

DIVISION OF POLICE

Intra-Divisional

August 18, 2018

TO: Chief Kimberley Jacobs, Chief of Police

FROM: Commander Jennifer Knight #5026
Patrol North, Zone 4

SUBJECT: Community/Police Safe Streets Program

Ma'am,

The Community/Police Safe Streets program was implemented in 2017 with the support of Deputy Chief Quinlan as an initiative designed to develop and sustain a partnership with the Linden community. The 2018 program was expanded into three opportunity neighborhoods as an extension of the successful Linden Safe Streets initiative that was started in 2017. The 2018 Community/Police Safe Streets program was implemented on May 1, 2018 and continued until September 1, 2018.

The Safe Streets initiative utilized uniformed bike officers to focus specifically on improving community-police relations while addressing community concerns and violent crime trends in each area. The goal of the program was to provide a visible uniformed presence for both enforcement and problem solving in areas where an increase in violence and criminal activity had been occurring. Officers served as the first line of communication for citizens needing city services, and they were tasked with engaging other city departments to resolve non-law enforcement related problems.

As a component to this program, a final analysis is provided detailing the type of community engagement activities, the number and type of community interactions, statistics on enforcement activities made by the personnel involved in this program, and information regarding the potential impact the program has on crime trends in the area. The following are program totals for key categories beginning May 1, 2018 related to the activities of the Linden Streets Program (LSS), the Parsons Ave. Corridor (PAC) Safe Streets Program, and the West Side Safe Streets (WSS) Program, which focused efforts on the Hilltop area.

	Zone 2 Parsons Ave.	Zone 3 Hilltop	Zone 4 Linden	Totals
Citizen Contacts	3,265	559	4,527	8,351
Community Meetings/Events Attended	27	15	109	151
Property Abatements/Placarded	7	0	41	48
Felony Arrests	83	69	127	279
Misdemeanor Arrests	62	104	121	287
Firearm Arrests	12	9	26	47
Firearms Seized	25	9	69	103
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	17	7	14	38
Crack/Cocaine Seized (grams)	377	154	394	925
Heroin Seized (grams)	27	160	28	215
Pills Seized (unit doses)	198	157	828	1,183
Other Drugs Seized (grams)	308	177	1,182	1,389
Marijuana Seized (grams)	1,839	370	2,816	5,025
Currency Seized	\$7,240	\$16,580	\$129,213	\$153,033

(Numbers do not include arrest assists and property recovered in support of other units)

Enforcement Highlights

- Linden Area Violent Crime Initiative Statistics:** This initiative was developed to combat a rise in gun related violent crime that was occurring outside of the hours of the Safe Streets initiative. This enforcement strategy was designed to support the Linden Safe Streets engagement component with intelligence gathering and additional enforcement activity designed to decrease gun related violence specific to the Linden neighborhoods. Led by Sgt. Jim Haley, S5A, enforcement activity was implemented by Sgt. Cory Canter, Sgt. Kyle Andrews, and Sgt. Caroline Castro with existing third shift and Midwatch resources. This project worked in conjunction with the Linden Safe Streets program and ran from June 13 through August 2 (7 weeks). The results of this additional component were immediately apparent and gun related crime in the Linden area fell well below normal within 7 days of implementation. This third shift enforcement component was supported by intelligence gathered by all shifts, including Safe Streets officers, and had a significant impact on gun related crime. The following are statistics related to this specific initiative. These numbers are in addition to the numbers recorded by the Linden Safe Streets program.

Felony Warrants Served: 31

Felony Charges Filed (not including firearms): 25

Misdemeanor Warrants Served: 53

Misdemeanor Charges Filed: 39

Stolen Vehicles Recovered: 5

Firearms Recovered: 51

When added to the 69 firearms recovered by Safe Streets officers, the total firearms recovered from Linden area as a result of these two initiatives is 120.

- **The Nuisance Abatement Group** began a collaboration with Linden Safe Streets on 6/13/2018. The group included Community Liaison Officer Alesia Zacher, members of the Linden Safe Streets program, the Code Enforcement supervisor, Deb Van Dyke, along with members of her staff depending on the area, the Solid Waste Inspector, Brian Valentine, the Zone 4 attorney, Kat Karac, along with members of her staff and legal aide, and the Land Bank manager, Marty Micah.

