



# A Robbery Reduction Initiative: Place and Offender Based Policing

*Cincinnati Police Department*

September 19, 2012

# Cincinnati, Ohio - SMART Policing Initiative

## ❖ PROJECT GOAL:

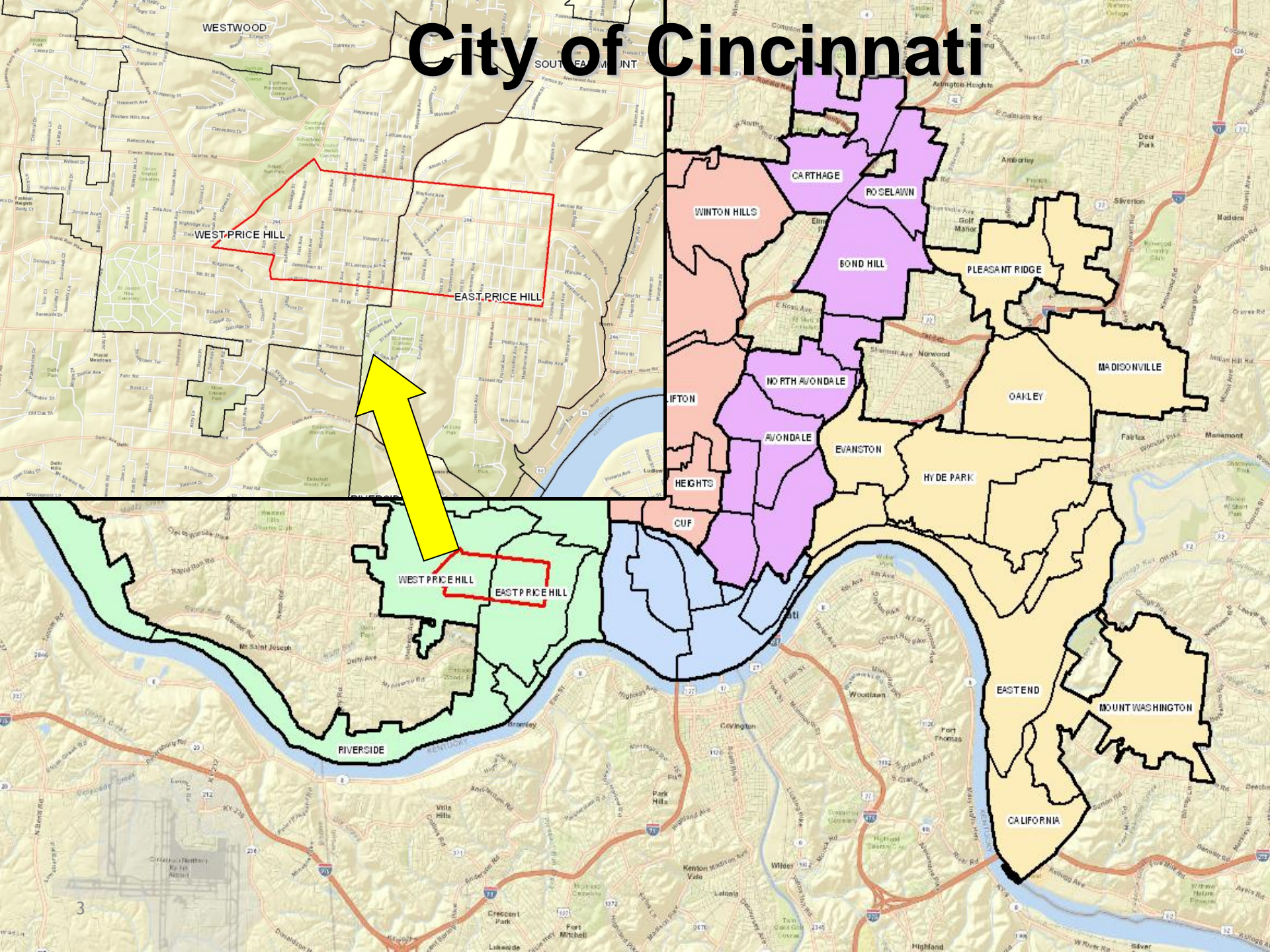
- ❖ Reduce robberies in the target area
  - ❖ Conduct SMART analysis of robbery problem along the Warsaw/Glenway corridor
  - ❖ Develop SMART solutions to robbery problem
  - ❖ Conduct SMART evaluation of intervention

## Collaborative Partnerships:

University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice Researchers  
Hamilton County Probation Department  
Ohio Adult Parole Authority  
Campbell Delong Resources, Inc.  
City of Cincinnati Code Enforcement Response Team  
Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office  
Private Landlords and Business Owners  
Neighborhood Based Organizations



