting our goals and doing a general outline. Bev Holly with the Topeka Police Department served as notetaker.

Interested parties were encouraged to be a part of the main committee and attend additional meetings. Meetings were held July 28th, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th and Sept. 8th. The following people attended one or more of the committee meetings:

Sluggo Alcala	Jack Alexander
Elva Banning	Curtis Brown
Shelley Dugan	Vince Gonzales
Don Miller	Jan Price
Don Zellers	Ron Tannehill
L. J. Polly	Sally Zellers
Jerry Stogsdill	Bev Holly (notetaker)
Larry Magill (facilitator)	

Those asked to give presentations to the committee are as follows:

D.A. Robert Hecht	Sally Zellers-Safe Streets
Officer Janene Falley	-Topeka Police Community Police

Submitted to the committee (handouts):

	<u>Origin</u>
Overview and goals	Larry Magill
Minutes from each meeting	Bev Holly
Statistics -# of attorneys available for prosecution	D.A. Hecht
Statistics -Caseload Comparisons for 3 counties	D.A. Hecht
Statutes to include 'party shacks'	D.A. Hecht
10-year statistics on persons jailed and # of times	Jan Price
Quarterly reports on Police Specialty Units (to include SORT, Community Police, ACT, Bike Unit, Housing Unit Response Team, Weed and Seed)	Sgt. Kurt Richter
Report from Abandoned Houses/Code Issues Comm.	Diana Brey
List of Community Police officers	Officer Janene Falley
Booklet of NIAs, NAs, important phone numbers	Sally Zellers

We were to direct our attention on the problems associated with residential crime, solutions to those problems, obstacles and the players involved. The meetings were not to find a resolution to the problems, but to identify the obstacles and players, and offer suggested solutions.

Items of concern discussed

- Residential burglaries -Vehicle burglaries
- Residential vandalism -Vehicle vandalism
- Neighborhood residents participation -homeowners associations, NIAs, NAs
- Code Enforcement -lack of manpower,
- Police patrol issues -police specialty units
- Dispatch concerns
- Prosecution issues -sentencing guidelines

There were four areas of concern the committee focused on to submit recommendations for the final report. Those areas of concern are believed to contribute, in a large part, to the residential crime issue.

1. Landlord Issues

The committee contends a belief residential crime is up due deterioration of the neighborhoods. This provides a magnet for undesirables. It was a consensus of the committee that an 'ugliness' in the neighborhood is a contributing factor.

Problem

- Poor maintenance or lack of maintenance to properties
- Not screening tenants
- Lack of code enforcement
- Insufficient lighting or lack of lighting to streets and homes
Drug houses
- Lack of landlord education
- Lack of prosecution in property vandalism's and burglaries
- No repercussions for landlords not maintaining properties.

Solution

- Landlord licensing/registration, have them participate in Crime Free Multi Housing program.
- Educate landlords about programs available to assist them such as HCCI, Safe Streets, and Neighborhood Improvement Associations.
- De-politicize Code Enforcement. Work with City Council to see the importance of equal enforcement for all and the necessity of Code Enforcement to be able to do their jobs. Encourage to funding to meet necessary staffing needs.
- Publicize landlords who don't maintain their property, utilizing TV, newspaper. Make them accountable for their properties. Develop penalty program when they fail to maintain properties.

- Recommend mid-block street lighting program is re-instituted.
- Enforce the party shack laws; give the party shack law publicity and again, educate landlords on laws they can utilize.

Obstacles

- No accountability for landlords
- Lack of interest for citizens to participate in neighborhood organizations
- Lack of publicity about neighborhood organizations
- No funding made available for street light programs
- Politics on the part of City Council, State Legislators,
- Insufficient sentencing guidelines
- Criminals being moved from neighborhood to neighborhood (displacing criminals can also be a pro-active role in a neighborhood)

Players

- City council members
- Legislators
- Media
- Landlords
- District Attorney
- Citizens
- Safe Streets
- HCCI

2. Prosecution

3. Legislative-sentencing guidelines/prison space

The committee agrees that prosecution of criminals in non-person crimes of burglary and vandalism is low priority. Early release of criminals and minimum sentencing allows repeat offenders.

Problem

- Non-person crimes minimum sentencing guidelines
- Weekend arrests - early release by D.A.
- Repeat offenders-crime to profitable, properties to accessible, citizen intimidation
- Lack of knowledge on the landlords part of the laws they need to know
- Media giving too much information on lack of prosecution
- No minimum security prisons
- No shame in committing crime
- Lack of citizen involvement with legislative lawmakers

Solution

- Tougher sentencing guidelines -Toughen property crime law-Tougher/higher bonds.
- Build minimum security county prisons

- Educate landlords about programs available to assist them such as HCCI, Safe Streets, and Neighborhood Improvement Associations.
- Publicize landlords not maintaining their properties.
- Increase shame factor - Crime TV
- Increase Prosecutor's office staffing. Develop a Property Crimes Division.
- Pursue Victim/Offender Mediator program -Judge accountability
- Prioritize funding for programs in the City and State budgets
- Research and utilize grant monies available.

Obstacles

- Lack on citizen's part to involve themselves
- Lack of funding to build minimum security prisons
- Politics on the part of City Council and State Legislators
- No accountability system for the Judges.
- Funding for salaries for additional personnel in D.A.'s Office
- Media participation in educating landlords on what is available to them.
- Lack of prioritizing political initiative

Players

- Citizens -Landlords
- District Attorney
- City Council
- HCCI
- Safe Streets
- Legislators
- Public Awareness groups
- Media-Public Access, WIBW, Channel 27, Channel 49

4. Public Awareness/Citizen Involvement

The committee agrees that citizen involvement in an important part to deterring residential crime. It is necessary to educate the public with the correct information that will afford them the best opportunity to assist in crime control in their neighborhoods. It is as important for the media to report crime accurately and to utilize their means to increase the shame factor of committing crime. The committee would like to see programs publicized more such as, the Topeka Police Citizens Academy, the Safe Streets programs with their NIAs and NAs and the CPTED programs.

Problem

- Lack of citizen involvement in their neighborhoods.
- Lack of training for the citizens to be the eyes and ears of their neighborhoods.
- Need more aggressive approach in getting neighborhoods to participate in housing association groups, NIAs, NAs.
- Abandoned properties, deteriorating neighborhoods encourage lack of desire on citizen's part to maintain their properties.

- Absentee landlords
- No funding to support mid-block street light program
- Not enough publicity on programs available as well as associations and neighborhood groups. Lack of funding for these programs
- Lack of interest in goal setting future for Topeka and Topeka residential neighborhoods.

Solution

- Encourage citizens to be proactive in their neighborhoods
- Possibly develop incentive programs for efforts in owning and maintaining homes in our neighborhoods.
- Utilize Safe Streets, HCCI, as well as the Topeka Police Department and housing associations to educate citizens on housing laws, availability of resources and what citizens can do with what they have immediately available to deter crime.
- Publicize information to citizens on how to locate absent landlords.
- Encourage City Council to de-politicize Code Enforcement. Increase funding for additional staff. Strengthen Code laws and enforcement of them.
- Publicize organizations, services, and programs available for the citizens to participate in.
- Police participation-community officers presence, additional patrol
- Media participation -develop programs, public awareness spots utilizing TV to commend neighborhood groups as well as utilizing the TV for slumlord announcements and Crime TV
- Encourage insurance industry involvement. Share information, statistics.

Obstacles.

- No desire on the part of citizens to participate.
- Citizens not having the knowledge of community services and groups to participate.
- Intimidation on the part of many citizens as well as the "doesn't involve me" attitude.
- Rental properties owned by slumlords or owned for financial gain without maintenance.
- Absentee landlords, to include those out of state.
- Not enough funding available to be utilized for program development.
- City Council allowing Code Environment to work as they should in varied areas of the City.
- Not enough budgeted funds for additional police personnel
- Getting the information to the media. Media not seeing the importance of these neighborhood issues.

Players

- Citizens -Landlords
- NIAs
- Safe Streets
- HCCI
- City Council
- Law enforcement
- Code Environment staff
- Media-Public Access, WIBW, Channel 27, Channel 49

Decidedly, the committee agreed that residential crime was on the increase in our city. This decision was in agreement with recent publicized statistics on residential crime. As a committee we realize this is not an area where a solution is immediately forthcoming.