Each time this group would meet to inspect properties, they would go door to door introducing themselves and distributing information about trash collection, assistance for the disabled and elderly, and information regarding assistance to resolve code violations. The community response was overwhelming and Linden Safe Streets officers were thanked for “cleaning up” their streets. Brian Valentine scheduled trash collection any time we observed illegal dumping or large amounts of trash and trash bags were distributed to residents. The following statistics were recorded as part of this Safe Streets initiative to collaborate with other City Departments:

Parcels of Land Inspected - 272

Miscellaneous Code Violation Citations – 124

Junk Vehicle Citations – 34

Placarded Structures – 41

Structures Demolished – 4

The group inspected the following properties and areas in the Linden area:

- All the properties between Hamilton Avenue and Cleveland Avenue from East 15th Avenue to East 19th Avenue
- All the properties and businesses on the west side of Cleveland Avenue between East 13th Avenue and East 19th Avenue
- 3207 Karl Road and 2350 Joyce Avenue
- All the properties and businesses on the east and west sides of Cleveland Avenue between East Weber Road and Myrtle Avenue
- Ms. Karac contacted the Health Department and reported multiple health violations for the Gulf Station at Westerville Road and Cleveland Avenue, the Sunoco at East 23rd Avenue and Cleveland Avenue and the Fine Fair Foods Market at East 13th Avenue and Cleveland Avenue

The Safe Streets Unit also attended the Anti Human Trafficking NAG meeting in an effort to target areas which were designated as a high prostitution area. An additional benefit from this project was the collaboration between the various city

departments. We were able to make strong relationships with one another and utilize all our resources to tackle each issue that came our way. There was accountability for each project and issues and problems did not fall through the cracks.

Citizen compliments (a sample of what has been received by email)

Linden Safe Streets Officers,

Thank you for your commitment to the overall health and wellness of Greater Linden. Your presence and report last night were greatly appreciated. I will be in touch about a couple opportunities for synergy and capacity building.

De Lena Scales

Hello,

I am a resident of Linden as well as my family has been here for decades. We are community supporters and we pride ourselves as being neighborly.

It is wonderful to have the presence of the Safe Streets crew in the Linden community. We have witnessed firsthand their support. We feel safer and we don't want them to leave.

My 80 year old mother feels safe as a result of their presence in the neighborhood and walking the streets and being aware.

Tamela Walker

Thank you for your quick response to the shooting incident related to East 24th and Medina. We are happy you have a presence in south linden community.

ESPECIALLY the safety provided to my Mother's home 1330 East 24th Avenue.

Thank you.

Tamela Walker

I live on the corner of Southwood Ave. and S. 18th St.. For quite some time this area has been a constant problem with drug activity with two apartment buildings working together to sell drugs and continual drug traffic. I have noticed that the drug activity had stopped in the past two weeks and I found out the Bicycle Cops have been riding through the area and watching things.

I want to THANK YOU for having them in this area and keeping the drug trade down and keeping our neighborhood safe.

If you could continue in this the area, it would be very appreciated. I can really tell a difference in three weeks ago and now.

Please keep up the good work that our Great Officers do everyday to keep the citizens safe. Again, Thank You for everything that you are doing.

Linda Henry

Dear Safe Streets,

Again, kudos to the police for busting 347 1/2 E. Welch Ave.!!! Job well done. The officers that came to my home told me they were working on that. They were very professional & courteous, kept to their promise.

Mark Bellamy

Hello,

First I want to say thank you again for the additional Police presence in Cruiser 133 district. I really believe it is making a difference. I also complimented both of you to Chief Jacobs for your great response.

Thanks again for all you do,

Becky Walcott
Far South Columbus Block Watch
Coordinator

Additional Information

- The officers participating in the program completed Body Worn Camera (BWC) training and were utilizing the equipment. The officers successfully recorded encounters consistent with Division policy.
- Team members distributed business cards with information regarding the email address and recorded line that community members could access to provide information regarding their neighborhood concerns, or tips on criminal activity they would like the team to address. Each area had their own email address and recorded line to ensure the appropriate Safe Streets team could communicate directly with the citizens in their area. In Linden, a restricted duty officer was utilized to answer the phone, speak to citizens about their concerns, and record information related to their concerns. Citizens reported tremendous satisfaction with being able to communicate directly with their Safe Street officers.
- The Division was allotted \$1,594,261.00 for personnel costs associated with this program. Personnel selected for this project were released from their regular assignments and funds were utilized to backfill their positions on an overtime basis. The program expenditures amounted to \$1,154,824.72. **At the conclusion of the program \$439,433.28 funds were remaining.**

