

# **Operation Impact**

**A plan to reduce crime, fear and disorder and  
improve Milwaukee's quality of life**

**April 2008**

# Implementation Goal

**May**

**Phase I**

Landlord compact formed  
Door to door effort begins  
Neighborhood walks are conducted  
Court watch begins  
Curfew sweeps take place  
Church effort launched  
TRUST Build program is initiated  
Weekend Warriors go out

**June – October**

**Phase II**

Beat cop effort expands  
Neighborhood Ambassadors effort begins  
Cameras are installed  
Alley lights are installed  
Neighborhood associations formed  
Late night effort implemented

Operation Impact is a multifaceted, comprehensive approach to fighting crime, restoring order, and revitalizing a particular geographic area on Milwaukee's south side. All segments of the community would be incorporated, each having its own responsibilities.

### Boundaries

Operation Impact covers the area bounded by W. Pierce Street on the north, W. Lincoln Avenue on the south, S. 16<sup>th</sup> Street/S. Chavez Drive on the east and S. 38<sup>th</sup> Street on the west. This area is considered one of Milwaukee's most ethnically diverse. In addition, approximately 85% of all crimes in Milwaukee Police District 6 occur within this area. This targeted area encompasses portions of three Aldermanic districts.

### Beat Cops

The area would be divided into five beat areas. (Please see attached map) Officers assigned to these beats would take ownership of their area. They would volunteer for this assignment to insure that the officers chosen have the desire to work closely with the people they encounter on their beat patrols. Ideally these officers would be on bikes and would patrol in two shifts, one from noon to 8 p.m. and the other from 4 p.m. to midnight. Beat officers would be expected to have contact information for and work closely with the areas building inspectors and sanitation inspectors as well as the neighborhood and social service organizations in the targeted area. By establishing relationships with residents and business owners on each block of their beat, officers would gather information about nuisance properties, drug houses, graffiti tagging, and other such activity. Using the information gleaned from the residents they would work with squad officers and the Community Prosecution Unit to make preventing crime and restoring order their top priority.

### Private Security

Private security would be engaged to patrol the targeted area to act as eyes and ears for the police. They would not actually engage people doing suspicious activity, but would identify problems and work closely with the police. The security patrols around the Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center campus would be one private security group making this effort and ideally other patrols would monitor other neighborhoods in the targeted area.

### Neighborhood Ambassadors

W-2 participants would be hired for community service work such as litter pick up, graffiti removal and neighborhood outreach. Ambassadors would be in uniform which would also act as a crime deterrent. These Ambassadors would be modeled after the Downtown Public Service Ambassadors which is a program that has proven successful and merits expansion.

### Surveillance Cameras

Existing cameras on National Avenue have proven effective in deterring street crimes such as prostitution, drug dealing and panhandling. Camera installation would expand to other parts of this targeted area.

### Alley Lights

An effort would be underway to install garage lights in the alleys throughout the targeted area. Additional lighting has been a proven deterrent for certain property crimes.

### Landlord Compact

Landlords within this area would be organized in a compact. The compact would share information regarding bad tenants and work closely with the police and community prosecutors.

### Door to Door Effort

Every home within the borders would be visited by representatives from the Community Partners, Weed & Seed and community organizers from the Southside Community Organization, Layton Blvd. West Neighbors, Journey House, and the Milwaukee Christian Center. Residents would be left with a packet of information including a Call for Action booklet, crime prevention information, security survey information, etc.

An important segment of the door-to-door effort will be to incorporate the *TRUST Build* program which is a program that seeks to open the lines of communication between residents and city agencies. This program has proven successful in Selma, Alabama.

### Weekend Warriors

This volunteer group of citizens would go out on weekends twice a month to perform such services as lawn cutting for the elderly, graffiti clean-ups, litter clean-ups and the like. Their efforts will go a long way in improving the environment in the targeted area.

### Church Effort

Churches within the borders would be contacted and be asked to engage their members in working to improve the area. The Prince of Peace Corps would be initiated at each church. Members commit to ownership of the two square blocks around the church as well as ownership of the block each member lives.

### Neighborhood Walks

Three days a week for one to two hours different neighborhoods would be walked through with the Alderman, Police, Department of Neighborhood Services, Sanitation, Parking Enforcement and Community Partners to identify and deal with problems. Residents would be notified of the walks so they can meet with City officials during the walk.

### Court Watch

Citizen volunteers would monitor key court cases affecting the area. They would go to court, write victim impact statements, etc.

### Police District 6 Business Association

I believe business owners are willing and eager to take part in the fight against crime. They have a vested interest in the well being of the neighborhood.

### Neighborhood Associations

Seven neighborhood associations would be formed and would cover the Muskego Heights, Clarke Square, Reiske Park, Layton Park, Burnham Park, and Silver City neighborhoods. This would be an effort to build pride and take ownership of smaller areas within the target area.

### Late Night Outreach

The sad reality is that life in this area late at night is completely different than life during the day. It is imperative that efforts be made to reach out to the individuals out on the streets late at night. Involvement of area pastors would be a key part of this effort.

## **Operation Impact – Anticipated Budget**

A key element in the success of this plan is on the effective use of volunteers. Whether the volunteers are professionals in a particular field or residents, the volunteer effort will help foster the sense of community ownership that is needed in order for the goals of Operation Impact to be achieved.

Most of the aspects of this plan, therefore, are designed in such a way that little to no funding will be needed. However, there are two programs that we will need help financing.

*Surveillance Cameras* – The installation and hardware for ten cameras and related hardware will cost approximately \$80,000.

*Alley Lights* – We would like to install 100-125 alley lights on garages. \$15,000 would pay for the lights and related hardware. Volunteers from electrical worker unions would do the installation.