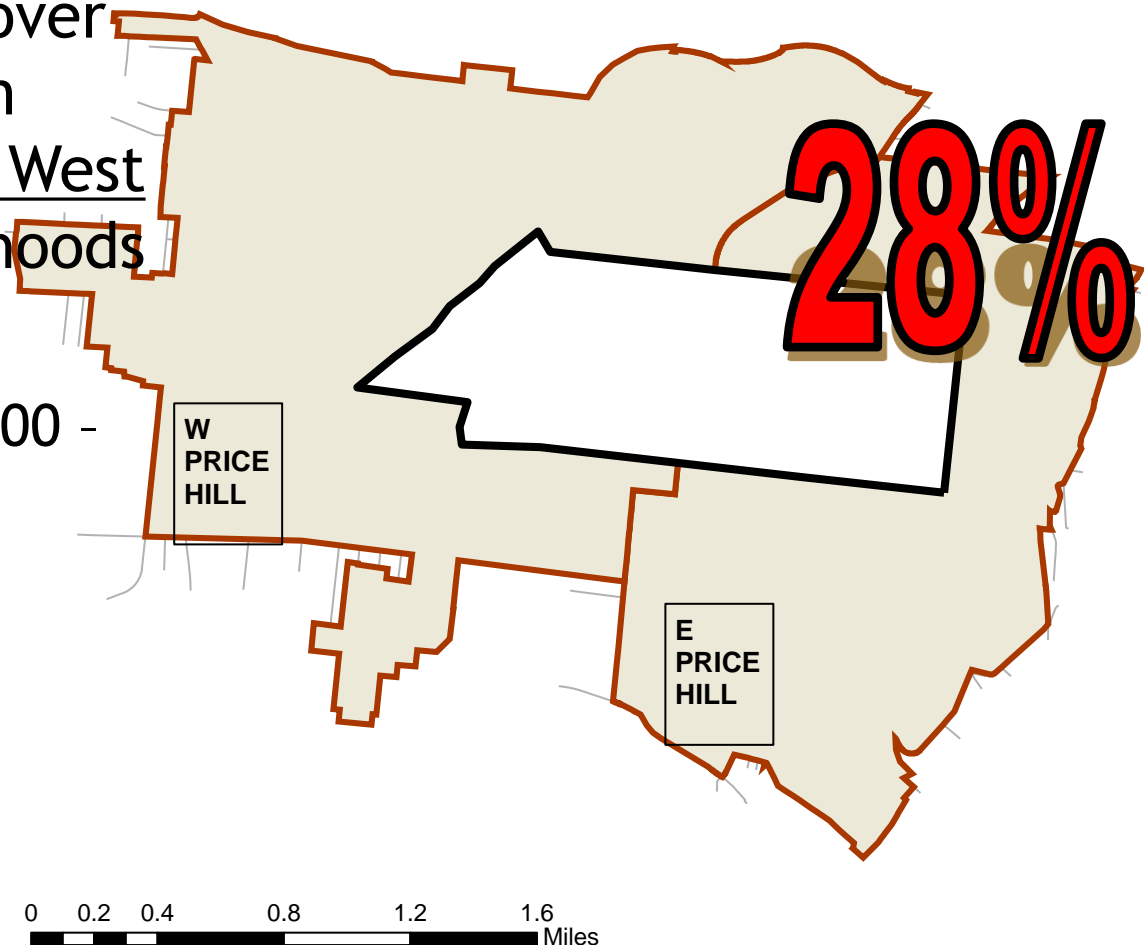
# City of Cincinnati



# Problem Statement

- ❖ A chronic robbery problem unfolded over the past 10 years in Cincinnati's East & West Price Hill neighborhoods

- ❖ 133% increase (2000 - 2009)





# Robberies Warsaw Corridor 2000-2009



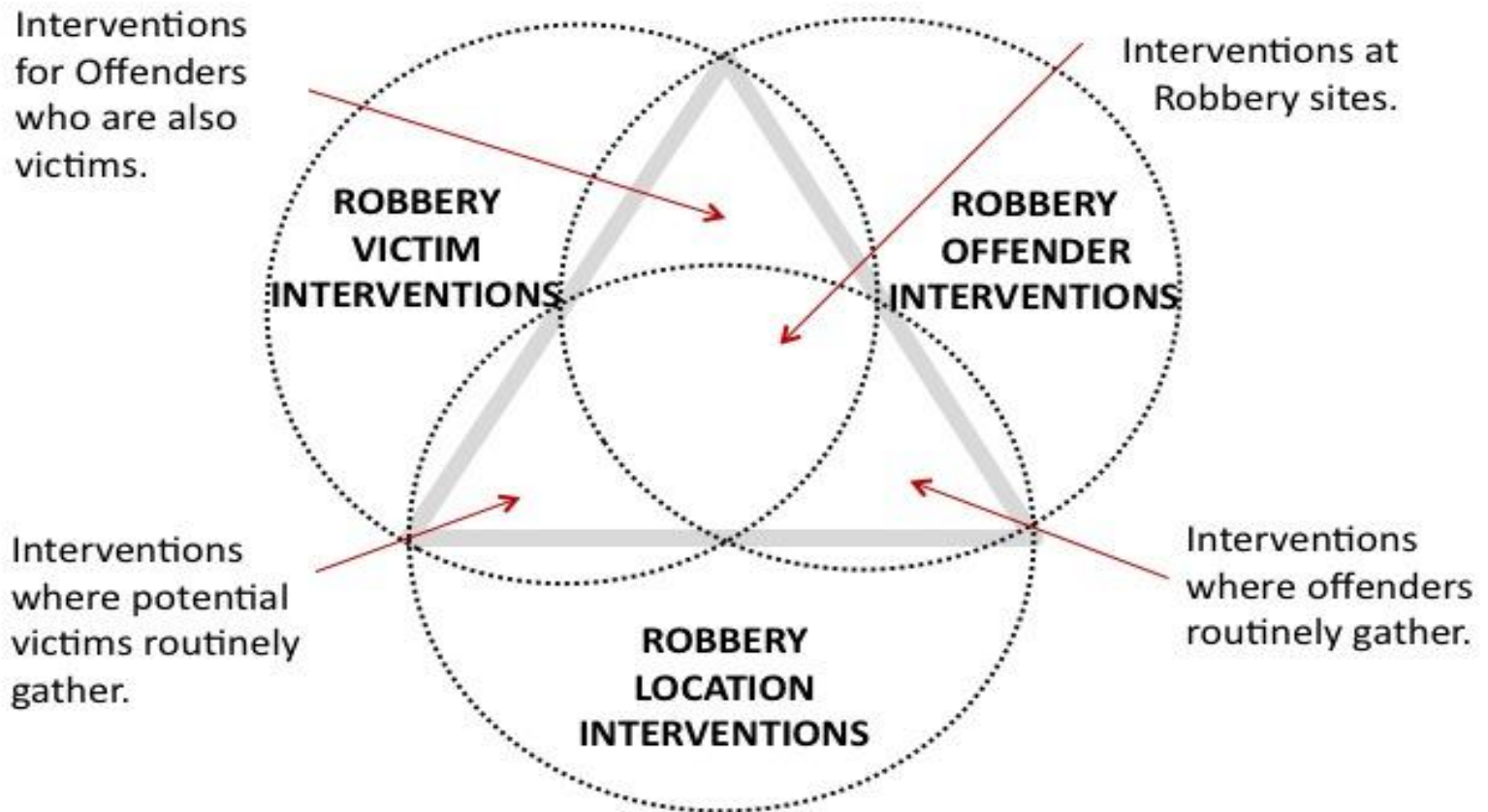
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