Violent Crime Analysis

One goal of this project was to reduce the amount of violent crime, primarily incidents involving gun violence, occurring in the identified neighborhoods. The categories analyzed are those categories of violent crimes that typically spike during the summer months and have a significant impact on the residents in the identified neighborhoods. These categories include *discharged firearms into an occupied structure, felony assaults, homicides, and robberies on individuals*. These are also the same categories that we analyzed on a weekly basis in order to make adjustments on the deployment of Safe Streets personnel. In addition, I have conducted a brief analysis of this information to determine the statistical impact of the Safe Streets program to date. The following is a comparison between 2016/2017 statistics (when the Safe Streets unit was not deployed) and 2018 statistics for the same period.

Linden (Zone 4)

The Linden Safe Streets program was initiated in 2017, and this was the second year where Safe Street officers have been deployed in the Linden area. Crime statistics are compared to both the previous year, but more importantly to statistics compiled from 2016, before the Safe Streets program was deployed in the Linden area. While all major crime categories are tracked, gun related crimes are independently tracked and reduction in these statistics was a defined goal for the 2018 Linden Safe Streets initiative.

An analysis of statistics indicate **violent crime was reduced to levels 16.2% below** those in 2016 and **gun related violent crime was reduced to levels 23% lower** than in 2016. While the Safe Streets program was operating, the Linden area experienced an increase in incidents of firing into a habitation. Intelligence indicated it was related to gang activity and incidents were occurring outside of the hours Safe Streets officers were deployed. A third shift enforcement project, designed to target the same area during the overnight hours, also has a significant impact on reducing these numbers. There is likely a direct correlation between the reduction in gun related violent crime, and the **120 stolen or illegal firearms** that were seized from the Linden area by Safe Streets officers and Zone 4 officers working in conjunction with the Safe Streets program. The following is additional information derived from this analysis which can be used to determine the statistical impact the Safe Streets program had on crime in the Linden area.

- **Homicides are down 60% from 2017 levels** where the city experienced higher levels throughout the city.
- Individual robberies, identified by many residents as a significant concern, were reduced by 12% in 2017, during the first year of the Safe Streets deployment. This year, **individual robberies are down 27% from numbers recorded in**

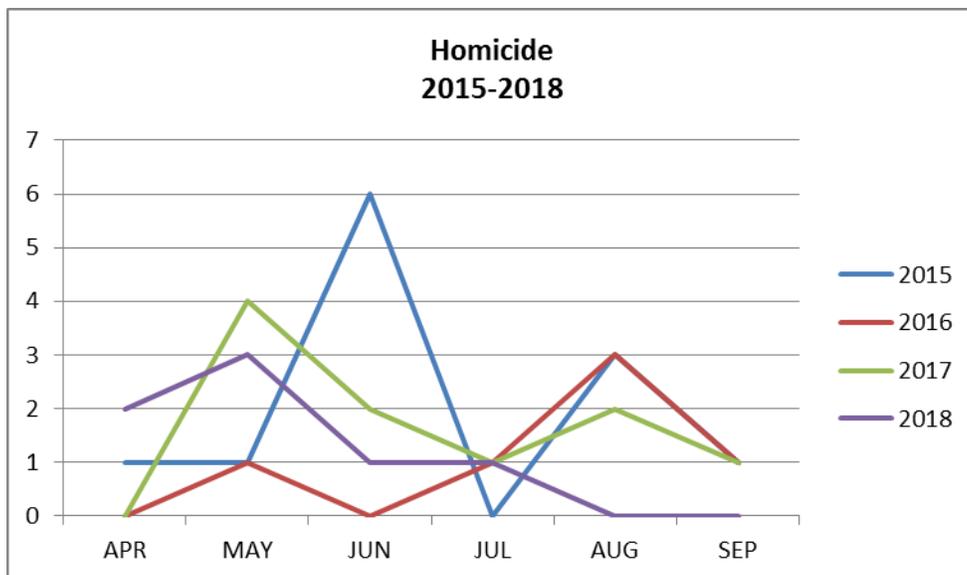
2016, when Safe Streets officers were not deployed. Gun related individual robberies are down 31%.

