Winnipeg Police Advisory Board Public Consultation
"DISTRICT 4"[1]

(N. Kildonan, E. Kildonan, Elmwood, Transcona)

Chalmers Community Centre, June 18, 2009

Introduction

The WPAB's third public consultation was held in the former District 4 neighbourhoods in cooperation with the River East Neighbourhood Network and the Transcona Biz. The former District 4 boundary was chosen because the diversity of neighbourhoods and overall size of the new combined District 4/5 would have been too large to handle effectively in one meeting. The event was publicized in a local poster campaign by RENN, in the community newspaper, with local agencies, through the schools, and on the WPAB web site.

Consistent with past neighbourhood consultations about 50 people from the target community attended the event. The round-table format of the meeting ensured that all who did attend did participate. The conversations, again, were lively and informative for the Board. This consultation focused on four areas: Crime and Crime Awareness, Police Response, Police Effectiveness, and Relationships. The themes and viewpoints which emerged are reported under these headings below.

A number of participants indicated an affiliation with one of the following groups or agencies:

- Access U of M Transcona
- Chalmers Community Centre
- Elmwood High School
- Elmwood Safety Committee
- Glenelon PAC
- ECRCAA
- RA Group
- Transcona BIZ
- WHRA

Notes on participant's comments as recorded at the session are attached as **Appendix "A".**

CrimeStat Profile – "District 4" Electoral Wards

July 2008-June 2009 vs July 2007-June 2008[2]

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[1] District 4 and 5 were amalgamated earlier in 2009. This consultation included only the old District 4 electoral wards.

[2] Actual calendar dates used were July 8 to June 29 for each year

Elmwood/East Kildonan:

- 1429 incidents within the six crime types in the prior year. Overall reduction of 30% to 1002 incidents in the past 12 months. There were no homicides in the past year, six sexual assaults by strangers and two incidents where firearms were used in some manner.
- Fewer vehicle thefts and attempted theft of vehicles accounted for about 80% of the reduction in *the total number of incidents reported*, and the remaining 20% was from reductions in residential and commercial break-and-enter offences and commercial robberies. Non-commercial robberies remained about the same as the prior year at 66 incidents.

North Kildonan:

- 670 incidents within the six crime types in the prior year. Overall reduction of 52% to 324 incidents in the past 12 months. There were no homicides in the past year, four sexual assaults by strangers and two incidents where firearms were used in some manner.
- Fewer vehicle thefts and attempted theft of vehicles accounted for about 75% of the reduction in *the total number of incidents reported*, and the remaining 25% was from reductions in residential and commercial break-and-enter offences and commercial robberies. Non-commercial robberies increased to 25 incidents (17 prior year) and sexual assaults by strangers to 4 incidents (1 prior year).

Transcona:

- 588 incidents within the six crime types in the prior year. Overall reduction of 35% to 384 incidents in past 12 months. There were no homicides in the past year, five sexual assaults and no incidents where firearms were used.
- Fewer vehicle thefts and attempted theft of vehicles accounted for about 80% of the reduction in *the total number of incidents* reported, and the remaining 20% was from reductions in residential and commercial break-and-enter offences and commercial robberies. Non-commercial robberies increased to 27 incidents (19 prior year) and sexual assaults by strangers to 5 incidents (0 prior year).
- There were some significant shifts in rates of occurrences across offence types in Transcona in the past year. Commercial and residential break-and-enters are down 55% and 32% respectively, while "Other" break-ins have increased 60% to 75 incidents. Commercial robbery is down 70% while robbery of individuals is up 42% to 27 incidents from 19 the previous year. Actual and attempted thefts of motor vehicles are both down about 50% from the previous year.

Chart 1: Reported Incidents, Six CrimeStat Categories

Electoral Ward	Auto Related	Other 5 Crime Categories	Net Reduction	People Related*
Elmwood/East Kildonan	-44%	-13.9%	-30%	+12%
North Kildonan	-70%	-28%	-52%	+72%
Transcona	-48%	-16%	-35%	+68%

*Includes Homicide, non-commercial Robbery, non-familial Sexual Assaults and Shootings
*Consider the actual number increases in these categories for 2008/09: Elmwood/E. Kildonan +8, N. Kildonan +13, Transcona +13

While crimes against property are down significantly crimes against persons have increased in the district over the year. However, one must be sure to consider the relatively small number of incidents reported in the crimes against persons categories when assessing the significance of the percentage rise in crimes against persons in each electoral ward.