# Robberies Warsaw Corridor Jan-Oct 2010



0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

## Attacking the Street Robbery Problem from all Three Sides of the Crime Triangle allows the CPD to Develop Anti-Robbery Interventions for Each Side and the Overlaps.

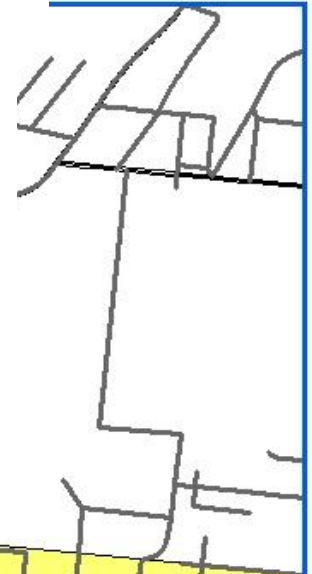


Adapted from: Eck 2003 and [www.popcenter.org](http://www.popcenter.org)



## Ronnie Rocket AKA "Pay Day"

- DOB 8/6/1990
- Resides at 1027 Woodlawn Av Cincinnati, OH
- 2 Robbery Convictions
- Pending Cases:
  - Aggravated Robbery-Armed
  - Aggravated Robbery-Caused Harm
  - Robbery
  - Felonious Assault
  - Retaliation



Recording from jail telephone call from Ronnie Rocket to his girlfriend :

*"I was just thinking like, man that was some crazy shit how the fuck I walk down the street and rob everybody I see."* 

**Legend**

**Crime**

-  Aggravated Robbery
-  Domestic Violence
-  Theft
-  Home
-  Target Area



St Lawrence Av

Warsaw Av

Elberon Av

Grand Av

# Offender Based Focus

- ❖ Address crime by focusing efforts & resources on the people committing crimes
  - ❖ Offenders were identified & interviewed
  - ❖ Offenders on some type of community supervision (i.e. parole & probation) were identified
  - ❖ An i2 analysis of robbery offenses vs. offender addresses was conducted
  - ❖ Home visits conducted with a CIRV message
- ❖ **GOAL: Intervene where offenders routinely gather to prevent future robberies**



# Types of Robbery Offenses

- ❖ “Jack Boys”
  - ❖ Victim is a street dealer & suspect targets victim because he is known to carry large amounts of cash & drugs. Victim is unlikely to call police
- ❖ “Drug Seeker”
  - ❖ Victim is attempting to buy drugs from street level dealers. The dealer detects some opportunity or weakness during the transaction
- ❖ “Single Target vs. Multiple Suspects”
  - ❖ The victim is alone & is observed by several subjects, loitering. The group assaults the victim & takes the victim’s property as an afterthought
- ❖ “Predatory Offender”
  - ❖ A motivated offender seeks out a suitable target in the absence of capable guardians.

## *What did we ask? (Offender Interviews)*

- ❖ Have *you* ever been a victim of a robbery or other crimes?
- ❖ Do you hang out with people who commit robberies?
- ❖ Where do you live?
  - ❖ What other addresses do you use?
- ❖ Are you currently under/have you ever been under any form of community supervision?
- ❖ What do you expect to gain from robbery?.

## *What did we ask? (Continued)*

- ❖ Why did you decide to commit a robbery vs. another crime?
- ❖ How do you select your target?
- ❖ What do you do after a robbery?
- ❖ Did you expect to be caught?
- ❖ Do you ever do anything to avoid being caught?

# *What did they say?*

- ❖ All of the respondents declared having been involved in other crimes aside from robbery
  - ❖ 62% stated this was not their first robbery
- ❖ Street level robberies are gang initiation crime
  - ❖ Many of the initiation crimes were directed toward food delivery services
- ❖ 4 out of 5 offenders are currently or had been under community supervision
- ❖ 75% of offenders surveyed reported being a victim in the past