- Discharged firearms into an occupied structure was evaluated and included in the analysis of violent crime during this period. In 2018 CPD recorded a spike in these types of incidents in the Linden area. This spike is not inconsistent with similar spikes that have occurred in previous years. An evaluation of the activity indicated it was likely gang related and once the increase was observed, resources were shifted to address the incidents occurring during the overnight hours. These numbers were quickly reduced as a result of this C company initiative that worked in conjunction with the Safe Streets program.

Year	Violent Crime Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	149	N/A
2016	211	41.61%
2017	168	-20.38%
2018	184	9.52%

Year	Gun-related Violent Crime Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	54	N/A
2016	69	27.78%
2017	57	-17.39%
2018	46	-19.30%

Year	Homicide Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	6	N/A
2016	4	-33.3%
2017	10	150%
2018	4	-60.0%



Parsons Ave (Zone 2)

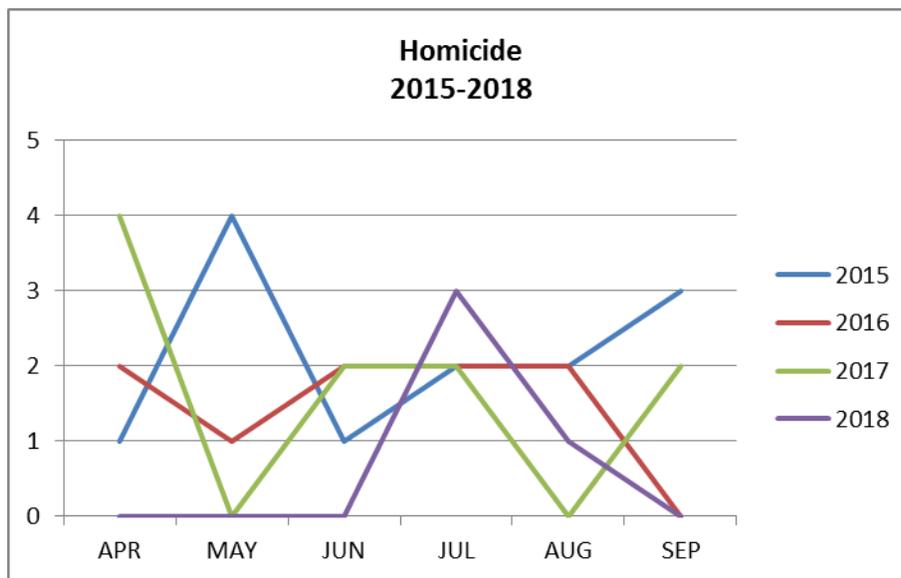
The Parsons Ave. Safe Streets program was initiated in 2018 as an expansion of the program that began in the Linden area. Crime statistics are compared to statistics compiled from 2017, before the Safe Streets program was deployed in the Parsons Ave. area. **Violent crime continues to trend at levels 21% higher** than those in 2017. **Gun related violent crime is 28% lower** than the 2017 levels, and Homicides are similar to 2017 levels where the city experienced higher levels throughout the city.

The Parsons Ave. Safe Streets initiative required a markedly different deployment strategy than the Westside and Linden Safe Streets programs. The initial boundaries defined for the Parsons Ave. project proved too confining, limiting enforcement and engagement activities to a smaller area. Additionally, violent crime hot spots moved on a weekly basis to several different neighborhoods on both 9 precinct and 13 precinct. To combat the shifting violent crime patterns, Commander Grizzell analyzed the emerging trends and redeployed the Zone 2 Safe Streets team to several different areas over the course of the summer. Consequently, the team was limited in their ability to develop community relationships in a single area. Lastly, as a result of their frequent redeployment, crime statistics had to encompass all of 9 and 13 precincts, making those statistics less reflective of the enforcement activity accomplished by the Parsons Ave. team.