Section 1: Crime and Crime Awareness

- A significant number of attendees have had reason to phone the police for service.

Persons:

- Participants expressed nervousness about being out in their neighbourhoods particularly after dark.
- Kids bullying was seen as an increasing problem
- Participants are aware of drug trafficking in the community

Property:

- Many commented on the level of graffiti in some areas and how this can be intimidating to persons entering these areas.
- Tagging and graffiti are a problem for private property owners and were also seen as a disincentive to enjoying public spaces
- Participants did differentiate between gang tagging and other tagging and graffiti. Gang tagging is seen as more confined to specific areas
- Other property vandalism and theft from vehicles and garages is an issue in the area.

Disturbance:

- Some felt some criminals kept their activities within the lower police priority areas to reduce the likelihood of detection – i.e. garage break-ins and theft of property rather than house break-ins or theft motor vehicles
- Many cited examples of significant noise and rowdy-ism. Loud house parties, “boom-box” vehicles and late-night parties in parks, screeching tires, screaming and angry voices.
- Residents complained of noise around the Transcona bars, King Edward Park and in Elmwood south of Gateway
- Speeding and erratic driving were cited by a number of residents: George V school, Henderson Highway, Keenlyside and Talbot were mentioned.

Crime Reporting:

- Participants recognize that CrimeStat is reported crime only and understand that the data does not reflect actual crime.
- It was felt by some that people may not report incidents if there is no insurance coverage i.e. bicycle- no, car vandalism- yes or no, car theft- yes

- Another factor identified for not reporting lesser crimes was the lack of feedback from police on previously reported incidents.

Crime Stat:
- Most participants have heard of CrimeStat and a number have accessed the data.
- CrimeStat was seen as good for assessing the perception of crime vs. common wisdom – i.e. reported crime incidents are actually down
- There was a desire for more interactive capacity in CrimeStat for searching/analyzing data
- CrimeStat does not report on some areas of interest to the community – i.e. graffiti.

Section 2: Police Response

Emergency 911:
- Some discrepancy exists between what individuals believe is an emergency and the police priority response
- One reported that the operator seemed to not know what to do when a report of a tornado was made to 911

Reporting Crime
- It was stated that Elmwood is often overlooked as an inner-city community
- A number of residents were concerned with having to give their names when reporting an incident as a third party, or having police attend their residence unnecessarily, fearing they would be identified to the offender or "marked" as a witness.
- There was discussion on why names are asked, i.e. to deter prank calls and false reports

Response Time (Priorities perception)
- Overall participants reported an equal number of incidents of good response times and of what they considered less satisfactory response times.
- Incidents at schools receive very quick response
- Serious incidents generally get acceptable response times and less serious incidents get less acceptable response times.
- Victims may have a different perception of what is serious than do the police
- Police do call back on non-emergency calls
- When police are slow to respond it becomes a disincentive to even make a report the next time
- Low response level was reported for traffic incidents, and long response times for non-emergency calls – hours, days or not at all for minor items even when evidence is present
- Police to respond)

Police Resource Levels
- More School resource officers would be helpful.
- Sometimes officers just throw up their hands as they don't have resources: " I would like to help but I have one guy"

- It was suggested police hire back some retired police officers as community contact persons
- One resident report his vehicle broken in to 5 times - police said they would not come out for a car break-in , it had be stolen – police told him to leave the car door unlocked in the future

Section 3: Police Effectiveness

- Changes made by Chief McCaskill in the past year were recognized by participants: i.e. more officers on the street, reduced paperwork

