University of Texas Team

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• The Obama Administration’s strategy includes efforts to build innovative solutions at the grassroots level, to empower local community members in their efforts to make positive changes for their community.

• Restore Rundberg is funded with a $1,000,000 grant from DOJ.

• Funds are allocated for crime prevention strategies, complementary social services and research through the end of 2015.

• The goals of the grant are to utilize evidence-based practices to improve public safety; address social impacts; and build long-term capacity for revitalization of the Rundberg neighborhood.

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BCJI 2012 Grantees

- Seattle, Washington
- Omaha, Nebraska
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Detroit, Michigan
- Buffalo, New York
- Lowell, Massachusetts
- Brooklyn, New York
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Baltimore, Maryland
- Charleston, West Virginia
- Austin, Texas
- San Antonio, Texas
- San Bernardino, California
- Portland, Oregon

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Community Development & Engagement, Revitalization Projects and Research Components
(3 outlined areas)

APD grant-related crime prevention activity (light and hot pink shaded areas)

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The BCJI grant funds evidence-based comprehensive strategies to address priority crime problems. Strategies devised must take into account data collected from and about the community, including but not limited to:

- Crime Data
- Census Data
- Observational Data
- Qualitative Data – interviews, consultations, meetings with stakeholders

Data collection is ongoing with constant analysis and re-analysis of impact, effectiveness and necessary refinement.

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Over the past year, data has been collected as part of the planning process for the BCJI comprehensive strategy.

The research team has undertaken a document analysis of information collected from planning meetings, neighborhood plans, community agencies, crime statistics, demographic analyses and historical documents on the Rundberg neighborhood.

Interviews with police personnel, city partners, community members and community agency representatives have also assisted in the development of a draft strategy.

A comprehensive literature review of place-based crime prevention and community engagement strategies has been drafted.

Researchers have also logged more than 30 hours of direct observations of the crime hotspots in the Rundberg area. This work is ongoing.

Survey data is still to be collected from those living and working in the hotspot areas to measure community efficacy and social service needs.
• Hotspot policing has been found to be a particularly useful means of combatting crime.

• The Department of Justice gives hotspot policing an evidence rating of “effective,” the highest level of rating.

• The hotspot model (Braga, Papachristos, & Hureau, 2012) relies on a variety of components to address crime, including:
  – Increased arrests
  – Situational and targeted prevention strategies
  – Social services

• A criticism of hotspot policing is the potential displacement of crime to other areas in the community but studies show that an overall decrease in crime does occur through targeted efforts.
To calculate the hotspots we used crime data which includes all APD reports to the police system generated by 911 calls and police self-generated activity.

We included all Part I violent crimes: murder, rape, aggravated assaults and robberies. Part I crimes contribute the most to community concerns of safety.

We excluded family violence and property crimes because:
- There are other police initiatives underway to address family violence.
- Property crimes skew the data by concentrating criminal activity in predominantly business establishments (e.g. Walmart).

We did not include Part II crimes in our analysis as we focused on Part I, which have traditionally been used as overall indicators of the prevalence of crime in a given area.

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Our crime data analysis covered 7 years from 2007-2013.
We also ran the hotspot analysis to see if any significant change occurred over the last year given police initiatives in the area. No significant change was registered.
Overall, the hotspots account for 21% of crime in the Rundberg area and almost 12 and a half percent of crime city-wide.
The perpetrators of the crime are largely male (91.5%):
- Nearly 85% of Part I violent crimes are committed by people of color.
  - 34% are African American
  - Over 50% are Hispanic
The victims of crime are also largely male (nearly 80%) and people of color:
- Over 66% Hispanic
- Nearly 17% African American
- Nearly 16% Caucasian
Targeted Approach – The Research Framework

Triple-T: Targeting, Testing & Tracking (Sherman, 2013)

1. Conduct and apply research to target resources on predictable concentrations of harm from crime and disorder.
2. Conduct tests of police methods to help choose what works best to reduce harm.
3. Once police use research to target their tested practices, we will track the daily delivery and effects of those practices.

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Crime prevention and community engagement are inextricably linked.

Collective Efficacy refers to the degree to which you trust your neighbors to provide a sense of safety, and to intervene if something problematic happens. Areas of higher efficacy have lower crime rates.

Social Cohesion is the “sense of community” shared by individuals in a neighborhood.

Increased CE and SC together compound the effectiveness of crime prevention.

Community Policing IMPROVES both of these.

The overarching goal of the BCJI grant is to improve community safety by comprehensive approaches to crime within a targeted neighborhood as part of a broader strategy of neighborhood revitalization.

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THE IMPROVE MODEL (Uchida, Swatt, Solomon, Varano, 2013)

- Investigate the Problem
- Micro-target the Intervention
- Provide Space (Targeting Hot Spots)
- Restore Anchor Points (Revitalization)
- Organize the Community
- Encourage Volunteerism
- Evaluate

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The Walking Beat – Policing Through Engagement

- Research shows that walking beats are effective when targeting particular hotspots, as opposed to random foot patrols (Sherman, 2013).
- Increased visibility of police acts as an overall deterrence to crime (Ratcliffe, Taniguchi, Groff and Wood, 2011).
- Foot patrols improve the community’s perception of police and significantly reduce fear of crime (Kellin, 1981).
- Data will be collected on crime reduction, displacement, community engagement and overall collective efficacy.

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Targeted Policing and Engagement – Residential Strategies

- All three hotspots have a concentration of multi-unit apartment complexes from four-plexes to larger 100+ units.
- The majority of residents in these units are recent immigrants, Hispanic and non-English speakers. There is a high degree of turnover in residents in these units.
- Persistent criminal activity is occurring in and around these units.
- Many families with young children live in the units.
- Currently, the residents of these complexes are not engaged in the planning and revitalization processes.
- Police strategy for these units is to build capacity through organizing stakeholders including landlords, residents and community partners to address criminal activity, physical issues and needed social services.
- In addition, community engagement in these areas includes building neighborhood empowerment to find and train leaders within to support ongoing development.

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Increasing Capacity – Complementary Social Services

- The Hispanic population is the largest ethnic group in the Rundberg area.
- In the hotspots, this population is the majority of residents.
- Children, ages birth to 9, are the fastest growing age demographic and approximately 30% of Rundberg residents are under the age of 17.
- There is a need in the hotspots to create safe places for children and young people to develop and thrive.
- Research shows that prolonged exposure to crime creates trauma that can impact a child’s life trajectory (Wood et al., 2002).
- Social services are a necessary component of place-based policing.
- As our capacity builds, social service partners will be engaged to help determine appropriate complementary outreach, specifically focused on youth and community-oriented programming (i.e., restorative justice).

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Next Steps – BCJI Grant

- APD will submit an implementation plan and a research report to the Department of Justice the first week of December.
- This plan allows for ongoing community input and engagement on key components, including the crime prevention strategies and social service programming.
- On December 12th, we will attend another Rundberg Revitalization team meeting which will include a panel discussion with the North Lamar neighborhood.
- We will discuss our research report at this meeting.

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Ongoing Data Collection & Analysis

- Over the next several months and into the spring of 2014, the research team will continue to collect data in the targeted hotspots.
- We will also track the crime prevention initiatives and their impact on crime and community engagement.
- We will work with our DOJ technical assistance partners to develop strategies to engage community members in our targeted hotspots (immigrant and non-English speakers) and increase capacity to improve police relationships and empower new community leaders.

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