Year	Violent Crime Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	179	N/A
2016	188	5.03%
2017	139	-26.06%
2018	169	21.58%

Year	Gun-related Violent Crime Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	85	N/A
2016	76	-10.59%
2017	55	-27.63%
2018	62	12.73%

Year	Homicide Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	9	N/A
2016	9	0%
2017	4	-55.6%
2018	5	25.0%



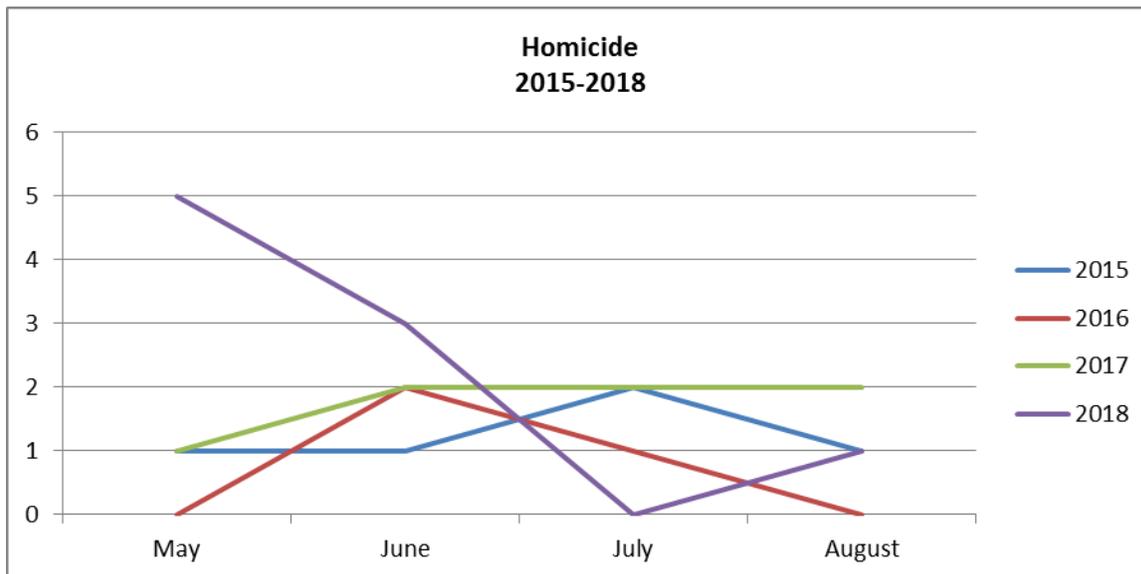
Hilltop (Zone 3)

The West Side Safe Streets program was initiated in 2018 as an expansion of the program that began in the Linden area. Crime statistics are compared to statistics compiled from 2017, before the Safe Streets program was deployed in the Parsons Ave. area. **Violent crime increased slightly from 2017, but remains 22% lower than 2016 levels.** This indicates initiatives to reduce violent crime in the Hilltop area, including the Safe Streets initiative, have been effective in reducing these crimes well below the levels experienced in 2016. **Gun related violent crime is similar to 2016 levels, but remains 30% lower than 2016 levels.** Homicides are similar to 2017 levels where the city experienced higher levels throughout the city.

Year	Violent Crime Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	147	N/A
2016	242	64.63%
2017	178	-26.45%
2018	188	5.62%

Year	Gun-related Violent Crime Reports	Percentage Change From Previous Year
2015	61	N/A
2016	72	18.03%
2017	50	-30.56%
2018	51	2.0%

Year	Homicide Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	5	N/A
2016	3	-40%
2017	7	133%
2018	9	28.0%