Landlord discussion was a common ground. There needs to be some accountability with the landlords. Perhaps incentive programs or penalty programs need to be initiated and enforced.

There was much discussion on limited funding to develop and continue housing programs, however a great interest was shown in what was available to the communities and individuals in the form of grant monies.

It was a general consensus that the City Council needed to review the Code Environment Unit. Monies need to be generated to provide additional staff in the Code Environment Unit. This Unit needs to be de-politicized.

Involvement of the citizens was an issue that the committee felt needed explored. There needs to be additional publicity on what is available to the citizens to assist them in governing their neighborhoods.

Most importantly, the committee maintains that sentencing guidelines need to be reviewed and toughened up. Property crimes need to become a focus of the legislators and tougher, higher bonds need to be set for the criminals. There needs to be Property Crime Division in the D.A.s office and that office needs additional monies budgeted for staffing. It is important to develop a Victim/Offender program as well as a Court Watch Program. Our judges need to be accountable to the citizens for the decisions they make on early releases and lenient sentencing.

All on the committee agreed that some form of Crime TV or slumlord TV is needed. This hopefully brings the shame factor back into committing crime and will also make the landlords accountable to the neighborhoods they own property in. This will help deter the development of blight areas where crime is prevalent.

FINAL REPORT-BUSINESS CRIMES
Jeffrey A. Wietharn - Facilitator

1. Introduction: Let there be no mistake: Crime is an economic development issue, whether it effects existing or prospective businesses directly, or whether it gives this community a negative image. During our break-out discussion, the overriding concern was that perpetrators of non-person business crimes do not meet with any significant consequences. This is explored in many forms herein.

2. Section I
 - a. Facilitator's Name: Jeff Wietharn, Coffman, DeFries and Nothern, P.A.

 - b. Breakout topic: Business Crimes, including:
 - i. Shoplifting and other petty crimes
 - ii. Vandalism - windows broken, defacing walls
 - iii. Employee theft/embezzlement
 - iv. Emotional or physical disturbances
 - v. juvenile Crime
 - vi. Forgeries, credit card fraud, and fraudulent checks
 - vii. Burglaries

 - c. Number of Participants: 19, of which approximately 7 were in law enforcement or involved in prosecution/adjudication.

 - d. Problems Identified:
 - i. No actual arrest by uniformed officer, particularly in shoplifting cases.
 - ii. No immediate cost or jail time after arrest. When arrested, criminals can often avoid jail by executing a signature or personal recognizance bond. They do not have to put up any significant funds to obtain release.
 - iii. No prosecution. Criminals do not show up at their trials, with little apparent consequence.

- iv. Even if arrested and prosecuted, cost or sentencing guidelines preclude incarceration, and fines and restitution go unpaid without consequence.
- v. Some businesses do not bother prosecuting criminals.
- vi. Inability to catch offenders.
- vii. Issues driving crime are not being adequately addressed. Such issues include:
 - (1) Drugs
 - (2) Gambling
 - (3) Failure by parents/family to teach right/wrong and, in some cases, actually teach children to commit crimes.

3. Section II

- a. **PROBLEM:** No actual arrest by uniformed officer, particularly in shoplifting cases.
 - i. **SOLUTION:** Businesses and police need to work out a balance regarding the extent of police involvement in minor crimes.
 - (1) Although the net legal effect may be the same (whether a police officer actually "arrests" a shoplifter, or whether the shoplifter is apprehended by private security), there is an intangible and strong psychological effect of having an offender arrested by a uniformed officer. Additionally, failure to send uniformed officers on shoplifting calls places the risk and burden of law enforcement on private business, despite the fact that they too contribute (perhaps significantly) to the tax base.
 - (2) Nevertheless, the Department's resources need to be allocated in a cost effective manner. Perhaps the Department's resources and expenses have not been adequately aired to the public. This may help to justify or call into question the Department's policy.

- ii. OBSTACLE: There are a limited number of officers and funding, and other criminal activity demands the attention of police officers. Additionally, paperwork further limits police officers' time.
- iii. PLAYERS/PARTIES: The Police Department, the City Council (or similar funding agencies), and businesses (particularly retailers).

[NOTE: At the August 23, 2001, committee meeting, Assistant City Attorneys John Knoll and Craig Spomer represented that they have developed and implemented (at least in part) a procedure that would create a list of individuals arrested for shoplifting and thefts. Those on the list who were caught again would, in fact, be arrested by police officers. First time offenders would continue to be processed in a manner where the retailer processes the "arrest" by filing documentation with the police department. This appears to be a promising compromise.]

b. PROBLEM: No immediate cost or jail time after arrest. When arrested, criminals can often avoid jail by executing a signature or personal recognizance bond. They do not have to put up any significant funds to obtain release.

(1) SOLUTION: Require a significant cash bond upon arrest, or impose a more creative requirement for lower value crimes, such as community service.

(2) OBSTACLES:

(a) It costs \$65/day to keep a person in jail. The property stolen or damaged by the offender may be worth less than that. Therefore, less-expensive incarceration or penalization options are needed.

(i) NOTE: The facilitator was under the impression that there was limited jail space for those who do not make bond. However, this is apparently not the case. There is, however, a limited amount of low-cost jail space. Although the facilitator is not an expert on the issue, there is apparently some concern and controversy in the availability and cost of the local detention facilities. Apparently, although local taxpayers

pay for those facilities, the taxpayers also must pay for criminals who are placed there. Thus, local taxpayers may be paying twice for the "use" of their own detention facilities.

(b) It is not entirely clear, but apparently Court orders or legislation prohibit the imposition of significant bonds.

(3) PLAYERS/PARTIES: Courts (Municipal and District), District and City Attorneys, City Council, and the Legislature.

[NOTE: Attorneys Knoll and Spomer have also apparently prevailed upon the Municipal Court to implement bonds on offenders. First time offenders would pay a \$250 bond, and that amount would be increased by \$50 for each additional arrest, up to a maximum of \$1000. Please note that this only affects Municipal Court appearances and does not affect crimes prosecuted through District Court.]

c. PROBLEM: No prosecution. Criminals do not show up at their trials, with little apparent consequence.

i. SOLUTIONS:

(1) Require substantive cash bail on all cases, so there is an incentive to appear at trials.

(2) Increase penalties where offenders fail to appear at their trials.

ii. OBSTACLES: Need necessary authority to impose such bail requirements and/or penalties.

iii. PLAYERS/PARTIES: Courts (Municipal and District), District and City Attorneys, City Council, and the Legislature.

d. PROBLEM: Even if arrested and prosecuted, cost or sentencing guidelines preclude incarceration, and fines and restitution go unpaid without consequence.

i. SOLUTIONS:

(1) Serious penalties are needed, including incarceration. Such penalties need to become more severe with repeat offenses. Examples were

given that despite repeated offenses, perpetrators were not incarcerated.

- (2) Devise creative punishments such as community service or undesirable tasks, such as picking up trash.
- (3) Have convicts work in penal industries to repay victims and/or to build prisons/jails.
- (4) Increase forfeiture laws to benefit victims and/or society (to build jails/prisons).
- (5) Actually require that restitution be paid. Currently, failure to pay restitution only means that a criminal is released from their probation with an unfavorable designation.
- (6) Increase notoriety of offenders, by publishing their names/photos, requiring them to work in public in the orange overalls, etc.
- (7) For first-time offenders, teen courts or drug courts may be a possibility. Similarly, victim-offender mediation might help offenders better understand and regret their actions.
- (8) Although a city-wide bad apple policy (banning known convicts from living/visiting Topeka) is likely unconstitutional, Chief Klumpp noted that businesses (particularly retail shopping areas and malls) can do a lot to prevent crime by simply barring criminals from returning to the business. If the individual returned at some later date, they would be trespassing and the police could be called. Such a ban by the business owners is somewhat proactive, whereas police can do nothing until a crime is committed (and too often the crime may only be discovered after the fact). Such bans, if implemented by multiple business owners, would make this area unattractive for the habitual thief or shoplifter.

ii. OBSTACLES:

- (1) Current sentencing guidelines do not provide for serious punishment for property crimes.