Police Visibility

- Seeing the police in the neighbourhood was highly valued – generating feelings of safety.
- Residents felt marked cars are best for deterrence and public confidence
- Residents reported more visible police activity in the daytime - bike patrol, marked early morning patrols and unmarked patrols in the afternoon - than in the evening
- Still greater police presence was desired in neighbourhood , particularly after dark

Community Offices

- Mega stations in industrial parks don't make community policing. Makes fiscal sense, but not the best operational effect. Need a community presence and office.
- It was suggested that Mobile police offices might work

Community Officers

- Effective community officers are appreciated: "Mark" in Transcona is accessible, has made an impact on youth and with seniors, and will be there for at least one more year
- Changes in policing may be unavoidable but people lament, "Remember when there were cops on the street?"
- Some felt it would be interesting for the community to know more data about the police i.e. Now vs. 10 years ago, how are police deployed, how transient are police within the community

Effectiveness

- Many reported positively on police response: "When police come they are great"; "Have much respect for police and what they put up with and still not become bitter" ; "When they show up they are amazing – do what is necessary"
- Theft, noise and rowdy-ism in some neighbourhoods require more proactive patrols (i.e. police looking for things that do not fit)

Crime Prevention

- Crime prevention is clearly more desirable for residents then crime detection.

- Some felt crime prevention programs were not as available or effective as they should be. I.e. Neighbourhood Watch was seen as declining in neighbourhoods, often dependent on one key person.
- Schools can't always access crime prevention

Section 4: Relationships

Bias

- There was no great concern expressed on police treating different groups differently.
- Some felt all youth were unfairly perceived by police at time (generalization), but concede that youth often are involved in incidents.
- One resident who moved 5 blocks to an apartment reported different treatment: Now I am treated like "them", I felt I was viewed differently when living in a single dwelling area.

Communication

- It was recognized that police do want to hear from the community, and want to make a difference. Residents don't want police to lose heart
- Residents would like to know their police officers as individuals and have "on the street" interaction
- Ongoing personal communications with the public is seen as key to effective policing
- Safety Committees have a role to play as an important contact point for the community
- It was suggested that urban dwellers have less contact with each other now than in the past. If parents were talking more to each other it would have a beneficial effect on crime.
- In addition to the community officers, residents or their representatives (i.e. Safety Committee) need to have regular contact with police management.

Youth

- Residents felt that youth are mostly negative toward police, in part because of low interaction, not necessarily because of any police action. As a result kids don't know how to approach police
- From a school perspective, humanizing police officers would go a long way to reducing crime (Recommended reading: Book –Young Thugs)
- It was suggested that Police could come to meet the teachers night or graduations or other big events to help create good relationships
- Part of the problem was seen to be some parents tolerating lack of respect by their children.

Newcomers

- It was noted that a large number of African families need to establish police contact.
- If, as residents report, there is little gang influence in the African community to date, it would seem that connecting with this community should be a priority for police and other agencies in the district.

Section 5: Other

- Residents recognize that the police can't be totally responsible – stating that there is not a lot of service agency support in the area.
- The effects of poverty and need for more options for youth were common themes
- The need for more recreational opportunities for youth, with particular attention to accessibility (location, cost) was prominent in the discussions.
- The importance of parenting on crime prevention was identified. Parenting responsibility was often seen as lacking.
- Graffiti removal would be a positive step, perhaps using a "Block Captain" approach
- Manitoba Housing complexes were singled out a number of times, with criticism of the management of these units
- An inventory of community resources – knowing who to call – would be helpful
- Truancy was identified as "a big problem"
- Raising taxes to increase police presence was suggested.

