



Successful Practices & Strategies

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Toledo Police Department

Toledo, Ohio

<http://www.toledopolice.com/>

Community policing element

Problem/issue

Community partnerships

Quality of life

Problem description

Code violations in various neighborhoods are believed to lead to criminal activity.

Community policing strategies implemented

The Toledo Police Department and the City of Toledo have devised a new T-Town program, which was designed to mirror the "Tidy Towns" program that is used in Ireland. T-Town partners up with Code Enforcement employees and picks a portion of their districts to target (there are eight districts in Toledo). The duo identifies a 3–4 block area of the district and aggressively enforces code violations, which we believe lead to criminal activity and for which we have zero tolerance. Community meetings are held prior to the initiatives, and the community is strongly encouraged to help with the clean-up to reclaim their neighborhoods.

Change and/or impact as a result of these community policing efforts

The T-Town initiative gave the community service officers (CSO) the opportunity to get out in the field and work in partnership with other city departments to clean up neighborhoods that were in need. During the initiatives, CSOs were able to develop a working relationship with the city code inspectors assigned to their area of responsibility and, as a result, they were better able to assist one another in addressing neighborhood issues.



Lessons learned through program implementation

Recommendations to improve the program include the following:

- Conduct the initiatives in those areas where there is strong community involvement. Consider having neighborhoods apply for the initiative because it was found that where there was no community involvement by residents, the properties quickly reverted back to their prior state.
- While the initiatives were scheduled as a one day event on a Thursday, it would be better to let city personnel coordinate and schedule the different city services (e.g., street cleaning, forestry, garbage pick-up, inspections) over several days. Then the CSOs could set up in the neighborhood on a Saturday, along with the Beautification Action Team (city crews that do remaining clean-up). More residents would be home on a Saturday and able to assist in the clean-up. Thursdays did not work well in prior initiatives because most residents were working.
- On Saturday, it is believed that more residents would communicate with the CSOs and share their concerns regarding criminal or quality-of-life issues. In the past T-Town initiatives, surveys were left with residents with few responses returned.
- Assist residents in getting private sponsors to donate food and soda for a picnic.
- Continually re-evaluate the program and make necessary changes.

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