- (a) Disturbing examples include the fact that the woman who stole \$28,000 from Shawnee Heights School District was granted a diversion.
 - (b) In 1994, the average dollar amount in an employee theft case was \$2,500-3,000. Currently, the Topeka Police Department will not investigate an employee theft case unless the amount is \$50,000.
 - (c) Attorney Knoll also clarified that while there is a state law that makes a third misdemeanor a felony, this only applies to crimes charged under state law, not those crimes adjudicated in Municipal Court (such as most thefts and shoplifting. Thus, one way to address the multiple offenses would be to change state law to allow Municipal Court convictions to qualify for possible felony status (such as upon the third arrest).
- (2) Limited low-cost jail/prison space makes incarceration difficult or impossible for all but more serious crimes.
- iii. PLAYERS/PARTIES: The Legislature, City and District Attorneys, Courts, and the City Council.
- e. PROBLEM: Some businesses do not bother prosecuting criminals.
- i. SOLUTIONS:
- (1) Streamline victims' involvement in the prosecution process.
 - (2) Address other problems discussed herein, i.e. by making prosecution effective (by backing up prosecution with punishment) and implementing procedures/punishments so that criminals actually show up at their trials. (Sometimes victims show up, but the criminals do not).
 - (3) Work with victims to return to them stolen articles as quickly as possible.
- ii. OBSTACLES:

- (1) It costs businesses money to allow employees to assist in prosecution.
- (2) Subject matter of crimes may be held for significant periods of time (by police or prosecution). This prevents such items from being sold by businesses.
- (3) Businesses have lost faith in the ability of law enforcement and the judicial system to effectively address crime, so businesses simply write it off as a cost of doing business in this City.

iii. PLAYERS/PARTIES: The Legislature, City, and District Attorneys, Courts, the City Council, and businesses.

f. PROBLEM: Inability to catch offenders. Some property and fraud crimes are not detected until well after the crime has been committed.

i. SOLUTIONS:

- (1) For property crimes like vandalism, much of the burden falls on the potential victims to prevent the crimes. Prevention methods include the use of cameras, lighting, and private security. Steps should be taken to protect against fraud and forgery, whether by requiring proper identification when accepting checks, requiring ink thumb prints on checks, using a check authorization services, or implementing a cash-only policy.
- (2) Increased Police patrols can help deter crimes, such as vandalism and burglaries.
- (3) Stiffer penalties are needed for property and fraud crimes, to discourage repeat offenses.

ii. OBSTACLES:

- (1) Business owners can only expend so much to protect their businesses, while also paying taxes for such protection. At some point, the cost of doing business becomes too high.

- (2) Customers may be offended by identification verification procedures and/or cash-only polices (which help prevent fraud).
- (3) Police resources are limited and must be allocated in the most efficient manner. Perhaps this allocation needs to be examined in a more public manner.
- (4) As already discussed, current laws and procedures only provide for limited penalties for non-person crimes.
- (5) The Police are restricted in their ability to share information about suspects and criminals. However, private entities, including business groups, can and should share information about problems and the people who cause them.

iii. PLAYERS/PARTIES: Police, the Legislature, the City Council, the Courts, and business owners.

g. PROBLEM: Issues driving crime are not being adequately addressed. Some factors driving or facilitating crime include drugs, gambling, mental illness, and failure by parents/family to teach right/wrong. In fact, in some cases, parents may actually teach children to commit crimes.

i. SOLUTIONS:

- (1) Opportunities must be taken to educate the public regarding risk of certain activities and/or the availability of help for problems (such as drug/alcohol/gambling issues).
- (2) Provide treatment or help for those with problems.
- (3) Where parents fail to supervise their children, or where parents actually contribute to the criminal activity, the parents need to be held accountable, perhaps by punishing the parents or, in extreme cases, severing custody.

ii. OBSTACLES:

- (1) Social services are expensive, so funding is always an issue.
- (2) Not all offenders are amenable to social services.
- (3) Parents cannot always control their own children.

iii. PLAYERS/PARTIES: Social service agencies and their funding sources, the Legislature (for legislation and/or funding), parents and families, Courts, schools, and perhaps casinos (for funding and education).

4. CONCLUSION: The key issue is that we need more consequences for illegal activity. Lesser crimes, in isolation, do not appear as a threat. However, the sheer numbers with which businesses and this community are faced, make these crimes significant and epidemic.

CRIME SUMMIT COMMITTEE ON DRUG ISSUES FINAL REPORT

Section I.

- A. Facilitators Name: Clark Duffy
Prevention/Intervention – Max Wilson
Community-Wide Action – Sharonda Friday
Communications – Kevin Cook
Criminal Justice – Anthony Darr
- B. Note-taker name: Rev. Dave Fulton
- C. Breakout topics:
1. Improve prevention and intervention efforts
 2. Promote community-wide action
 3. Improve communications and coordination
 4. Improve effectiveness of criminal justice system
- D. Number of participants in breakout: 10-15
- E. Problems identified at Summit:
- Youth drug education that is realistic
- 1) Criminal justice system – dealers, drug courts
 - 2) Deal with user – demand reduction
 - 3) Better communication – police/neighbors, community education
 - 4) Community-wide action – landlords, money
-
- Community prosecutor
- misdemeanor drug crime not being prosecuted – saturated
 - do prosecute misdemeanor marijuana in court
- Police as frustrated as community
-
- Meth labs – Kansas is #2 in the United States
- enormous profit
 - accessible – easy to make
- What happens to children of drug houses?
-
- Drug use spawns violence
- Drug courts
- intensive treatment of users
 - treatment resources
- Drugs in and around church – safety of members

Young people and economics

- no jobs – East-side options
- community WPA

What can citizens do?

- communication between citizens and people
-

Need to focus on education and treatment

Decrease the need to use

Drug camp for users and treatment

Plan to put away dealers through laws

Demand reduction

Drug culture

Neighbors need to “watch”

Can't do it alone – know your neighbor

Community involvement!

Need to work together

Danger from block to block

Property crimes due to drug use

- 9 out of 10 times not caught
- 85% of domestic violence

Addressing users

- everybody's doing it
-

Drug houses unreported due to fear of retaliation

Need more police visibility = 11:15 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.

- need intel to build case

Dealers move around

- addicted to \$ and power
- mentally challenged folk

Slow response of police

Public apathy re drugs

- we see but don't act
 - report = no results = discouragement
 - terrified to report crime
-

Drug Issue #1

- dealing in Holiday Park
 - landlords?!
 - meth lab turnaround
 - license landlords
-

How can we eliminate?
- know drug houses
Drug dealing too profitable

Profit outweighs penalties

F. Committee participants:

Katie Kliem
Kate Deiter
Max Wilson
Jim Gilchrist
Tony Darr
Matt McClimans
Shaun Sixkiller
Chris Moon
Ron Brown
Terry Knowles
Dick Barta
Vivika Veragon
Kevin Cook
Dan Cain
Helen Freel
Sharonda Friday
Joe Marshall
Maggie Kelley
Don Taylor
Clara Simmons
Dan Donaldson
Warren Woodruff
Edith Lakin
Dennis Ellendbocker
Bonnie Good
James Campbell
Delia Ortiz
Any Arnett-German
Nancy Parrish
John Nave
Doug Reynolds
Don Perkins
Desiree Lyons
Randy Mills
Orville Johnson
Lee Stone
Rev. Dave Fulton
Roy Lacoursiere
Betty Phillips

Mike Evans
Warren Woodruff
Kim Fraenza
Paul Fraenza
Darrel Eklund

Section II

A. Improve prevention and intervention efforts

1. **Problem:** Substance abuse is a risk for any size business- absenteeism, loss of productivity, tardiness, higher worker's compensation rates, higher product cost, high turnover, insurance liability, reduced morale, increase in injury and fatality rates, theft, poor quality of products and services, and increased use of health insurance.
 - a. **Solution:** Employers develop and implement alcohol/smoke and drug-free workplace policies and educate their employees about preventing alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems in the workplace.
 - b. **Responsible party:** Business organizations such as:
Alliance Employee Health Access
Downtown Topeka, Inc.
Junior League of Topeka, Inc.
Great Topeka Chamber of Commerce
2. **Problem:** Need to increase education awareness in schools
 - a. **Solution:**
 - Increase awareness of the link between alcohol – by far the drug of choice of college students – and serious campus problems such as vandalism, date rape, poor academic performance, dropouts, injuries, and death.
 - Encourage art students, student athletes, and campus media to assist in the dissemination of prevention messages.
 - Point out environmental strategies that can be developed such as limiting the availability of alcohol on campus, and encouraging alcohol-free campus activities.
 - Promote awareness that transitions such as going from elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school can be particularly stressful for youth and establish specific programs to ease this type of stress.

