



SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Focused Area Emphasis Pilot Project

The Spokane Police Department is committed to serving our community through effective, efficient, and unbiased policing. This mission invites opportunities for innovation and therefore, we are proud to announce the launch of a pilot project aimed at reducing crimes and calls for service through proactive policing. This pilot project, titled Focused Area Emphasis, will utilize existing resources to patrol areas with historically high levels of property crime and quality of life calls for service compared to the rest of the city. Through these efforts, based on success in other cities, we anticipate reductions in crime in these Focused Area Emphasis locations. If the pilot project is a success in 2012, we will expand efforts in 2013 to further reduce crime in Spokane.

Background

The Focused Area Emphasis project will change how officers currently use their proactive time in between response to 911 calls. Criminologists and other agencies across the country have studied the concept of chronic problem places, or hot spots. These problem places often account for a preponderance of calls for service and crime in a community over a multi-year period. Problem places are defined as a single street segment or block, or a combination of localized street blocks (2-3 blocks). In a 1986 study in Minneapolis they found that 50% of the crime occurred at just 3.5% of the street addresses. A review of Seattle police calls from 1989 to 2002 revealed that 1,500 street segments accounted for 50% of the crime; over that same time frame, 6,108 offenders were responsible for 50% of the crime.¹

Initial analysis of select Spokane calls for service from 2005 through June 2011 show that of the 17,000 street segments with a recorded incident,² 6.5% of those accounted for 50% of the calls. Rather than conducting random patrols throughout the city to deter criminal activity, applying specific emphasis to these problem places, or focused areas, should have immediate significant impact to reducing crime and calls for service in those chronic problem areas. Research also indicates there are diminishing returns after 15 minutes is spent in a focused area.³ Therefore, with minimal impact to our scarce resources, the Spokane Police Department will be able to address these focused areas by scheduling random patrols in these areas during officers' available proactive time. This simple concept can be summarized as "work smarter, not harder." By ensuring officers are present in areas with clearly demonstrated higher rates of crime, there is increased likelihood of catching offenders in that act, or deterring them from committing crime in the first place.

In cities where similar initiatives have been launched, communities did experience a decrease in crime and calls for service in the emphasis areas. A 2011 pilot project in Sacramento saw a decrease in Part I UCR crimes by 25% in their 42 emphasis areas; calls for service decreased by

¹ Braga, A.A. & Weisburd, D.L. (2010). *Policing Problem Places*. Oxford University Press, New York.

² Please see Appendix A for a list of call types used and Appendix B for the Top 50 locations.

³ Braga & Weisburd (2010), Pp.60



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8%.⁴ This was accomplished through police presence in 11-15 minutes increments for approximately 2 hours per day. Philadelphia launched a foot beat emphasis project for 60 violent crime problem locations in 2009. The result was a 23% decrease in crimes in these target areas.⁵ The data supports success in Spokane as well.

One final note; there is displacement of crime from the emphasis areas. In other words, the criminals do not stop committing crimes. They simply change the location in which they commit them. This can be displaced over a diffused area, or to another centralized, target-rich location. If the 2012 pilot project is successful in reducing crimes in the focused emphasis areas, the expanded efforts in 2013 will tackle any centralized locations where displacement may have occurred. For diffused displacement, we continue to encourage crime prevention techniques to make property less attractive to criminals (securing property out of sight, locking doors and windows, proper lighting, etc) and will continue to utilize our Patrol Anti-Crime Teams (PACT), Targeted Crimes Unit detectives (TCU), and Crime Analysis to focus on those prolific offenders responsible for these crimes. However, it is our long-term vision that over several years we can drive these offenders out of Spokane due to the success of our proactive policing efforts such as Focused Area Emphasis and the Repeat Offender Program (ROP).

Locations and Project Implementation

Based on the success experienced in other cities, we reviewed calls for service data for the call types listed in Appendix A for the time frame of 2005 through June 30, 2011. Please see Appendix B for a breakdown of the top 50 locations by 100-block level for this calls for service data. With the exception of a few addresses, Spokane is comparable to the research cities in that the majority of locations were consistent in the average demand for service from year to year.

A committee was formed to review the data and make a determination of the viability of a Focused Area Emphasis project in Spokane. This committee reviewed the data and determined a pilot project with a North and South location would be advisable for the first year. After consideration, the committee decided the North location for 2012 would be the 8400 block of N. Nevada, which is the second highest location in the city for the time frame reviewed for property crimes.⁶ A second North location that also experiences a high rate of property crimes was selected as a control location. This location will not receive any extra law enforcement attention in 2012, but will be measured for control purposes to determine the validity of focused patrols at the pilot location of 8400 N. Nevada.

