

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE August 9, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Summer Crime Reduction Initiative**

The Dallas Police Department (DPD) began the Summer Crime Reduction Initiative on May 20, 2019. DPD wanted to provide the Mayor and Members of City Council with a status update on this initiative. Currently, the number one target area in the City for violent crime is identified at the Southeast Patrol Division. Most resources including the State Troopers have been working diligently in that area to reduce violent criminal activity. In addition to the increased presence and proactive enforcement efforts, there has been increased community engagement in the area. DPD and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) have attended town hall meetings, conducted neighborhood visits and developed a collaborative working group with community members. The first working group meeting occurred on August 5, 2019. In this meeting a discussion about police tactics and strategy was shared with key stakeholders. Questions from the community were answered and residents gained a better understanding of the departments summer crime reduction initiative. The department provided the members of the working group with the data driven decisions on the target locations for enforcement by DPS and the success of the crime reduction in the area. There have been positive results in violent crime reduction in this target area and other areas identified in the summer crime reduction initiative as indicated below.

The summary below describes the statistical analysis that identified the target grids, enforcement activity, and current results. Although the strategies have produced encouraging outcomes resulting in significant crime reduction, increased firearm and narcotics seizures, DPD remains committed to reducing criminal activity in the area.

Target Areas:

Eight areas, encompassing 33 square miles, were identified through crime analysis as the top geographic areas for violent crime. Specific areas were assigned as target grids in the Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and South-Central Patrol Divisions. These four patrol divisions account for 75% of all reported violent crime. Through computer crime analysis and mapping, violent offenses involving gangs, guns, and drug activity were strategically targeted. These targeted areas were then ranked by volume of violent crime. The grid at the southeast patrol division was ranked number one for violent crime.

Phase I

The initial focus was on wanted violent offenders in the target areas. Through a coordinated effort with local, state and federal law enforcement, officers were able to conduct a fugitive apprehension initiative. This initiative netted a total of 53 offenders

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arrested and taken off the streets in the first four days of the operation. These individuals were responsible for various crimes such as murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, child pornography, weapon charges and felony drug offenses.

Phase II

The Dallas Police Department (DPD) and our law enforcement partners began conducting operations in the eight target areas addressing gangs, guns and drugs offenses. The Texas Department of Public Safety assigned State Troopers to target areas in the Southeast and Northeast Patrol Divisions.

Results

This collaborative enforcement initiative has achieved the following results: Over 500 felony arrests, over 400 gang contacts, 161 weapons seized and over 700 drug seizures. For further detail on enforcement activity from the Texas Department of Public Safety, DPS has made that information available to the public through the following link to their website:

http://www.dps.texas.gov/director_staff/mediaAndCommunications/trendingTopics/2019/0806a/index.htm

As of July 31st, there has been a **-5.19%** reduction in overall violent crime for the target areas.

The following specific target areas have also seen a significant reduction in violent crime:

- Southwest Target Area **-6.82%**
- Northeast Target Area **-32.65%**
- East Target Area **-36.36%**
- North Target Area **-2.33%**
- South Target Area **-24.00%**

Community Engagement:

Since the start of this initiative, Dallas Police Officers have attended over 275 Crime Watch and community meetings as well as other events geared towards building relationships and trust in the targeted areas. Officers have generated 26 service request calls to 311 to assist citizens with homeless assistance, litter abatement, illegal dumping removal, and other quality of life issues. The Dallas Police Department will continue the initiative to reduce violent crime and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

If you have any questions, please contact acting Police Chief David Pughes.

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Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

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| T.C. Broadnax, City Manager | Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager |
| Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim) | Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer |
| Mark Swann, City Auditor | Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services |
| Biliera Johnson, City Secretary | M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer |
| Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge | Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer |
| Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager | M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion |
| Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager | Directors and Assistant Directors |