- Train teachers and other school personnel on recognition and referral of alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related problems.
 - Develop healthy responses to stressful circumstances such as student deaths or violent incidents.
 - Incorporate a researched-based prevention curriculum at the least beginning middle school and going through 9th grade.
- b. Responsible party: Washburn University, Kansas University, Baker University, Friends University and other colleges and universities in Topeka; U.S.D 501 and all private and parochial schools in Topeka
3. Problem: Need for increased awareness and education from individuals.
- a. Solutions:
- Discuss alcohol and tobacco advertising and marketing with your children and their friends. Ask what they think about these messages, whether they understand their purpose, and whether they recognize that these messages do not teach the possible harmful effects of using these products.
 - Help your children and their friends understand that they are not responsible for the problems adults experience, that adult behavior while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs does not necessarily reflect true attitudes. Learn other ways to buffer stress of children in this situation and reduce their risk of developing serious problems in their own lives.
 - Establish and enforce rules against underage drinking, and keep alcohol, tobacco products, and prescription drugs out of the reach of children too young to adhere to such rules.
 - Make educated decisions regarding alcohol and drug use in your lives and put yourselves and your families in situations that support that decision.
 - Note ways you can support community, workplace, and school efforts to establish and maintain alcohol, drug, and smoke-free environments.
 - Become a leader in our community, your church and neighborhood in formulating and enforcing a non-alcohol and drug-free atmosphere.
 - Alternative activities held in schools and neighborhoods are in particular need for your skills and experience.

Your time and involvement will make a real difference to peers, youth, families and others.

- Become aware that age-related stresses, such as loss of employment, widowhood, or other bereavement may put you at risk for increased alcohol consumption.
- Remember that changing metabolism that comes with aging can make older people more susceptible to the effects of alcohol.

b. Responsible party: Individuals, parents and older citizens.

3. Problem: Need for more active community involvement.

a. Solution:

- Make prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by youth a priority in our community, and demonstrate this commitment through printed materials, public remarks, and programs and activities.
- Advocate for public policies shown to reduce underage substance abuse and related problems.
- Provide and supervise "safe havens" or secure alcohol and drug-free areas where youth can gather for social, recreational and athletic activities, particularly in areas where there are public parks, playgrounds, streets, vacant lots, and other places that may attract alcohol and drug users, drug dealers, and other criminal elements.
- Religious and lay leaders will dedicate themselves to prevention of substance abuse problems in the community.
- Schedule sermons on alcohol and other drug abuse to tie into prevention-related community campaigns or special events.
- Provide ideas for prevention/healthy lifestyle articles in faith community publications such as church bulletins and newsletters. Provide resource information.

b. Responsible party: Faith community and community organizations such as:

Antioch Family Life Center
Auburn Community Center
Concerned Citizens for Topeka, Inc.
Family Living, Inc.
Sunshine Connection,
YMCA

4. Problem: Lack of effective media awareness.
- a. Solutions:
- Provide balance for pro-alcohol and drug use messages with positive reporting of alcohol and drug-free adult and youth role modeling and community activities. Portray abstinence as one "normal" option many adults choose regarding alcohol and tobacco products.
 - Develop an in-house media advocate for donated print space or airtime for public messages supporting substance abuse prevention.
 - Be a resource to share helpful information and success stories with the public to inspire community leaders, teachers, and parents to take action.
- b. Responsible party: All media with markets in Topeka.
5. Problem: Need for more prevention and intervention services.
- a. Solution:
- Establish substance abuse prevention groups and/or use hospital or health department facilities as a site to provide substance abuse information and training.
 - Look for ways to use your position and influence to prevent substance abuse. A suggestion from a health care provider about alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use is one of the most effective deterrents to use/abuse.
 - Partner with schools to provide after-school care and positive peer pressure programs.
- b. Responsible party: Health care community.
6. Problem: Need for Greater governmental involvement.
- a. Solution:
- Consistently enforce existing policies and laws such as those pertaining to underage purchase or use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs; no use of tobacco in public buildings; no alcohol and tobacco billboards near schools, etc.
 - Set up community partnerships to encourage and sustain involvement of community members. Ask these partnerships to work together to develop a model for a "healthy" community and to set goals and objectives for

the effort, so progress can be reported through the media.

- Provide wider and more effective coordination among those engaged in prevention services (social, health, legal, nonprofit, business, law enforcement).
- Broadcast on City and cable channels naming addresses and owners of known drug houses and individuals to whom they were rented.
- Provide video surveillance of NIA and NA neighborhoods.
- Enact legislation to prohibit dealing or using alcohol and other drugs within certain distances such as pertains to schools to include churches, malls, playgrounds, parks and other places where children and families gather.
- Provide alternatives to incarceration for those who are mentally ill.
- Provide better diagnostic services for the mentally ill.
- Create and disseminate public service announcements about local people in recovery and the positives to the individual and society that come with recovery.
- Media highlight more positive events that occur in neighborhoods.
- Create more and better job training programs for parolees and probationers.
- Review and modify sentencing guidelines to reflect severity of the crime versus simple drug offences.
- Television, movie theaters, and video stores refrain or curb use of media to glamorize drugs and drug use.

b. Responsible party: City of Topeka and State of Kansas

B. Improve community-wide action.

1. Problem:

- (1) Dwelling unit is being used to sell drugs.
- (2) Landlord won't talk or help.

a. Solution:

- (1) A citizen patrol/awareness.
- (2) Standardized lease addendum for oral and written. Tenant would receive a three-day notice to vacate for illegal with letter from police department with reference to case number.
- (3) Refer landlord to mediation source.

b. Action plan:

- (1) Ask high NA and NIA if interested in forming citizen patrols.
- (2) Lobby State legislation for addendum change
- (3) Have Safe Streets and HCCI work together in tenant and landlord mediation.

c. References: Kansas City area has citizen patrols.

2. Problem:

- (1) Junk cars
- (2) Section 8 tenants and landlords
- (3) Low-income landlords

a. Solution:

- (1) All City employees enforce the Code, i.e., police officers patrolling an area tickets junk cars.
- (2) Section 8 complaint line with response in 48 hours either by phone or mail if desired by caller.
- (3) Grants for repairs and rehab for low income landlords. Landlords would have to prove repairs were made.

b. Action plan:

- (1) Train and encourage City employees to report and ticket junk cars and weeds.
- (2) Promote hotline as a support to community and landlords and train landlords on rights and responsibilities.
- (3) Set aside monies for low-income landlords.

3. Problem: Unable to find legal owner due to numerous transactions being made on a house. Contracts not designed with an out for seller if buyer not taking care of the property.

- a. Solution: Make filing of affidavits of equitable interest a requirement and fine for not filing it. Updated on yearly basis. Removal of past owners from form. If owner is out of state, then contact person in state. Require a standardized contract for sell of house which includes out for seller if buyer doing or allowing illegal activity or poor maintenance.

b. Action plan: Lobby State legislature for change in law and funding to support it. Set up a website where buyers and sellers can download the standardized contract for deed form.

4. Problem: Underage drinking and truancy of minors. People hanging around house all night long. Children in need of care.

a. Solution: Illegal activity occurring contact police. Underage drinking immediate dispatch of an officer or immediate referral to Alcohol Beverage Control. Truancy of minors – make number widely known for reporting truancy. Advertise for free parenting classes and activities offered throughout the City by all churches and agencies. Publicize children in need of care hotline number with base requirements for investigations.

b. Action plan: Community awareness campaigns focusing on dangers of underage drinking and truancy with names, numbers of contact persons or agencies. Publicize and have available parenting handbooks listing all community-wide parenting activities.

c. References: Wichita U.S.D. 259 and various nonprofit agencies.