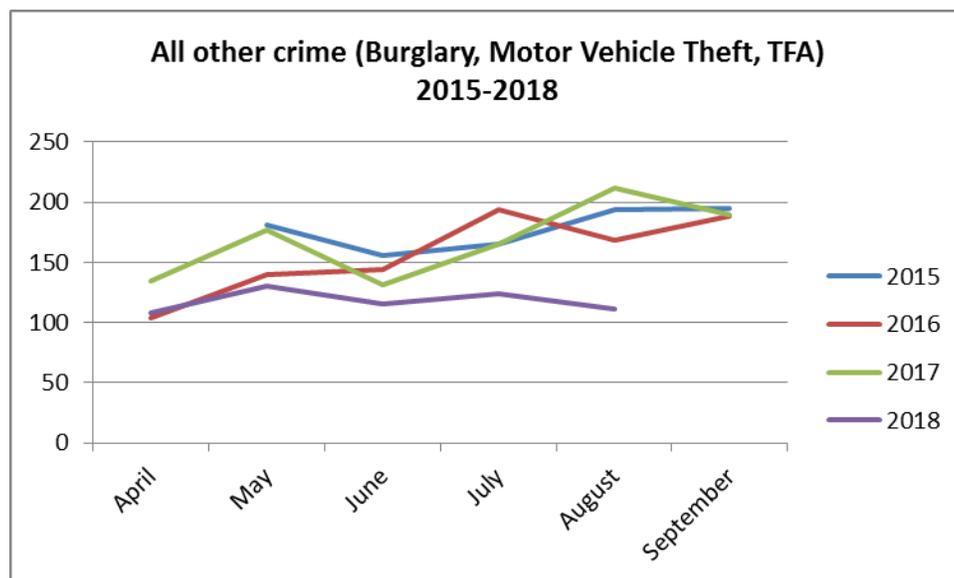


Property Crime Analysis

Reported property crime in the Linden area was significantly reduced during the deployment of Safe Streets officers. Safe Street officers provide a highly visible police presence in neighborhoods that are also impacted by property crimes including residential and commercial burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft from vehicles. The Linden area experienced a **30% reduction in property crimes from 2017**. The Parsons Ave. experienced similar numbers of property crimes in 2018, as compared to 2017. **The Hilltop area experienced a 24% reduction in the number of property crimes** when the Safe Streets officers were deployed, as compared with the same period in 2017.

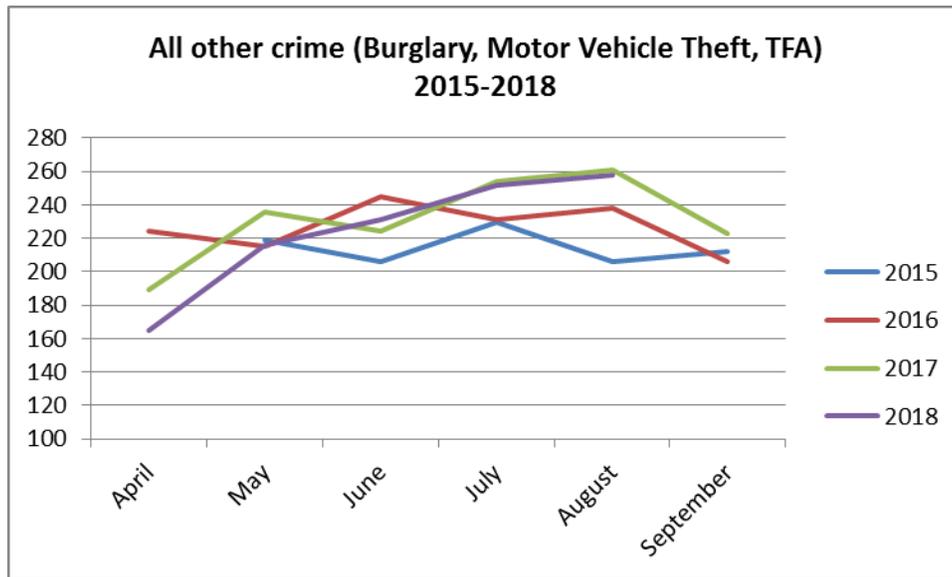
Linden

Year	Number of Property Crime Reports	Percent Change from Previous Year
2015	726	N/A
2016	669	-7.85%
2017	709	5.98%
2018	492	-30.61%