Appendix "A"

WPAB Community Consultation Notes, Chalmers CC, June 19/09
Sorted by general topic

Crime and Crime Awareness

- A significant number of attendees have had reason to phone the police for service.
- Most have heard of CrimeStat and a number have accessed the data. (CrimeStat
- Disturbance - drinking parties, unsafe 2-6am, audible cars, screaming, beatings
- Drug dealers, Breaking and entering, Assault, Smashing car windows, Graffiti, Vandalism, Speeding on street or back lane,
- Noise - Bars in Transcona – noise complaints from residents
- Noise - Boom boxes in vehicles
- Noise - House parties – Elmwood south of Gateway (Person has bleeding disorder when startled awake)
- Noise - King Edward Park – 15-20 youth and 20+ after hours parties drinking
- Noise after 1030pm
- Persons - Kids bullying – more and more
- Persons - Wife got spooked on morning going to work
- Pretty sophisticated/smart criminals
- Property - Can't park care in front, only in garage
- Property - Graffiti – gang tags in park
- Property - Graffiti – Henderson highway speedway
- Property - Graffiti – new fences covered
- Property - Graffiti Winford and Heldare in Transcona
- Property - Graffiti an ongoing problem
- Property - Petty crime – car theft down, break-ins of cars and garages and graffiti up
- Property -Tagging – when a lot it is intimidating
- Property -Tagging is not gang related in Tanscona bar area
- Property -Tagging, broken windows, Keenlyside, Talbot speeding
- Property- Tagging, gangs
- Property -Windows smashed - fire…- late night fire extinguishers damaged
- Theft - Broke garage door –two air compressors stolen.
- Traffic - By George V school – not stopping for stop sign
- Traffic - Fast cars – concern of safety and noise
- Crime Stat 17 yes, 3 no
- Crime Stat ½ y es, ½ no
- Graffiti not on Crime Stat
- Crime getting worse

- CrimeStat Good for assessing the perception of crime vs. common wisdom – i.e. crime is actually down
- Data somewhat skewed – don't report incidents if no insurance coverage ie. bicycle no, car vandalism yes or no, car theft yes
- Don't get any info back when crimes are reported thus lots of small crimes not reported because
- Many crimes in the area are by kids
- Not well designed – searchable map not that sophisticated – would like more interactive on searching/analyzing data
- One used Crime Stat for research for school
- Safety Committee has used Crime Stat
- Blend of block watch and crime stat would be good
- Info doesn't help, need more action

Police Response

- 911 – no response to noise complaint –scary to call 911 at times
- 911 – sometimes diverted to non-emergency line when I think its an emergency
- 911 Called 911 -4, called 6222 – 8
- 911 didn't know what to do when I reported a tornado
- Priority - Very good response time to school
- Priority - Assault of kid – stole bike – police came
- Priority - Elmwood often overlooked as an inner-city community
- Priority - Long response for non-emergency – hours, days or not a t all for minor items even when evidence is present
- Priority - Non-emergency calls – no response for suspicious van
- Priority - Police do call back on non-emergency calls
- Priority - Police have been good on response
- Priority - Son beat up – police came next morning
- Priority - Traffic infraction not quick, other stuff good response
- Priority - Vehicle broken in to 5 times – police told them to leave door unlocked Police said not coming out for car break-in - had to have a vehicle stole.
- Priority - When call, response is too slow so why bother calling
- Priority Police attended within 2 minutes for intrusion at school
- Priority -Police response is good,
- Reporting Crime - Information is important, not who supplied it
- Reporting Crime - Concerned of being marked as a witness
- Reporting Crime - Need some anonymity when reporting
- Reporting Crime - Shouldn't be asking for name and phone number when making a complaint – should be voluntary – don't want police there unnecessarily so you aren't "marked"
- Reporting Crime - There are reasons why names are asked – i.e. 40-60% of 911 calls are pranks
- Resource Level - Police said I would like to help but I have one guy (to respond)

- Resource Level - Problem of split shift
- Resource Level - School resource officer
- Resource Level - Schools – can't access crime prevention
- Resource Level - sometimes officers just throw up their hands as they don't have resources
- Resource Level - Use retired police for community contact
- Visibility - Marked cars are best for deterrence and public confidence
- Visibility - Community police model in past – schools don't get the service they use to
- Visibility - Don't se police at school often enough – Elmwood
- Visibility - I saw two bike patrols today
- Visibility - More presence needed in neighbourhood
- Visibility - No police presence – perceived- after dark
- Visibility - Remember when there were cops on the street?
- Visibility - Always saw cruiser in early A.M. when jogging – felt safe
- Visibility - Changes in policing may be unavoidable but people lament
- Visibility - Doing a good job in the morning (daylight)
- Visibility - Just knowing they are around is comforting -10PM-1AM
- Visibility - Mega stations in industrial parks don't make community policing. Makes fiscal sense, but not best operational effect. Need community presence, office.
- Visibility - Mobile police offices might work
- Visibility - Needs to be more presence in the evening
- Visibility - See unmarked police cars in the afternoon
- Visibility See police in marked units in the morning