5. Problem: Random gunfire, speeding cars.

a. Solution: 24-hour patrol of officers in all areas. Police substations in high crime areas.

b. Action plan: Have officers devoted to patrolling areas. Have the patrol times vary.

c. References: Wichita

B. Improve communications and coordination.

1. Problem: Need to improve communications between neighbors or neighborhood groups and the people they represent.

a. Solution: Start by raising awareness and thereby building a base for future activity.

Include as an insert to residents water bill, on quarterly basis, some of the following information:

1. A tips sheet containing possibly some of the following:
 - (a) What is suspicious activity?
 - (b) What information the officers really want to have?
 - (c) What can a person report?
 - (d) What to report to whom?
 - (e) Tips on how to decrease crime – lighting, protection, etc.
2. Listing in layman terms court procedures, how court cases proceed (chronological order).
3. Crime statistics for the City of Topeka as well as individual neighborhoods.
4. Reporting successes in the community.
5. Information on community officers and what areas they cover. The information should be provided to improve communication between the police and the community.
6. Information on the area housing and development neighborhood associations.
7. A Citywide map of the neighborhood associations.
8. Information on AA/NA; Battered Women Task Force; and Valeo or other facilities.

Public Service Announcements:

1. The local stations to run weekly – or more frequent – segments on identification of drug activity and how to decrease criminal activity.
2. Reporting to local TV and newspapers – success in decreasing criminal activity – this will give an incentive to reporting crime and working to improve your neighborhood.
3. Channel 4 to run spots on purpose and duties of the community police officers and how to contact the area officers.

Landlord Training: HCCI appears to be putting on training seminars for landlords. These programs seem to be beneficial to improving relationships between the community and landlords. As a group we tended to steer clear of this issue as it is being dealt with by another subcommittee.

- b. Responsible party: City of Topeka, NA's and NIA's, Battered Women Task Force, Valeo and related facilities, media, HCCI, and landlord associations.

2. Problem: Communication between neighborhoods and the governmental agencies (law enforcement, City Attorney, County Attorney, Code Compliance, City offices)

a. Solutions:

- Increase funding for community officers.
- Recommend a specific increase for community officers so that law enforcement officer will be more readily visible and accessible to a specific neighborhood. This hopefully will allow officers to become more knowledgeable about the dynamics of their community.

- b. Responsible party: City of Topeka

3. Problem: Communication between the governmental agencies.

a. Solution:

- This issue appears to be the most difficult to address, as it will require a willingness of the different agencies to cooperate and work together. A possible solution to improving communication could come through the use of annual conferences with one agency presenting to another their office procedures. An example of this would be District Attorney/City Prosecutor office presenting to the law enforcement agencies what offenses to report to the respective office.
- The bulk of the improvement in communication will occur through conferences and activities that the general public will not be aware of, as it will occur over time.

- b. Responsible party: Topeka Police Department, County Sheriff, City Attorney, County Attorney, Code Compliance, and other City service offices.

C. Improve Effectiveness of criminal justice system.

1. Problem: Personnel issues surrounding the number of officers/lab personnel needed to combat the problem.
 - a. Solution: Increase the number of narcotics officers working narcotics related crime within the City and Sheriff's Departments. Increase the number of chemists needed to process labs and evidence for court. Certify other agencies outside of KBI to process narcotics evidence.
 - b. Action plan: Address budget and manpower concerns to redirect resources. Have officers from departments certified in testing procedures.
 - c. References: No state laws govern the agency utilized to test narcotics evidence for court.
2. Problem: Offenders not processed through court in a timely and efficient manner.
 - a. Solution: Have courts specialize in areas, i.e., drug court, if the City took over the prosecution of misdemeanor drug crimes, a drug court could be set up within the City.
 - (1) Action plan: Implement drug courts that would deal specifically with narcotics related issues. This would allow the judge and prosecutor some familiarity with the offenders and the system. This would also give latitude for the courts to use treatment programs and other alternative methods of sentencing specific to the defendant. The City could work with treatment programs within the City to get the drug user the treatment needed.
 - (2) References: District Attorney's office is currently looking into this program and information could be gained from them. The City of New York implemented city court dealing with many of their nuisance and minor issues that previously had been sent to the District Attorney's office. Research could be done into their method, which greatly reduced the crime in New York City.

- b. Solution: Bring back the community prosecutor program at the City court level.
 - (1) Action plan: Implement the community prosecutor plan at the City court level. This would allow a prosecutor to work on a specific problem area within the City and gain familiarity with that particular area and its problems. Prosecutor would work with community police officer to address and eradicate problems in that area. Have the prosecutor certified in district court as well so that felony crimes occurring in the area could also be handled by the same attorney at the district court level. This would also allow the prosecutor to steer the offender toward proper treatment programs to deal with addiction/education issues.
 - (2) References: District court had looked into program - so much of the research/grant application work was already completed by the district court and Safe Streets. Work with those two organizations to obtain research and guidance.

- 3. Problem: Education of public in regards to drug crimes/addictions.
 - a. Solution: Revamp D.A.R.E. Program to be more realistic with depictions of what truly can occur with drug addiction.
 - (1) Action plan: Use graphic movies of consequence of drug usage.
 - (2) References: Similar ad campaigns used for public awareness campaigns only implement them in schools.
 - b. Solution: Have the legislature outlaw the depiction of drug usage in movies shown in Kansas.

Lobby for this action in State legislature.

- 4. Problem: Recidivism rate of offenders.
 - a. Solution: Return to well-rounded work release program for those convicted of crimes.

- b. **Action plan:** Use a work release program through the City/County court on a more widespread basis. This would allow those convicted of crimes to be held accountable for actions by having them work, pay off restitution, child support, living expenses, etc. The court would place an offender in work release program and mandate treatment and education in regards to addictions. Offender would be forced to remain employed and responsible for his/her actions. This could give the offender the needed boost to gain an employable skill and thus increase his/herself esteem enough to pull themselves out of their addictions and give them the power to make better lifestyle choices. The cost of this program could be born by the participants through payment to the court from earnings.
 - c. **References:** County used to run an effective work release program through the County Department of Corrections. This program is now back working again and could be expanded for use by more participants.
5. **Problem:** Changes in parole and probation laws to reduce time offender spends in system.
- a. **Solution:** Return to system of extended parole for offenders released from penal institutions.
 - b. **Action plan:** Lobby with State legislature to return the system to pre-2000 configuration where parole times were lengthier.
 - c. **References:** Kansas Legislature.
6. **Problem:** Minors out at all hours of the night.
- a. **Solution:** Hold parents more accountable for knowing location of children.
 - b. **Action plan:** Have the City Council pass a curfew on subjects under 18 years of age. When a violator is located, hold the parents as well as the child accountable. The parents will be issued a citation in which a fine is levied against the parent. The parent will have the option of paying the fine, which should be high priced, or attending some parenting classes which would deal with the problems within the family. This parenting class could be arranged through a contractor with set cost which would be

considerably less than the fine involved. This would hopefully enable families to seek out the help they need to become more functional in society. Grants could possibly be sought to implement this program.

- c. References: Similar curfew laws in Lawrence could be researched.
7. Problem: Alleged violators free to move about society with no controls placed on them.
- a. Solution: Curfew for persons charged with certain crimes, burglary and drug crimes, and those on probation.
 - b. Action plan: Enact into law a system in which alleged violators and probation persons are placed on a curfew system. Those released on bond would have a set curfew placed on them dictating how late they could be on the street. This information would be placed into N.C.I.C. and when an officer has contact with a person, they could check and see if person is violating their curfew. A violation of the curfew would basically be a violation of a court order, which could result in an arrest being made by the officer having contact with the individual. This could then result in bond forfeiture resulting in money being generated for the courts. The legislature would have to enact this type of law in the State codes.
8. Problem: Sentencing guidelines.
- a. Solution: Revamp the guidelines to address property crimes in a more efficient manner.
 - b. Action plan: Lobby the legislature to change guidelines.
 - c. References: State law.
9. Problem: Lack of prison time for felonies committed with firearm.
- a. Solution: Enact tougher sentencing guidelines for any crime involving a firearm at the State level.
 - b. Action plan: Lobby legislature for change.
 - c. References: Operation exile was enacted by the State of Virginia.