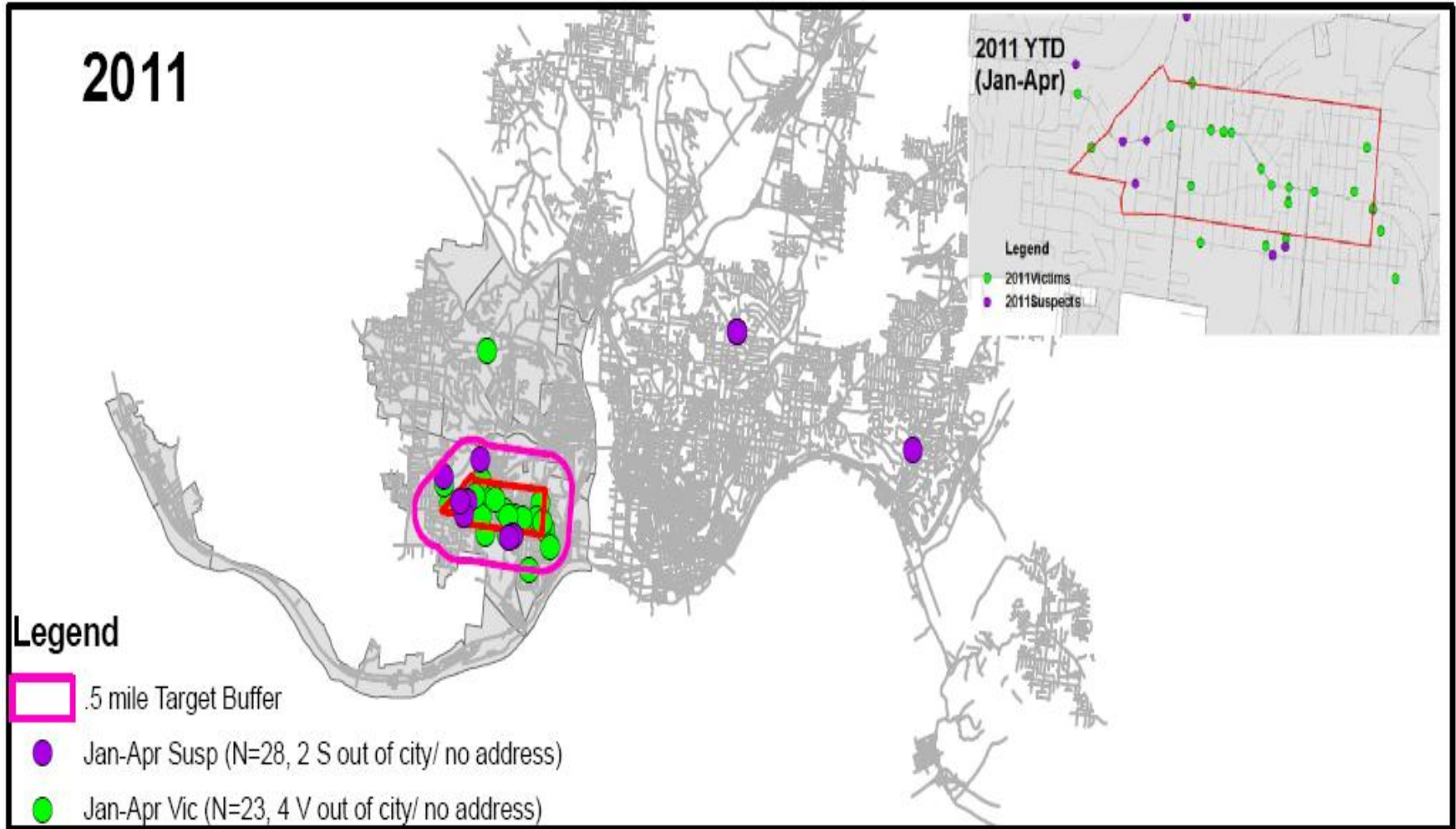
## *Victim Interviews...what did we ask?*

- ❖ Did you carry a weapon for protection when you were robbed?
- ❖ Are you fearful of being robbed on GlenwayWarsaw?
- ❖ Did you know who robbed you?
- ❖ What were you doing before the robbery happened?
- ❖ At the time of the robbery, were you involved in any kind of criminal activity? (i.e. buying drugs)

## *What did they say?*

- ❖ Most respondents explained that the robbery occurred while they walked from work to home, school to work, or shopping to home.
  - ❖ Only 5 mentioned incidents happening while involved in some type of risky behavior
- ❖ Many of the robbery incidents were linked to the victim's use of public transportation

# Where do Offenders say they live?



# City of Cincinnati Landlord Training Seminar

*"I would recommend this course to all landlords."*

*"The quality of neighborhoods in Cincinnati would greatly improve if everyone took this class."*

Written comments from recent trainees



city of  
CINCINNATI



COMMUNITY POLICE  
PARTNERING CENTER

Supporting communities in problem solving.

United  
Way



Dear Madam or Sir:

Our records indicate that you own or manage rental property in Cincinnati, Ohio. Because of the problems associated with chronic nuisance and drug activity in rental housing, we are writing to you and other rental owners to invite you to a seminar, the Landlord Training Program, on how landlords and property managers can keep illegal activity out of their units. To date, thousands of landlords and property managers have attended the Landlord Training Program in other areas of the country. Now that the program is being offered for landlords in your neighborhood, we urge you to take advantage of it.

This program is part of an effort to stop chronic nuisance and drug activity in residential neighborhoods. While we use the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance (Chapter 761 – Cincinnati Municipal Code) and Permitting Drug Abuse (Chapter 911.5 – Cincinnati Municipal Code) to fine owners and close property in cases where the landlord has allowed nuisance activity to occur and drug dealing, distribution, or manufacturing on the property, we would prefer to work with landlords to ensure that problems never reach this level. Landlords who use techniques from the Landlord Training Program tell us the rewards outweigh the costs, and include the following:

- A stabilized, more satisfied tenant base, with increased demand for rentals.
- Lower maintenance and repair costs.
- Improved property values.
- Improved level of personal safety for both tenants and neighbors.
- Peace of mind from spending less time on crisis control.