Police Effectiveness

- Community Officer - Mark is there for at least one more year
- Effectiveness - Impressed with Chief McCaskill's response; More officers on street, Reduced paperwork
- Effectiveness - Police effectiveness – don't often catch bad guys
- Effectiveness - When police come they are great
- Effectiveness - Have much respect for police and what they put up with and still not become bitter
- Effectiveness - Mark - Transcona has great community resource officer - Mark – very accessible
- Effectiveness - Mark Really has made and impact particularly with youth, seniors and in schools
- Effectiveness – need proactive patrols (i.e. police looking for things that do not fit)
- Effectiveness - Police stopped suspicious car
- Effectiveness - Positive right now
- Effectiveness - When they show up they are amazing – do what is necessary
- Enforcement - Gang dealing coke – kids arrested
- Information - Don't see police or feel as informed as years ago
- Information - Interesting for the community to know more data about the police i.e Now vs. 10 years ago, i.e. How transient are police within the community

- Prevention - Crime prevention is not so good,
- Prevention - Effect on crime solving focus instead of crime prevention
- Prevention - Increased police not the answer, prevention is the answer
- Prevention - Police nice but no follow-up, no prevention – all reactionary
- Programs - Neighbourhood Watch – not many attending
- Programs - Neighbourhood Watch – some blocks. Program needs a lot of work - if key person drops out it stops.

Relationships

- Bias - Differences, may not be intentional
- Bias - Kids are seen perhaps unfairly at times as the problem
- Stereotyping - Police treat people differently depending on where they live. I moved 5 blocks to an apartment and now am treated like "them" When I was viewed differently in a single dwelling area.
- Don't know police officers
- Get police out of car talking to people
- Have to know officers by name
- Ongoing communications is key
- Ongoing dialogue – Safety group is established
- Police do want to hear from the community and want to make a difference – don't give up!
- Police have to visit our community
- Stronger relationships with police
- Unanimous that they want to know police officers
- From a school perspective humanizing police officers would go a long way to reducing crime (Book –Young Thugs)
- Kids don't have any police to go to
- Kids only talk of negative relationships with police - Not necessarily police fault
- Police could come to meet the teachers night or graduations or other big events to create good relationships
- Lack of respect by kids which is tolerated by some parents
- Large number of African families need to establish police contact
- Not much gang influence in African community yet
- Less contact among residents within urban the community than rural – more contact among residents would be helpful – i.e. block parties – if parents talk to other parents it has a beneficial effect
- People don't sit on their front yards any more
- Most communication is with lower echelon not management
- need to dialogue with higher levels within the police

Other

- Vigilantism may have a place
- Parental control lacking

- Root problem is parenting
- Truancy is a big problem
- Big sportsplex good for kids
- Closing of Kelvin Community Centre a big part of the problem
- Drop in centre
- Drop-in at Elmwood 1-9 pm
- Need local sports programs because poor have no transportation
- No teams to join
- Block Captain for graffiti removal
- Concern with Manitoba housing
- Help families address things around poverty, more options for youth
- Kids can't afford recreation
- Kids can't afford teams
- Poverty issue
- Knowledge – who to call. What to do
- Manitoba Housing – are residents not screened?
- Matthew Dumas incident - intervention by police was effective in calming things down
- Police visit McD. East Side women's Aboriginal groups. Need more programs. Need more active aboriginal groups in the area.
- Raise taxes to get more police on the street
- Tag clean up – Green Team
- Should be called Police "Department", not "Service" - its not police shaking hands with bikers
- Police can't be totally responsible. Not a lot of service agency support in the area. Large gap in services
- Police can't do everything