10. Problem: Irresponsible landlords renting to subjects who set up a drug house.

a. Solution: Increase the usage of padlock orders within the City courts. Have these properties declared a nuisance and take away the property for a period of time from the landlord.

(1) Action plan: Make the City system more user-friendly for prosecutors to be able to padlock known repeat drug houses.

(2) References: State and City law.

b. Solution: Landlord licensing.

(1) Action plan: Have the City pass an ordinance requiring that all landlords be licensed. This would include some form of standardized lease that would allow a landlord to evict a tenant for "illegal" activity within three days in an emergency eviction basis. The City would educate those who we know to be landlords through public comments, ads in paper, etc. The training for licensing could be done by Safe Streets such as the crime free multi-housing program in place now. If a landlord is discovered without a license then a heavy penalty could be charged to the landlord. The option put forth by the court would be for the landlord to either complete the training to become licensed or the fine would be assessed. During this training, the standardized lease items and the act of padlocking, a residence would be explained to the landlord within the training. This would insure that all licensed landlords knew what would take place if they refuse to address a drug house on their property through eviction. The licenses could be maintained by Safe Streets and Code Compliance, which should result in no added expense to the City except for the paper and the man-hours to file the paperwork. If a police officer encounters a house and discovers the property is a rental and the owner is not licensed, a City citation could be issued starting the process of getting that landlord into the training.

(2) References: The cities of Leawood, Lawrence and Overland Park all require landlord licensing.

11. Problem: Sale of drug paraphernalia within the City limits. There is a store in East Topeka that sales chore boy loose at the counter. When I, in uniform, asked the clerk what it was for he stated "so they can smoke their crack."
- a. Solution: Have the City enact an ordinance to outlaw the sale of such items intended for this use.
- b. Action plan: See solution.
12. Problem: Children raised in homes of narcotics dealers and users.
- a. Solution: Educate the drug users to beat their addiction so they can raise their children in a healthy environment.
- b. Action plan: Parenting classes, treatment for addictions, job training to make the offender employable. Many of the things needed to make this plan work can be incorporated into a work release style program for offenders.

Section III. Summary of key recommendations.

Problem: Delay in court proceedings due to testing of narcotics and other lab work by qualified personnel.

Solutions: Lobby the State legislature to fund more positions/facilities to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for lab positions.

Obstacles: Resistance from legislature to increase funding for program.

Players: State legislature, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Alternative Solution: Establish a joint City/County laboratory to process lab work needed for Shawnee County/City of Topeka cases.

Obstacles: Funding to attract quality personnel and facilities. Control of the joint agency and establishing priorities.

Players: City/County government

Problem: Offenders not processed through court in a timely manner.

Solution: City/County combine effort to prosecute all drug cases utilizing drug court type system.

Obstacles: City would need to pass an ordinance concerning misdemeanor drug crimes and drug paraphernalia cases. Could result in increased funding being needed to staff program with prosecutors and staff.

Players: City/County government and courts.

Problem: Education of public in regards to drug crimes/addictions.

Solutions: Place school resource officers at high school level. Continue with revamp of D.A.R.E. program. Look into other programs, such as GREAT (Gang Resistance Education Awareness Training). Use of public education programs through Safe Streets and similar programs. Re-establish public education program at the police department (under restructuring this position has been placed back in the department). Utilize media sources to bring information to the community. Utilize police department web site to get information out to the public.

Obstacles: Restructuring of police department resources. Getting public to utilize resources available for education.

Players: Police department (restructuring to facilitate some of the solutions in taking place), media and most importantly the citizens of Topeka.

Problem: Recidivism rates of offenders.

Solution: Well-rounded work release program for eligible offenders.

Unemployed offender: Placed to work for community good (picking up trash, government maintenance type jobs) with a series of life skills type education programs to make them more employable.

Employed offender: Continue to work for current employer. Utilize free time in live-in facility with life skills/treatment type programs in place. Can utilize old vacant apartment or hotel to house with minimal staff. If subject does not check in appropriate time then incarceration could be utilized for housing. Employed persons can pay rent for facility upkeep. Revamping of building could be done by work release inmates to cut cost.

Obstacles: Funding. Getting citizens to allow facility to be in "their" neighborhood.

Players: County/City agencies, court system, probation.

Solution: Utilize an intake and assessment center similar to one utilized to intake juveniles into the system. This could reduce number of persons taken to jail and get those suited to other avenues of retribution moving in the right direction. Would also allow system to look at big picture not just the current crime the offender is in front of the court on.

Obstacles: Funding. Timeframe and location in which the assessment would be accomplished. Agency cooperation (courts, law enforcement, probation, corrections).

Players: Courts, law enforcement, probation, corrections.

Problem: Parolees/probationers not being held accountable to society.

Solution: Insure courts tie probation/parole in together. If person commits subsequent offenses, they should all tie back into original probation/parole. Ankle bracelets for tracking persons actions and locations. (If person is on probation for shoplifting and their monitoring shows they have been spending a great deal of time in a retail store, then additional attention may be needed for that person.)

Obstacles: Need for increased funding to pay for tracking/ankle bracelets. More intense scrutiny of probationers/parolees may require additional officers.

Players: Court system, probation departments, State Department of Corrections.

Solution: Create a database where all probationers/parolees in Shawnee County will be identifiable along with conditions of probation/parole. This could be eventually set up on statewide system so every person on probation or parole in the State of Kansas can be identified by agencies within the system.

Obstacles: Funding (can be addressed through a grant program for a pilot system). Probation/parole officers will need to place all subjects into database along with conditions. Persons having contact with subject would need to follow up with

original probation/parole officers to provide tracking of subject and better supervision.

Players: Probation and parole. Government agencies to fund database and insure proper utilization of equipment. Local, State and federal law enforcement.

Solution: Persons out on bond should have strict guidelines to follow, i.e., curfews, not with certain other people, etc. Program above could also be utilized to identify those persons and forward any violations to the probation personnel who are supervising the person on bond.

Obstacles: Same as above.

Players: Same as above.

Problem: Lack of prison time for felonies committed with firearm. Also lack of punishment for repeated offenses at the local level concerning firearms or concealed deadly weapons.

Solution: Utilize federal system to deal with repeat or serious firearms offenses. Revamp the City ordinance concerning local level concealed weapons violations to address a more serious penalty if it is a repeat offense or if the concealed weapon is located during a secondary offense, i.e., disorderly conduct, fighting, etc.

Obstacles: Establishing ordinance.

Players, City judges, City prosecutors, local law enforcement.

Problem: Sale of drug paraphernalia within City limits.

Solution: Pass an ordinance making the sale of items specifically designed for drug usage a crime.

Obstacles: Retail business objections. Defining what is drug paraphernalia versus items that have other uses, (brillo pad, chore boy).

Players: City Council.

Problem: Educating the public so they feel safe and confident in reporting illegal drug activity in their neighborhoods.

Solution: Education of the public to include: tip sheets included in water bill, electric bill, phone bill, etc. These sheets could address crime tips and information specific to that particular area. Could label what is suspicious activity and who do I report it to. Could also list out court processed for the layman, crime stats for the City, report on success in the communities, information on community police programs and officers, etc.

Solution: Full-page ad on the front page of the phone book indicating phone numbers to call for law enforcement, emergency and non-emergency. Tips in regards to possible criminal activity. Community police officer contact numbers and names.

Solution: Public service announcements can be used to give out crime tips. These could include the use of Channel 4 and billboards similar to the ones being utilized by the City currently to out the word of the month.

Solution: Utilize a mobile bus or similar vehicle to staff a police presence in an area that needs attention. This would be a mobile substation manned by a police officer that could be moved around the City similar to the book mobile. The vehicle could be moved to neighborhoods where a higher police presence may be needed. The vehicle would stay in a certain area for days or weeks depending on the need and would give the citizens of that community an opportunity to speak with a police officer about the area and their concerns.

Solution: Establishment of permanent substation in the southwest portion of the City. With the growth in this area a substation could be beneficial to the citizens in that portion of the City.