Reactions from people who have taken this course have been very positive. Landlords tell us that the course provided them with new screening techniques and helped them deal successfully with tenants involved in illegal activity. A recent survey indicates that more than 90 percent of landlords who attend the training make changes in the way they manage their property as a result of the program. The program is also an effective community policing tool.

Your attendance is encouraged.

Thank you,

*Milton R. Dohoney Jr.*  
Milton R. Dohoney Jr.  
City Manager, City of Cincinnati

*James E. Craig*  
James E. Craig  
Police Chief, City of Cincinnati

SMART  
POLICING

Data. Analysis. Solutions.



BJA  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice



# Lessons Learned

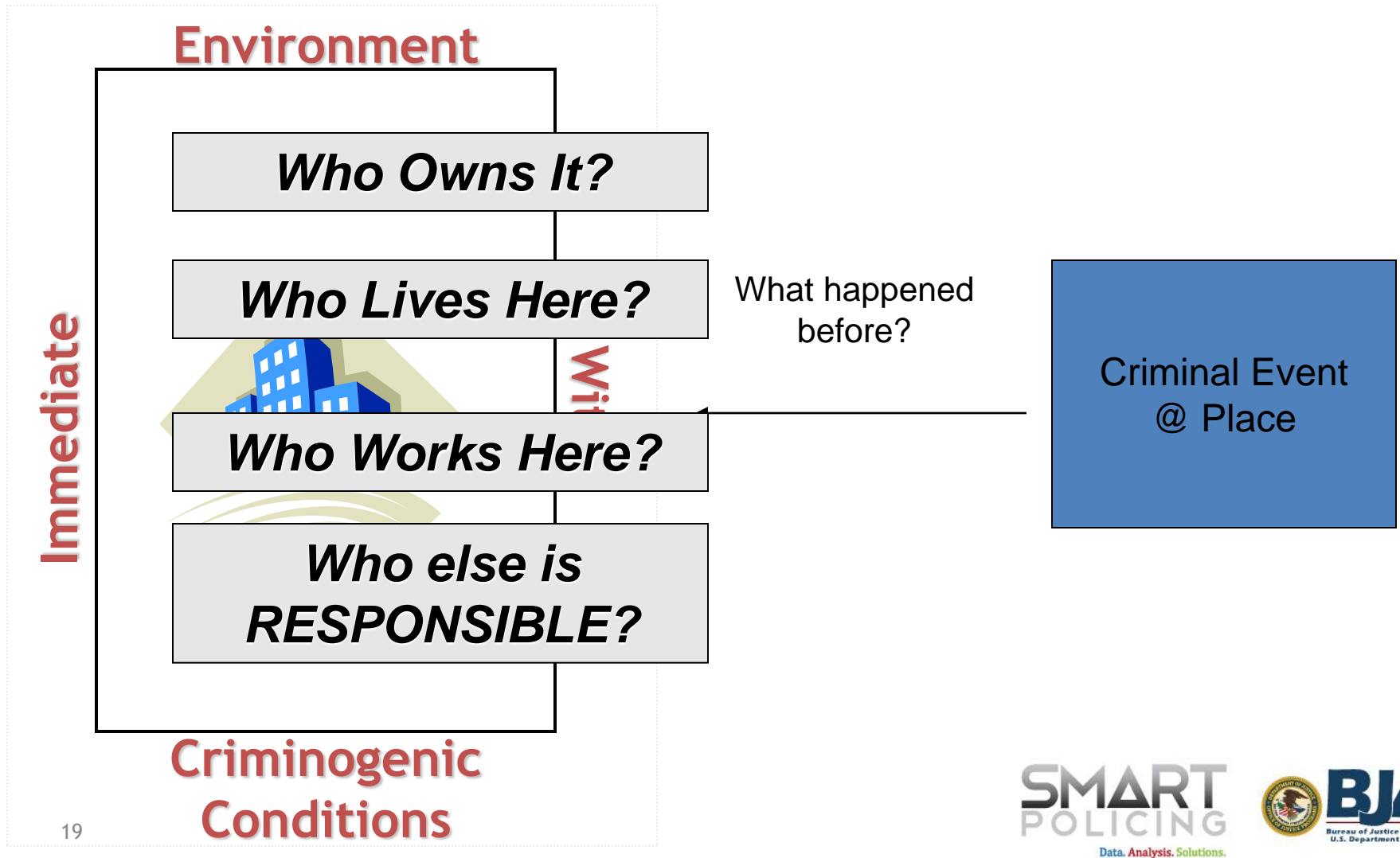
- ❖ A lot of information was gleaned from conducting interviews
- ❖ Seemed to be no robbery offender network
- ❖ Our probation department does not verify addresses - probation makes offenders come to them
- ❖ Data