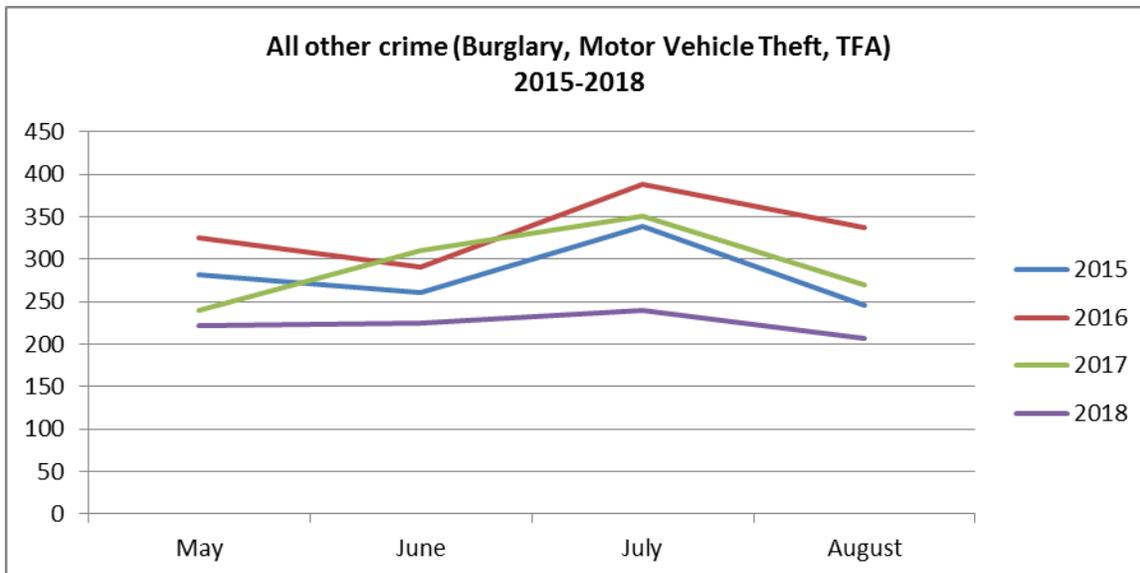
Parsons Ave

Year	Number of Property Crime Reports	Percent Change From Previous Year
2015	875	N/A
2016	948	8.34%
2017	1000	5.49%
2018	987	-1.30%



Hilltop

Year	Number of Property Crime Reports	Percent Change from Previous Year
2015	1127	N/A
2016	1341	18.99%
2017	1171	-12.68%
2018	890	-24.00%



Conclusion

The 2018 Safe Streets initiative produced quantifiable results which are represented in a reduction in crime in most areas. What cannot be easily quantified is the impact of the program on the relationship between officers and the communities they serve. Officers and supervisors in each of the neighborhoods where a Safe Streets unit was deployed received consistent positive feedback relative to the program and tremendous community support. With a foundation of community engagement as the focus, Safe Streets officers in the Linden, Hilltop, and Parsons Ave. areas recorded **8,294 documented citizen contacts and attended 151 community events** designed to build lasting relationships with the communities they serve. As a result of their high visibility, area residents quickly became familiar with individual bike officers assigned to the program, and the crime tips and requests for service flooded in. Enforcement activity was driven by documented community requests for service and residents saw rapid results because they had a direct line of communication to their Safe Streets officers. An additional partnership, which began with the Safe Streets Unit and the Zone attorneys, resulted in identifiable successes and the abatement of several properties that were attracting crime and negatively impacting the neighborhoods around them. This partnership expanded into a partnership between the City Attorney's office and other city departments including the Division of Police, the Division of Fire, Code Enforcement, the Health Department, and the Department of Refuse.

An analysis of the logistics associated with operations indicates the current number of bikes available for officers to utilize is inadequate for both future Safe Streets projects, and for the continued expansion of the bike program. Patrol officers continue to receive bike training and Bicycle Rapid Response Training (BRRT) which will allow them to be deployed in this capacity for special initiatives and for major events. However, a

reasonable fleet of reserve bicycles is necessary to ensure the availability of equipment for future Safe Street initiatives. I recommend the purchase of an additional 20 bikes to utilize for Safe Street deployments and other large events.

The Safe Streets initiative is driven by the community engagement portion of the model. Consequently, the success of the program is contingent on the officers' ability to remain in a defined neighborhood area for an extended period of time that would allow them the opportunity to develop and sustain those community relationships. I recommend future deployments be strategically placed in defined neighborhoods for the duration of the initiative, to ensure continued success.

The 2018 Safe Streets initiative was a successful expansion of the 2017 Linden Safe Streets program. The community and inter-departmental relationships that were formed as a result of this initiative continue after the participating officers' return to their regular assignments, often in the same areas where they worked as a Safe Streets officer. Future expansions of the program should continue to emphasize the community engagement component, and a problem-solving approach to issues within the community, as the foundation for future Safe Street initiatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commander Jennifer Knight #5026
Patrol Zone 4