Obstacles: Funding will be a great obstacle in this area. Getting agencies to include the information within their mailings. Getting the public educated to read the information included with the mailings. Getting the phone company to donate space for an informational page.

Players: All facets of the City will need to play a role in this area.

Problem: Rental properties being utilized for illegal activity.

Solution: City ordinance requiring language in all leases, verbal or written, that gives the landlord an emergency eviction clause (3 days) as a result of the property being utilized for illegal activity.

Solution: Make all tenant/landlord mediations binding through City ordinance. Actions recommended through mediation currently are only suggestions.

Solution: Ordinance to attach any fines levied against a landlord against the tax bill of the property. All fines not paid can then be attached to property taxes so those absentee landlords can be assessed fines in a consistent manner.

Obstacles: Landlords and tenants will lobby against things that affect them.

Players: City Council, landlords groups, media outlets to educate the public, agencies that work with landlords and tenants, Code Compliance.

Problem: Low income landlords not being able to pay for repairs to bring property up to code.

Solution: Establish an escrow style account for rent moneys to be placed into to go toward repairs. This account would be an institution that would then offer low interest type loans if the landlord does not have adequate money for the repair. Can also look at using grant moneys for repairs.

Obstacles: Finding a banking institution to participate. Locating moneys for grants. Getting landlords to place money into an escrow account.

Players: Banking, landlords, governmental agencies to administer grants.

Problem: Owners who are renting properties with option to buy are not easily located when problems exist on their properties.

Solution: Making filing an affidavit of equitable interest a requirement for all landowners. If this filing is not done then a fine can be levied against the owner. Owner should also have a contact person within the state in case issues need to be addressed about the property.

Obstacles: This would receive opposition by property owners groups.

Players: City Council, agency who would file affidavit at County level, owners of property.

Problem: Underage drinking and truancy of minors.

Solution: Need to establish well-known hotlines so that persons can report truant behavior as well as underage drinking. These lines would be manned so that officers can be sent out immediately to deal with the problem. Address problems with "hang out" houses where truants are hanging out. Set up a community awareness campaign to advise the public of the numbers to call and what will take place.

Obstacles: Public apathy. Manning the phone lines on a continual basis.

Players: Public, law enforcement and hot line personnel.

** The section put forth in regards to treatment detailed out the solutions as well as the role of several agencies within the plan. This plan was not discussed and will be forwarded as is.

Topeka Crime Summit Juvenile Issues

Facilitator: James A. McClinton

Note Taker: Linnie Winters, Topeka Police Department

The juvenile issues group met on two separate occasions outside of the Crime Summit in July. Approximately 60 people participated in the group over the three meetings. Participants included citizens, service providers, educators, school board members, law enforcement officials, parents, students, a judge, the district attorney, NIA members, juvenile justice authority officials, three incarcerated juvenile offenders, a local mall representative, state officials and legislators.

The group had a somewhat difficult time reaching a consensus, but by the final session they agreed upon common problems and solutions. The group elected to divide their focus on four separate areas:

- **Accountability**
- **Juvenile Crime Issues**
- **Family Issues**
- **Role of the School**

In all areas there seemed to be a need for parental involvement and accountability. There was not much motivation to punish parents (punitively) for the actions of their children. Many felt that early childhood intervention was important and should be provided through local agencies and hospitals.

Interestingly, the three incarcerated juvenile offenders and the other teenagers that attended and participated felt that more accountability should be placed on juveniles and young people. They were very frank and open about young people having choices and often times make bad ones. They were also reluctant to suggest that parents be punished for the acts of their children. The need to have more positive media focus, Teen Courts and a "Teen Center/Multipurpose" facility was expressed. Children need something to do between the hours of 3 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Members were informed that they "might" be asked in the future for more details and for further processing of their thoughts. All were receptive of the idea. The following pages identify the problems and resolutions.

TOPEKA CRIME SUMMIT
JUVENILE ISSUES
ACCOUNTABILITY

PROBLEM:

KIDS NOT IN SCHOOL

Truancy

Suspension

Skipping

Parents excuse them

Dropouts

Early Identification

SOLUTION:

Strengthen truancy policies

Family support/intervention

Consistent policies

Local business involvement to telephone authorities

Truancy teams to locate missing student

Contact parents/law enforcement/courts

OBSTACLES:

Language barriers

Communication

Parental responsibility in consistency

PLAYERS:

501 Security

Students

Parents

TPD

Businesses

Religious groups

NIA's

Social service agencies

Courts

TOPEKA CRIME SUMMIT
JUVENILE ISSUES
ACCOUNTABILITY

PROBLEM:

YOUTH GANGS

Immediate and early intervention/consequences and follow up
Guns, Money, Drugs

SOLUTION:

Communication

Teen courts (restorative justice)

District Attorney's office

City Attorney's office

Take driver's license

Early referral

Efficient use of resources

Strengthen after-care programs (after incarceration)

Education and employment opportunities

Mentoring programs

Mediation of peers

OBSTACLES:

Arrest

Early referral

Lack of coordination of options

Lack of respect

PLAYERS:

District Attorney

City Attorney

Parents

LEO's

Courts

Community (don't be bystanders)

Media

Faith based groups

Juvenile correctional facilities

Probation officials

TOPEKA CRIME SUMMIT
JUVENILE ISSUES

PROBLEM:

PROPERTY CRIMES BY JUVENILES

SOLUTION:

Expand use of school facilities

Suspension

Alternatives for all students

Accountability (punishment/intervention)

Consequence awareness

Tougher Laws

OBSTACLES:

Money

Program Development

PLAYERS:

Citizens (taxpayers)

Children

School Boards

District Attorney

Parents

Family

Legislature

TOPEKA CRIME SUMMIT
JUVENILE ISSUES
ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

PROBLEM:

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

SOLUTION:

In school suspension

Alternative community solutions (cleaning up the community ie; pick up trash, a work program when suspended)

Parental involvement

Encourage positive behavior

Loss of privileges

Second chance school

Anger/conflict management

Summer school and/or mandatory extended school year

Referral for assessment @ ISS instead of waiting for OSS

OBSTACLES:

Parental involvement

Apathy of student and/or parents

PLAYERS:

Community Leaders

Parents

Students

Judges

***Note:** Don't be afraid in the community to report activity. Take responsibility in the community. People need to get tougher. The community and the parents have the power to do something about gangs.

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Carol Spiker	Prev. & Recovery Serv.	2209 SW 29 th	Topoka	66611	266-8666	Cspiker@parsto.peka.com
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Titus	TJCF	3780 SW 37 th	Topoka	66609	266-8453	Thernan@tjcf.ksja.org
Bob Portenier	TeenTown	5651 SW 36 th Terr.	Topoka	66614	228-9011	Crimebusts@cs.com
Phil L. Morris	Concerned citizen	3380 SW Tara Ave.	Topoka	66611	267-1217	
Ken Oldridge	Citizen	1425 SW College	Topoka	66604	233-8180	Kenold@mindspring.com
Kent Reed	Topoka Victim Offender Mediation Project	1248 SW Buchanan	Topoka	66604	232-4144	Vomtpoj@yahoo.com
William H. Thomas	Chesney Park Neighborhood	1714 SW Clay	Topoka	66604	235-5817	
Darryln Johnson	KAC				232-0550	
Clay Loyd	Greater Auburndale NIA	319 SW Elmwood	Topoka	66606	357-1619	
Paul Degener	Citizen	518 NW 56 th St.	Topoka	66617	246-0215	Willypeter@earthlink.net
Kipp Low	Topoka Police Dept.	320 S. Kansas #100	Topoka	66603	368-9464	Klow@topeka.org
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Dub Rakestraw	Family Serv. And Guidance Center	325 SW Frazier	Topoka	66604	232-5005	Drakestraw@fsaiopeka.c

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John Drain			3220 SW 30 th Terr	Topoka	66614	272-9592			
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Lee McClinton			1305 SE Washington	Topoka	66607	232-5038			
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Jerry W. Kendall	USD 450/437	2913 SE Ohio	Topoka	66605	233-7646	
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Bernie Devoy		1126 Meadow Lane	Topoka	66604	272-0319	
John Brady		2510 NE BIS Rd.	Topoka	66618	234-4774	
Lana Gordon		5820 SW 27 th	Topoka	66614	273-1203	
Dan Mitchell	Judge	200 SE 7 th	Topoka	66603	233- 8200x4361	
Jean Miller		105 NW Kendall	Topoka	66606	234-8220hm 233- 8200x4091wk	
Angela Waters/Mahin Stanley		29 PepperTree	Topoka	66611	266- 8883/267- 9545	Watersam56@yah.ahoo.com
Chad Lopez		8501 SW 21 st	Topoka	66615	478-2222	
Deb Payne	Textbook Team	21 st & Washburn	Topoka	66614	273-8145	Bookteam@cinetworks.net
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CRIME SUMMIT FINAL REPORT

ABANDONED HOUSES/CODE ISSUES COMMITTEE

SECTION I

The facilitators at the Crime Summit on July 28, 2001 were: Gary Price, Harold Lane and Meg Perry.

