Meetings Attended by the Executive Director, WPAB

Crime Prevention through Social Development

Background

- The Crime Prevention through Social Development project has been led by the Director of City's Community Services Department, Mr. Clive Wightman. It has been previously reported that since late 2008 a series of meetings of community leaders and citizens from various sectors has identified priority themes for reducing crime through a social development approach.
- In the most recent meeting, August 28, 2009, the draft final report was reviewed by participants and a structure was identified to promote progress in each of the six priority themes:
    - Establish a community driven organization to engage citizens in crime prevention
    - Police and Community working in neighbourhoods to prevent crime
    - Develop local places and programs, including, early childhood development, which are accessible, culturally safe, family nurturing and support healthy housing
    - Promote a responsible and balanced media that recognizes its role in crime prevention. Additionally, improve opportunities for individuals through connectivity and access to computers for all citizens
    - Achieve a culturally vibrant education system, including a publicly funded Aboriginal School Division
    - Build community capacity to develop resiliency in youth, children and families by focusing on recreation and school attendance.

Current Status

- In the most recent meeting, August 28, 2009, the draft report was reviewed by participants and a community-based leadership structure identified to move forward in each of the six priority areas.
- The flexible structure is designed to facilitate information sharing, reduce redundancy, and allow each of the five other activities to advance independently.
- A final report, including the recommended structure, will be submitted by Mr. Whiteman to Council in the near future.

R.A. MacIntyre,
Executive Director
WPAB

R.A. MacIntyre, Sept. 09, 2009

Winnipeg Police Service Crime Analysis Unit
Process Walkthrough – CrimeStat
June 23, 2009

Purpose
To gain an appreciation for the process and resources that support the CrimeStat analysis tool. One specific question in mind was "What does it take to add a category to CrimeStat. The visit was hosted by Insp. Tom Kloczko, WPS, and Mr. Brett Mitchell (I.T.) as well as the analysts and clerks from the Crime Analysis Unit.

Crime Analysis Unit
"The Neighbourhood Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy, approved by Council in July, 2006 incorporates CrimeStat, the Street Crime Unit and Crime Analysis Unit to augment the people and resources already in place to protect and preserve public safety in Winnipeg."[1]

Crime analysis has been a long-standing police activity and the Crime Analysis Unit (CAU) plays an important part in the planned response activities engaged in by our police service. CAU analysts may conduct research on any number of public order issues, including the occurrence of specific types of crime, known criminal organizations, individual incidents, traffic enforcement or geographic crime patterns. CrimeStat software is used by the WPS Crime Analysis Unit to identify geographic crime patterns. The data and analysis generated by CAU assists operational police commanders in developing intelligence-led responses to crime to the neighbourhood level. The central Street Crimes Unit provides Division Commanders greater flexibility in short-term resource deployment, helping them execute a targeted response to crime in their district while minimizing disruption to the Division's daily operations.

While the main purpose of the *CrimeStat* software is to enable geographic crime analysis, once that information is processed it is then also possible to provide accurate and timely information to the public on where a limited number of crime types are occurring in their community.

***CrimeStat* Crime Types**
CrimeStat monitors six types of crimes under ten categories:

- Homicide
- Sexual Assault,
- Shooting
- Commercial Robbery
- Non-Commercial Robbery
- Commercial Break and Enter
- Residential Break and Enter
- Other Break and Enter
- Attempted Theft of Motor Vehicle
- Actual Theft of Motor Vehicle

The crime types analyzed in CrimeStat are selected by the Winnipeg Police Service management. As a matter of policy, only those incidents of sexual assault where the suspect is not know to the victim are reported on the public CrimeStat web site. In all other crime types all incidents of that type are displayed in the public data.

The CrimeStat Process
CrimeStat feeds off the data input daily to the WPS Records Management System each time a complaint is made or a file generated by a police officer. Using the CrimeStat analysis tool is a four-part process:

- *Query definition* tells the system what crime codes (i.e. crime types) to include in the data extract and requires a moderate amount of one-time programming work. Adding a new crime category might require 2-3 days of effort.

[1] WPS Media Release Feb. 2, 2007

- *The daily CrimeStat data extract* is an automated process which has about a three-hour run time and is reasonably trouble free. An additional half-hour run time is required to translate the initial extract into a format usable by the crime analysis software, (iBase) and transform the data into plain language for the Crime Analysis Unit analysts and clerks to conduct quality control and analysis. Three more hours of processing time is required to import these transformed extracts into iBase An additional crime type would add about a half hour of run time to the crime analysis software transformation and import daily.
- *Quality control* of these text files is where the most labour is required. There is a dedicated analyst for each crime type who examines the daily extracts for missing information, identifies "shooting" incidents to the RMS database, or, in the case of sexual assaults, to determine which incidents are "non-familial" in nature.
- *The City of Winnipeg runs a program daily* against the screened data and imports the appropriate data to their CrimeStat database, for access from the CrimeStat website.

Once the crime occurrence data is processed, further analysis and reporting is conducted by CAU to identify overall crime trends in the City, and for each city district or neighbourhood as required.

Some Issues

- Location of an incident - is important and must often be determined manually as many incidents are reported at central points such as 151 Princess Street.
- Concern for re-victimization - if the system is too specific on crime location (i.e. Sexual assault)
- Need to comply with court ordered publication bans
- Need to protect the location of some social service providers

Expanding/Changing the CrimeStat Crime Categories

- Each additional crime type added to CrimeStat would require a few days of programming, a week or two of testing, and about a half of a person year in additional analytical work. This is the case regardless if the new crime type is available on the public site or not.
- Alternate crime types could likely be substituted for existing crime categories for just the programming and testing costs
- Including all spousal assaults on the publicly available CrimeStat web site is a policy decision. It is not labour intensive as the data already exists and is part of the normal extract and analysis process.
    - The challenge would be to display the data on the public web site in a way that does not result in re-victimization or degrade the security of others.
    - One approach may be to include all sexual assault offences in the numerical *CrimeStat* data, but only apply the Sexual Assault icon to incidents where the assailant was unknown to the victim.
    - Police would still be able to identify and target incidents of non-familial sexual assault as they do today.

R.A. MacIntyre,
Executive Director
WPAB