# Place Based Focus

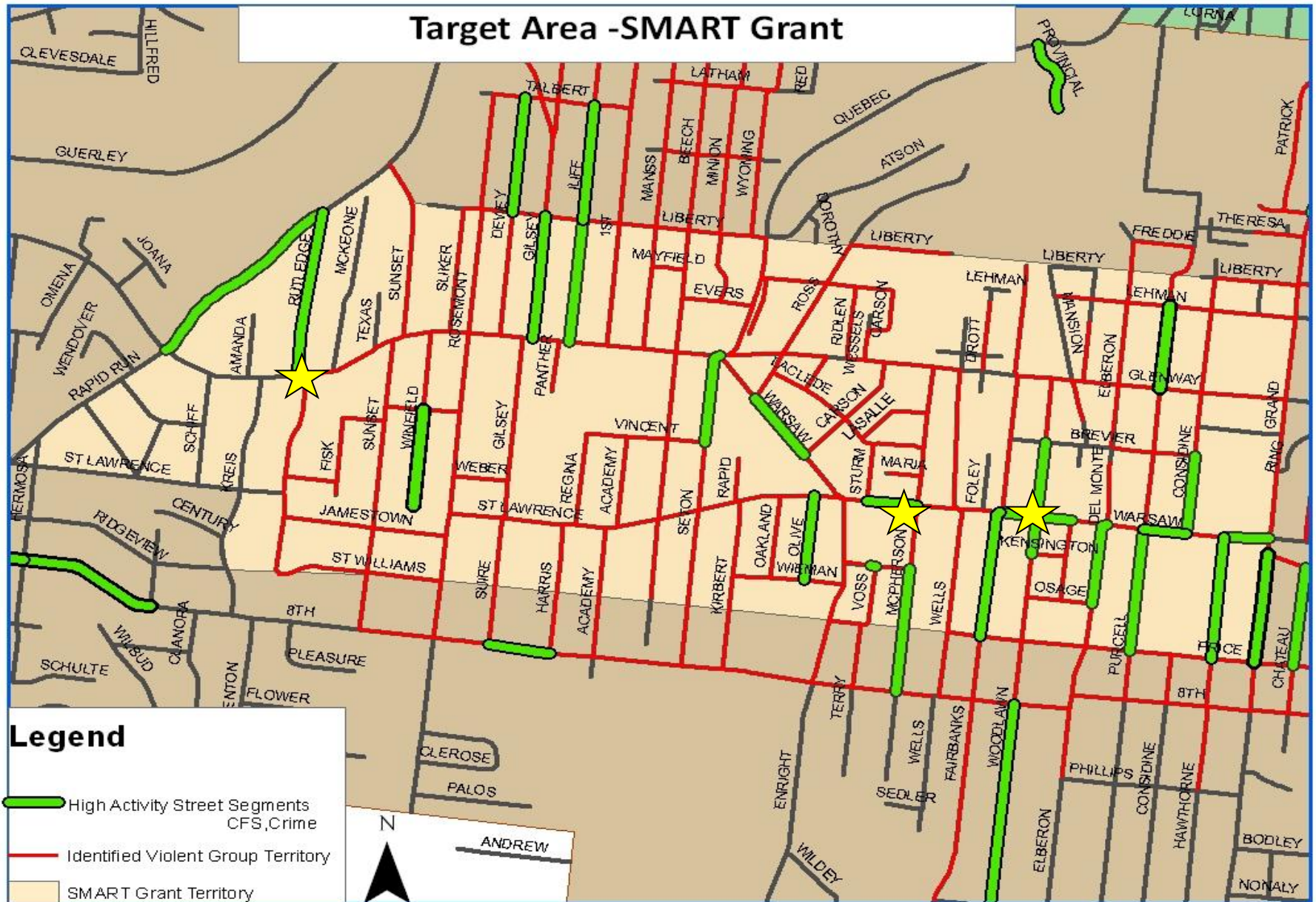
- ❖ Growing trend across many police agencies to utilize minimal resources more efficiently by focusing on place...the side of the triangle that doesn't move
  - ❖ The police response is to identify & change the underlying conditions that make places attractive for crime
- ❖ GOAL
  - ❖ Engage businesses in the target area to collectively change the environment

# “Wheredunit, instead of Whodunit?”

(Weisburd, 2008)



# Target Area -SMART Grant





# CRIME PREVENTION IN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL ZONES

## East & West Price Hill Training



**Milton Dohoney, City Manager**  
**James E. Craig, Chief of Police**

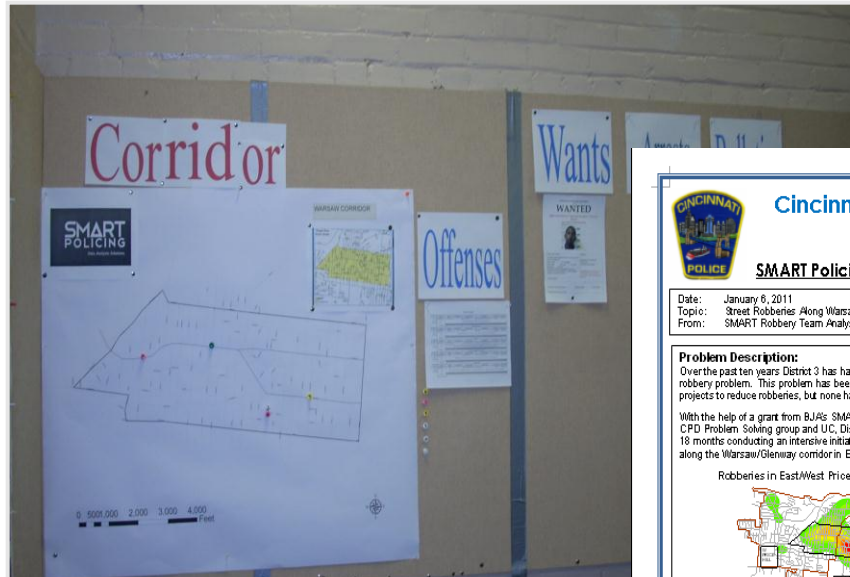
# Convergent Settings in the Target Area