The committee determined that for the South location, one street block would not suffice. Instead the committee chose the gateway to the City as an area to receive extra police presence in 2012: the Division corridor from 3rd to 1st between Pine and McClellan. This area experiences more quality of life issues that property crimes, but as can be seen in Appendix B, the preponderance of these calls as well as property and violent crimes for the entire city occur in this

⁴ Stroud, M. (2011). "Fighting Crime in an Era of Belt-Tightening." www.theatlanticcities.com.

⁵ *The Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment – Research Brief*. January 17, 2011. Temple University

⁶ See Appendix B.



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area. As with the North location, a similar sized area with similar calls for service was selected as a control group for South Spokane.

Patrol officers assigned to the precincts that these Focused Emphasis Areas fall in will be expected to spend 10-15 minutes per shift engaged in proactive policing in their emphasis area. Efforts will be documented for analysis. For the South location, Patrol will also work with the Downtown Resource Officers to engage in problem-oriented policing techniques, such as pedestrian contacts, to address the quality of life issues (such as panhandling and lewd conduct). While we believe police presence in this area will reduce crime and some calls for service, we anticipate some difficulties in completely resolving issues as the Municipal Code for the City of Spokane is deficient in some areas, thereby denying law enforcement the ability to make an impact. However, we hope that by documenting our efforts, we will be able to provide elected officials with the data they need to support changes to our current Municipal Code.

Though we believe the Spokane Police Department can make an impact in reducing crime in these areas, it cannot go without mention that the majority of the locations with chronic property crimes are large apartment complexes. Additionally, some of these apartment complexes are also on the Top 50 list for combined crime and quality of life calls. The Spokane Police Department is dedicated to finding and implementing solutions, but many of the quality of life calls require partnerships between property management and law enforcement. Police presence will have limited effect on these types of calls occurring behind closed doors of residences; law enforcement typically only can respond after the fact as opposed to preventing incidents. Therefore, Spokane Police Command Staff will engage in building partnerships with property owners to develop long-term solutions. This includes promoting the Spokane C.O.P.S. Crime-Free Multi Housing (CFMH) program.

The Focused Area Emphasis project will go live Sunday, April 1st. This will provide nine months of data for analysis. Calls for service data will be compiled monthly and will compare calls in the two pilot areas, the two control areas, and citywide to data from both the prior year and to the five year average. This data will assist in measuring whether the Focused Area Emphasis project had the desired effect of reducing crime and calls for service, or if a decrease was happenstance (similar decreases occurred in control areas and/or citywide).

Conclusion

The Spokane Police Department believes that in conjunction with our other proactive units, such as PACT, TCU, and Crime Analysis, the Focused Area Emphasis project will have a positive impact on reducing crime in our city. We welcome the opportunity to partner with the business and property owners as well as the citizens living and working in one of the Focused Area Emphasis locations. It is through these partnerships we will be able to develop long-term solutions to crime reduction and improving our community. Please visit the Spokane Police Department website (www.spokanepolice.org) regularly throughout the year to view updates on the Focused Area Emphasis and our efforts to keep our citizens safe.



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Appendix A

The following call types were used to assess the chronic problem places for law enforcement in Spokane. Our focus was on property and violent crime as well as quality of life calls; please note that *Shoplifting* was excluded from consideration due to the preponderance of these calls at several chain stores in the community.

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Alarm, Commercial | Noise |
| Alarm, Hold-up | Panhandling |
| Alarm, Unknown | Party |
| Argument | Pedestrian Violation |
| Assault | Person Bothering |
| Burglary, Commercial | Person with a Weapon |
| Burglary, Garage | Prostitution |
| Burglary, Residential | Robbery |
| Carjacking | Robbery, Bank |
| Detox | Robbery, Commercial |
| Disorderly Conduct | Suspicious Person |
| Drugs | Theft |
| Fight | Trouble Unknown |
| Graffiti | Trespassing |
| Lewd Conduct | Unwanted Guest |
| Liquor Violation | Vehicle Prowling |
| Malicious Mischief | Vehicle Theft |
| Neighborhood Dispute | Welfare Check |



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Appendix B

Below are the Top 50 Locations by 100 Block in the City of Spokane for the calls for service detailed in Appendix A. The locations are sorted by the grand total, but for the majority of the addresses, this table documents the historical, chronic nature of calls for service to these locations.

