RESTORE
RUND BERG LN
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROJECT
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Recommended Strategies

Strategies focus on five core areas:
• persistent crime
• physical and social disorder
• community engagement (including cultural and linguistic barriers)
• the community’s relationship with police
• and, at-risk youth

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Overarching Plan

• A two-pronged approach is needed: visibility and engagement.
• We have paired our two-pronged approach with complementary social services.
• Community engagement needs to be improved within the targeted hot spots.

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Rundberg Hotspots

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Hot Spot Crime Data

• Crime data obtained from the police documenting Part I and Part II crimes (911 calls and police-generated reports) show relatively stable crime rates over the last seven years, 2007-2013. When the same analysis was run for the last year, no significant difference was found.

• Overall, the hotspots account for 21% of crime in the Rundberg area and almost 12 ½% of crime city-wide.

• The majority of victims and offenders are young, male and Hispanic.

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Challenges and Opportunities

- Large, open fields in each hot spot
- Immigrant population (non-English speaking)
- Homelessness
- Gang activity
- Domestic violence
- Prostitution
- To name just a few . . .
COMMUNITY POLICING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• OPERATION Mobile Walking Beat (MWB)
• Apartment/Landlord Coalition
• Hire a Community Organizer specifically for Restore Rundberg
• Implement RISE (Refugee & Immigrant Safety Education) in Rundberg

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Operation Walking Mobile Beat

• The MWB will consist of 8 officers and one SGT.
• MWB will be able to target multiple hot spots during one shift or one hot spot over a longer period of time.
• The advantage of the MWB’s mobility is that the supervisor can move the walking beat from Hot Spot to Hot Spot (and beyond) depending on the needs of the area.
• Primary focus is community engagement.

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Community Organizer

- Hire a 30-hour a week community organizer.
- The police will aid the organizer in leveraging community support for the marketplace with assistance from the Revitalization Team who offers expertise in social, health and financial sectors.
- In addition, the community organizer will be expected to work closely with the neighborhood plan contact teams to coordinate programs for the areas and streamline any initiatives with the overall neighborhood plans.

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Austin Police Department Police Officers have been participating in Caritas of Austin’s monthly Refugee Orientation since 2006. In this capacity, officers have facilitated the Public Safety training during which they speak to refugees about their rights and responsibilities within the U.S. Legal System.

It is grounded in a Social Network Approach:

- connects and streamlines the flow of information
- makes available alternatives that would otherwise be unknown
- educates the individual decision-making process
- aids in the recreation of the identity of the immigrant
- promotes acknowledgement on behalf of the greater part of society
- enhances the provision of assistance

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Vision
For public safety in Austin to be respected and trusted by all segments of Austin’s diverse community including its refugee and immigrant populations.

Mission
To use all of our public safety resources, including education and dialogue, to keep you, your family and our community safe – regardless of place of origin or resident status.

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RISE (Refugee & Immigrant Safety Education)

Goals
1. To reduce the likelihood of immigrants and refugees becoming victims or perpetrators of crime.
2. To increase the opportunities for public safety employees to interact with Austin’s immigrant and refugee communities.

This education will generally take the form of informal orientation sessions in which police officers, other public safety representatives, community service providers and others will meet with immigrants and refugees in a safe, non-threatening environment. The focus will be as much on developing trust and a climate of positive two-way communication as it is on delivering content.

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As expected, the fastest growing population in the Rundberg area is the Hispanic population with concentrated growth in young children between the ages of birth to 9 years.

Many youth in the area are considered “at-risk” given their socio-economic status, the presence of criminal/gang activity in the area, poor school performance and high drop out rates.

We recommend an overarching focus on positive youth development across Rundberg.
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

• Decrease risk factors and enhance protective factors
  – Community- and school-based programs
  – Youth mentoring
  – Youth gang prevention and intervention
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Budget for Years 2 and 3

$225,000  University of Texas
$402,442  Law Enforcement Funding
          (OT and equipment)
$10,000   Confidential Funds
$2,558    Non-LE Overtime
$210,000  Social Service Contracts
          (to include the community organizer)

These figures are estimates and will likely change somewhat as the implementation plan is finalized. Upon approval by DOJ, the implementation plan/research report will be released to the public (posted to the Restore Rundberg website).
Rundberg Hotspots

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