# Lessons Learned

- ❖ Providing the training was easy, but the follow through by the business community was challenging
  - ❖ Civil remedies have to be addressed
- ❖ Convergent settings were identified
- ❖ Apathetic landlords
- ❖ Address verification

# What did we do?



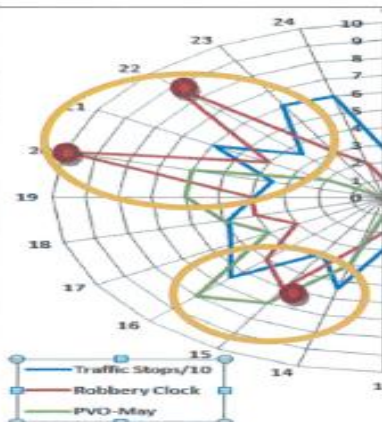
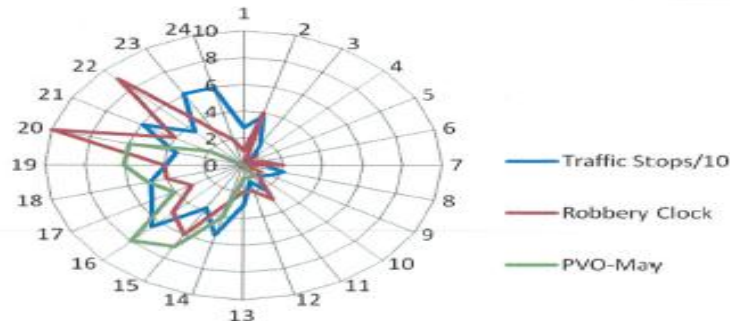
## Info Board

Cincinnati Police Department District 3 SMART Policing Robbery Reduction Initiative	
<p><b>Date:</b> January 6, 2011  <b>Topic:</b> Street Robberies Along Warsaw/Glenway  <b>From:</b> SMART Robbery Team Analysts (White, B...</p> <p><b>Problem Description:</b>            Over the past ten years District 3 has had a persistent robbery problem. This problem has been the focus of projects to reduce robberies, but none have had long term success. With the help of a grant from BJA's SMART Policing CPD Problem Solving group and UC, District 3 will spend 18 months conducting an intensive initiative to reduce robberies in East/West Price Hill (2000-2...</p> <p><b>Recommended Response:</b>            As the project progresses officers working in the target area where robberies are occurring. Additionally, officers will be trained in actions that may make them more likely to be targeted (being aware of surroundings). As targeted responses are developed by the project in the target area. During the initial phase of the project (Jan 2011) documented on a RIR card which will be processed by intelligence.</p> <p><b>Contacts:</b>            Any officers with information contact Detectives</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> January 20, 2011  <b>Topic:</b> Street Robberies Along Warsaw/Glenway Corridor  <b>From:</b> SMART Robbery Team Analysts (White, Byers, G...</p> <p><b>Problem Description:</b>  <b>12/13/10 0647hrs @ 3021 Warsaw Av</b>  <b>UDF -Presented note, implied gun &amp; takes money</b>  <b>12/15/10 1727hrs @ 977 Hawthorne</b>  <b>@ Domino's -Presented note, implied gun &amp; takes money</b>  <b>12/16/10 0845hrs @ 3715 St. Lawrence Av- @ St. Lawrence Bakery- Present note, implied gun, &amp; takes money</b></p> <p><b>Recommended Response:</b>            None- Arrests Made</p>
<p><b>Date:</b> January 20, 2011  <b>Topic:</b> Street Robberies along Warsaw/Glenway Corridor  <b>From:</b> SMART Robbery Team Analysts (White, Byers, Gallagher)</p> <p><b>Problem Description:</b>  <b>Street Robberies near Kroger's at Warsaw Av &amp; Enright Av of incapacitated victims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1/15/11 2100 hrs 3 M/B's "20's" punched intoxicated male and took his money - 832 Enright Av</li> <li>1/17/11 1550 hrs 1 M/B "20's" asked for the time and wrestled phone from Hispanic-non English speaking victim waiting at bus stop and fled on foot @ 3420 Warsaw Av</li> <li>1/17/11 1915 hrs 2 M/B's "18" told wheelchair bound victim to give them everything he had at gun point. Subjects fled on foot when they heard sirens @ 828 Enright Av</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended Response:</b>            During the initial phase of the project (Jan 2011), all suspicious activity in the targeted area should be documented on a RIR card which will be processed by the crime analyst and returned to the officers as intelligence.</p>	<p><b>More Information:</b>  <b>K-9 tracked to 3708 Wieman Av from incident at 828 Enright Av, directly behind the Kroger Store. A BB Gun was recovered at that location.</b>  <b>Subjects are described as wearing Black Hoodies</b>  <b>Suspect descriptions listed on 301 include:</b>  <b>510/150</b>  <b>507/140-150</b>  <b>600/180</b></p>

## Pattern Bulletins



## Target Area Robbery Crime Clock



### Data: January – September 2011

The peak hours for robberies are from 2000 to 2200. PVO hours are high at the start of this period (2000), but then disappear. Traffic stops also occur around this period, but, as would be expected, are lower when robberies are at their highest.

The smaller robbery peak, around 1500 is covered by PVO hours and is also surrounding on either end by traffic stops.