Top 50 Blocks Appendix A Calls	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (thru June)	Total
4700 N DIVISION ST	395	461	454	455	361	393	202	2721
200 E WEDGEWOOD AV	179	201	216	172	199	160	76	1203
200 W 1ST AV	159	143	182	185	200	179	138	1186
100 S DIVISION ST	149	243	267	153	116	121	73	1122
100 W 8TH AV	170	159	162	145	192	178	114	1120
700 W RIVERSIDE AV	116	118	143	185	197	208	114	1081
1600 W NORTHWEST BL	121	185	147	80	155	210	98	996
1100 W MALLON AV	124	147	134	155	176	149	92	977
400 W SPRAGUE AV	179	84	118	134	143	146	74	878
0 W PACIFIC AV	160	167	147	91	90	113	77	845
3900 N MARKET ST	194	190	145	88	64	80	58	819
100 S MADISON ST	267	207	158	67	40	25	25	789
400 E MAGNESIUM RD	86	80	136	92	149	177	67	787
900 W 3RD AV	81	121	199	160	82	86	58	787
5600 N LIDGERWOOD ST	95	86	129	119	145	127	67	768
9200 N COLTON ST	47	74	125	117	119	171	111	764
600 W SPOKANE FALLS BL	76	118	130	103	175	113	44	759
200 S POST ST	123	151	138	112	89	88	50	751
0 E 3RD AV	72	151	159	117	119	58	38	714
500 W 3RD AV	75	120	137	106	93	101	71	703
800 W 5TH AV	112	108	114	95	110	96	55	690
7000 N COLTON ST	71	109	104	94	146	98	65	687
800 W MAIN AV	63	108	89	105	120	124	69	678
100 S WASHINGTON ST	118	104	104	92	97	107	45	667
1500 E ILLINOIS AV	89	112	78	49	111	160	65	664

Top 50 Blocks Continued Appendix A Calls	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (thru June)	Total
2300 W WELLESLEY AV	74	84	110	80	111	144	56	659
400 S MAPLE ST	97	92	90	95	106	116	52	648
200 W RIVERSIDE AV	59	58	71	65	122	191	44	610
1700 N DIVISION ST	80	64	75	100	119	118	41	597
100 N BERNARD ST	58	87	53	46	150	132	69	595
200 W SPRAGUE AV	63	67	47	76	92	164	80	589
900 E MISSION AV	75	96	101	79	82	95	44	572
7900 N DIVISION ST	67	79	60	57	43	180	82	568
100 E WEDGEWOOD AV	99	93	87	86	52	83	30	530
400 S THOR ST	76	58	80	74	77	102	63	530
8400 N NEVADA ST	57	92	81	62	88	89	58	527
2000 N HAMILTON ST	47	77	89	74	66	104	64	521
2300 E EUCLID AV	102	81	133	70	57	44	32	519
500 W SINTO AV	106	74	97	70	77	72	22	518
1200 E WESTVIEW CT	53	77	91	79	71	100	22	493
500 E FRANCIS AV	90	66	69	67	61	91	45	489
6600 N ADDISON ST	68	67	53	53	60	125	63	489
3600 W KIERNAN AV	123	121	54	99	45	39	1	482
6600 N DIVISION ST	80	54	67	76	66	103	35	481
200 S DIVISION ST	47	119	126	75	56	29	26	478
5500 N DIVISION ST	54	77	64	97	71	74	33	470
200 N HOWARD ST	33	94	73	61	114	73	21	469
500 W 2ND AV	58	58	73	49	61	115	45	459
700 E HARTSON AV	68	49	105	103	62	64	8	459
200 W SPOKANE FALLS BL	54	60	48	102	92	78	24	458

The following table documents the Top 20 locations in the city for reported Property Crimes (burglary, vehicle prowling, vehicle theft, and malicious mischief).

Property Crime Calls	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 (thru June)	Total
4700 N DIVISION ST	83	96	106	87	81	82	57	592
8400 N NEVADA ST	34	60	51	34	48	52	40	319
200 E WEDGEWOOD AV	47	39	42	28	31	35	15	237
7000 N COLTON ST	24	30	32	24	27	31	18	186
1700 E LINCOLN RD	18	14	19	36	45	36	15	183
7800 N MORTON ST	21	26	20	27	39	41	5	179
400 E MAGNESIUM RD	23	33	34	25	28	23	9	175
1000 E COZZA DR	25	23	25	30	28	25	15	171
4100 W FORT GEORGE WRIGHT DR	17	23	36	22	26	29	10	163
1000 E SHARPSBURG AV	20	20	25	15	38	30	12	160
1800 N GREENE ST	11	21	33	16	22	36	17	156
9200 N COLTON ST	15	27	23	22	14	30	25	156
0 W 21ST AV	12	10	26	58	19	15	8	148
1100 W MALLON AV	21	20	21	20	24	25	15	146
2300 E EUCLID AV	36	22	35	19	18	8	7	145
100 W 8TH AV	26	23	20	24	20	18	7	138
2100 W RIVERSIDE AV	15	26	20	19	9	27	10	126
8800 N COLTON ST	9	16	19	8	31	32	11	126
6600 N ADDISON ST	27	17	14	15	10	25	17	125
100 E WEDGEWOOD AV	24	21	19	11	18	22	9	124