Diana Brey was the assigned note taker.

This group's focus was on City Code Enforcement specifically as related to abandoned houses. There were 31 participants in the Crime Summit break out group on July 28th.

The following listed items were identified at the Summit:

1. Inability of homeowners to maintain home and pay taxes.
2. Abandoned houses.
3. Address "Slum Lords" and "Out of Area" landlords.
4. Commercial abandoned building issues.

SECTION II

Each problem is identified on a separate sheet and is following:

PROBLEM #1: Home Owner Issues (Poor homeowners, disabled/elderly homeowners, etc.)

How do we identify these folks.

Inability to properly maintain home.

Inability to meet the financial obligations (mortgage, taxes, etc.).

SOLUTION:

Develop a list of resources homeowners may access to assist with home maintenance needs:

Use "Christmas in April" services.

Develop youth programs to assist with neighborhood cleanups.

Notify owner of CBDG/HND grant funding opportunities. Do this through NIAs and Ch.

4.

Provide a human resource to work with the elderly and disabled to procure these services "in time".

Develop a proactive approach to assisting homeowners before they become abandoned property.

Access resources through the Neighborhood Revitalization Act which deals with improving property.

Develop "resource" pamphlet for distribution to the public.

Develop a speaker's bureau to discuss resource options at churches, NIA's, neighborhood meetings, etc.

Establish a non profit organization to assist homeowners with information on maintaining property values. The organization merely needs to have as its purpose to improve housing in order to qualify for funds.

Use the Shawnee County Landlords Association as a resource, could start an adopt-a-house program.

OBSTACLES:

Inability of Code Enforcement to assist at a proactive stage of the problem.

Identifying someone to provide owners with "hands on" assistance to resolve these problems.

Need more than 1 Zoning Enforcement Officer position for the Department.

PLAYERS:

Housing & Neighborhood Development

Various community groups.

PROBLEM #2: Abandoned Houses

Why are houses abandoned?

There are 400 homes in the city abandoned at any given time.

Realtors steering potential home owners away from certain areas of town.

Need more resources for identifying who homeowners actually are.

Address "squatters" occupying abandoned houses.

SOLUTION:

Speed up tax roll sales.

Change the law on property redemption from 12 months to a smaller time frame or make the redeeming person responsible for improving the property. (The City can bid on these properties and rehabilitate them.)

Raise private funds for this use.

Authorize use of Housing & Neighborhood Development funds.

CDBG block grants are available to homeowners and landlords.

OBSTACLES:

PLAYERS:

Housing & Neighborhood Development

Shawnee County Counselor's Office

The landlords.

Existing housing non profit organizations.

Topeka Board of Realtors

City of Topeka

With these factors identified and potential solutions offered, we have the base for the Crime Summit results. However, our work is not completed. Our next step is to compile the recommendations into action items. These action items will then be prioritized in two classifications, short term solutions and long term solutions.

The results must not become a dormant document. Instead, we must use it to guide us through the decisions regarding crime issues in the months ahead. We must also assure it becomes a living document. We must periodically review, update and revise the plan. The results are not concrete. We must be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities to partner between agencies, to utilize supplemental funding (such as grant opportunities, and to consider changing trends.

We estimate it will take several weeks for us to complete the task of developing action items and recommended priorities. When completed we will forward it to you for your consideration.

There were many members of our community who devoted a great deal of time to the Crime Summit. Without that participation, this process would have been meaningless. We want to thank the many participants. We also want to especially thank the committee chairs and those who served as recorders and assisted the chairpersons in reducing the results to writing.

PROBLEM #3 Work with landlords on how to meet code. Address "Slum Lords" and "Out of Area" landlords.

Landlords fail to maintain properties.

Landlords allowing criminal "element" as tenants.

Landlords who repeatedly buy up property for the tax breaks and allow illegal tenants to stay.

SOLUTION:

See Residential Crime Committee suggestions in this area.

Hold landlords accountable for the condition of their property and tenant screening.

Tighten up on the landlords who repeatedly violate Code.

Tighten code for out of area landlords who are unable to adequately care for their property.

Look at landlord licensing.

Get landlords involved in property issues. (Get them to the table.)

Require landlords to take a landlord training program.

HUD may have block grants available to landlords to assist with upkeep.

Work with resident landlord agents.

OBSTACLES:

PLAYERS:

Department of Revenue

PROBLEM #4: Look at current laws and how to make them work better and/or change them.

The requirement of 15% of costs to rebuild new is actually prohibitive to the homeowner.
Statutory notification time limits are too cumbersome.

Can we get a "one code fits all" to apply across the board as used in Phoenix?

How can we make current laws work better.

Increase tax base so funds available to keep up property and fund Enforcement staff.

SOLUTIONS:

Look for duplication of effort between city and county government agencies.

Look at changing 15% requirement in Code, it makes owners fear they will lose their home.

Switch back to appraised value instead of replacement value base for the 15% requirement.

Ensure proper enforcement of all laws criminal and housing code.

Enforce party shack laws diligently.

Address the law giving the original owner to reclaim property up to 1 year after it has been sold as abandoned. Tighten up on the Code requiring reimbursement of repair costs made by secondary owner.

Establish urban renewal law.

Current law does not encourage rehabilitation, it addresses demolition issues.

Create laws that address housing appearance in addition to structural issues.

Develop ordinances concerning rehabilitation housing (mental and criminal rehab houses).

Address occupancy issues.

Law and/or procedure concerning what to do with vacant lots (split between neighboring owners, make small parks, etc.)

Lower zoning/code laws when moving at older house to a newer area of town.

OBSTACLES:

Rehabilitation cannot be done by one Department or agency. This will take several agencies to adequately address.

PLAYERS:

City Council

Summary

The results of the Crime Summit, to this point, are a list of identified issues with proposed strategies to resolve them. The six committees provided insight into their topic areas. It becomes apparent that solutions touching multiple areas of concern include:

- Need for better public education on how the community can be involved in a positive way
- Development of early intervention programs such as victim/offender mediation, drug courts and teen courts.
- More post conviction program options such as work release, community service labor projects, treatment programs, and improved monitoring.
- Improved understanding and involvement of crime victims in the criminal justice process.
- Fixing the sentencing guidelines relating to property crimes.
- More consistent enforcement and better accountability of violators, both code violators and criminal violators.
- Improved landlord participation. Explore landlord registration, standardized contract provisions, public access to rental ownership, and better sharing of information on problem tenants.
- Truancy prevention and intervention programs.
- A city-wide coordinated prevention plan with a single coordinating agency such as Safe Streets.

There were also solutions unique to only a single committee focus. These are just as important and we must carefully consider each of them. These include:

- Homeowner assistance programs for those physically or financially unable to keep up their home.
- Quicker disposition of abandoned structures.
- Driver's License sanctions for youth drug offenders.
- Increase use of party shack laws and padlock orders.
- Increased prosecutions of minor drug offenses.

The items we have listed are certainly not all of the ideas and solutions proposed by the citizens of our community that contributed to the Crime Summit. The documentation provided to you include many more potential solutions that we must not overlook.

At least one committee noted the need for a clear community wide vision of what the community wants to accomplish in regards to crime reduction. Also noted was the need for research to sort out the community's false perceptions and ideologies from factual basis for action. The results of this research would help remove false perceptions and provide focus on solutions to real problems.