**Target Area Robberies – 3 peaks: Small peak at 1500, High peak at 2200, Highest peak at 2000**

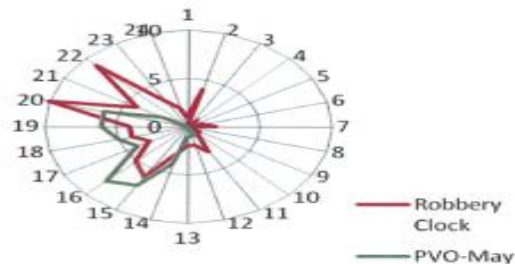
**Traffic Stops – Target area traffic stops by D3 officers. Data values divided by 10 to bring to scale with robberies and FIR hours**

- Several moderate peaks: Small peaks at 1400, 1800, Moderate peaks at 2100, 2300, 2400, Highest peak at 1600

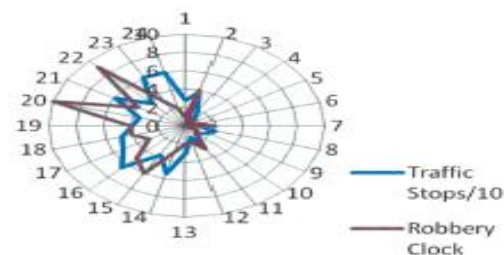
**PVO hours for the month of May (\*checking to see if hours have changed)**

• Moderate peaks at 1500, 1900, 2000, Highest peak at 1600

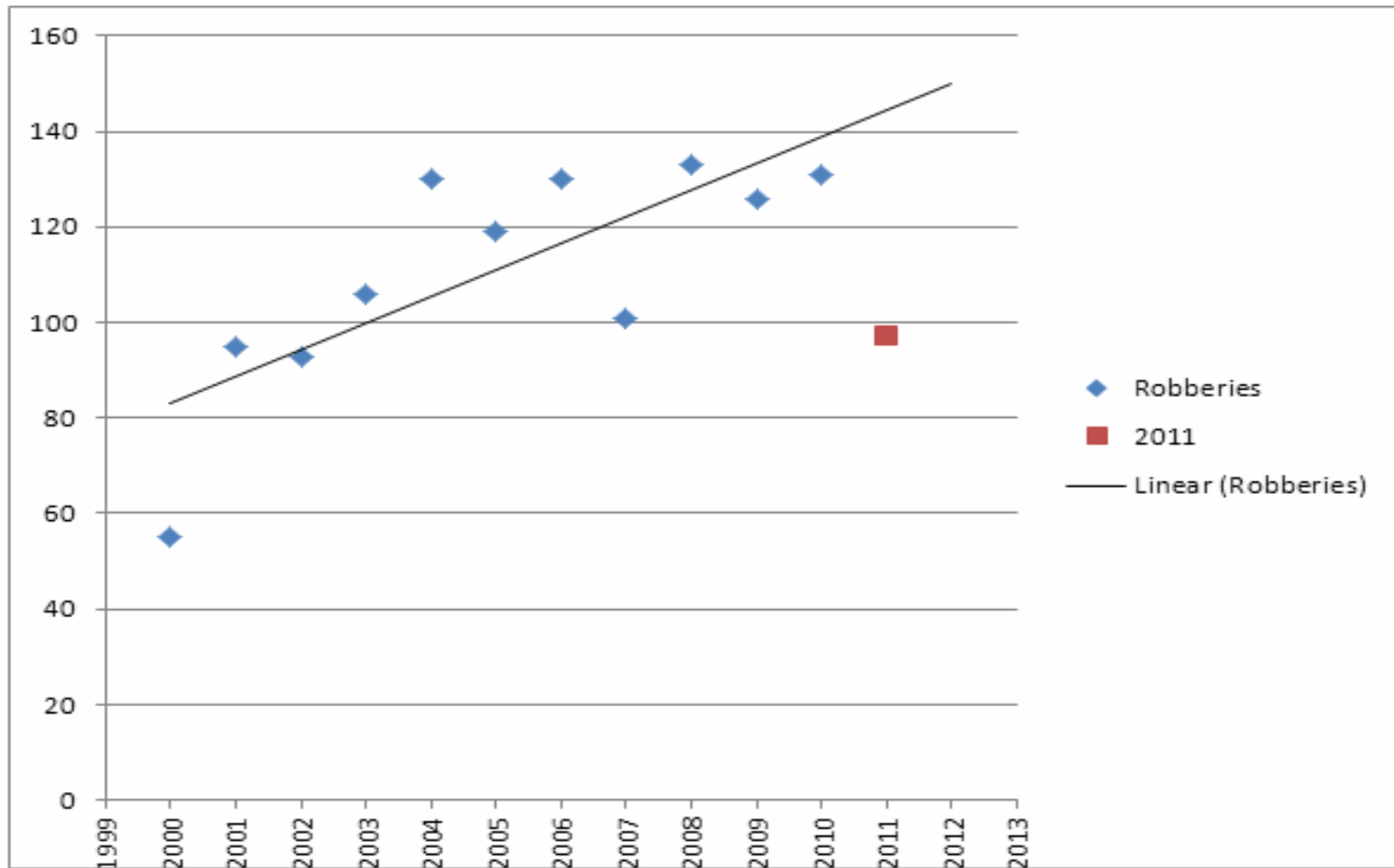
### Robbery and PVO hours



### Robbery and Traffic Stop hours



# Preliminary Results



# Plan, Policy, and S.O.P

1. Crime Pattern Bulletins will become the standard response to identified patterns, series, and sprees
2. A district S.O.P. on robbery and shooting offenses to include an interview to include their journey to crime
3. Exploration of pairing probation officers with police officers for home visits
4. Robbery offenses handled by the same investigator

# Plan, Policy, and S.O.P

5. District S.O.P. with robbery offender interview profile
6. Business crime prevention training conducted with the Problem Solving Group focusing on the businesses with the most calls for service prior to civil action.