

Make Tacoma *safe & clean*

Fact sheet
(Updated July 29, 2009)

Tacoma's Safe and Clean effort is driven by the first priority in the Tacoma City Council's strategic plan- that Tacoma is a safe, clean and attractive community. To reach these goals, City Manager Eric Anderson asked employees and community members to help to tackle two major challenges:

1. **Make Tacoma safer by reducing crime within the city by 50 percent**
2. **Make Tacoma cleaner by removing nuisances, debris and junk vehicles**

An initial group of 23 teams began their efforts in mid-2008 to work toward these goals. In June of 2009, 17 new teams focused primarily on crime reduction joined the ranks. Below are summaries of the strategies that the new teams are planning to pursue, as well as contact information in case you want to learn more about how you can help a team. You can also learn about the 2008 teams' work by visiting www.cityoftacoma.org/web/SafeandClean_brochure.pdf. Keep watching www.cityoftacoma.org/safeandclean for ongoing updates.

2009 Safe and Clean Teams and Contacts

Lunchtime Mentoring to Prevent Gang Activity

The team intends to build a program that can be expanded to a citywide effort to connect local role models throughout Tacoma with school children during their lunch break. The team envisions businesses, neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, community members and local organizations joining together to demonstrate that the community cares about the success of children. The group hopes to tie the mentoring program to an expanded citywide Clean-Sweep event.

Contact: Lisa Wojtanowicz; lwojtano@cityoftacoma.org

Nuisance Codes to Target Crime

The team is focusing on areas where there is both a concentration of nuisance violations and crime. The team will develop a strategy, including training, to engage additional resources in addressing the nuisance issues that are associated with high crime areas within the City of Tacoma. A trial will be performed to measure effectiveness before citywide implementation.

Contact: Jeff Chandler; jchandle@cityoftacoma.org

Crime Information Web site

People who live and work in Tacoma do not currently have an easy way to access up-to-date crime information. Our Safe and Clean team will develop a one-stop Web site for crime information that will include four key components:

- Current crime data mapped by location,
- Crime trends,
- Crime prevention strategies
- Connections to community groups and organizations working on safety issues.

Contact: Christine Clifford; cclifford@cityoftacoma.org

Campaign for Civic Responsibility

The Campaign for Civic Responsibility team would like to develop an educational campaign that encourages community members to take actions to addressing crime and blight in their neighborhoods.

Contact: Scott Long; scott.long@cityoftacoma.org

Graffiti Reduction through Community-Based Art

The team will develop a sustainable method to connect community with professional artists and technical assistance to create beautiful, diverse, and enduring community-based art projects. The effort will primarily focus on properties that are identified as prime graffiti sites by reclaiming them and turning them into places for community art.

Contact: Amy McBride; amcbride@cityoftacoma.org

Citizens against Prostitution

This team will target street level prostitution by working to reduce street prostitution related crime within Stay Out of Areas of Prostitution (SOAP) zones. Community involvement and the facilitation of the new state impound law will be critical components in the effort. The team is also researching best practices with a goal to create more disincentives for prostitutes and their customers to operate in Tacoma.

Contact: Dan Hensley; dhensley@cityoftacoma.org

Residential Security Training and Outreach; NE Tacoma and Hilltop

Team members are working on a residential security training program. Once trained, team members will offer suggestions for changes to increase security for Tacoma homeowners in targeted neighborhoods. Changes to properties can increase their safety and help reduce the opportunity for burglary.

Contact: Audrey Hornbuckle; ahornbuckle@cityoftacoma.org

Resources to address and prevent graffiti

The team is developing a program to proactively deter incidences of graffiti in our community and provide resources to businesses and homeowners victimized by this crime. The team is currently researching what other cities have done to successfully eradicate and/or deter incidences of graffiti and is also learning about existing services and resources.

Contact: Corey Darlington; cdarling@cityoftacoma.org

Target gangs by spotlighting repeat offenders

The team intends to develop strategy that will reduce recidivism of gang members who commit misdemeanors and gross misdemeanor offenses. The team is researching a program that is in place in Spokane, WA to see if it could be applied in Tacoma to address repeat offenders, and is working to invite appropriate stakeholders to join the team.

Contact: Bob McCutchan; bmccutchan@cityoftacoma.org

Improve Alley Security; South 48th – South 56th and Pacific-I-5

This team will perform a pilot project in the area South 48th to 56th from I-5 to Pacific Avenue focusing on safety improvements in alleyways. After program evaluation, the team plans to expand to other areas. At this time, the team has planned to do the following:

- Coordinate with Home Depot
- Perform site security surveys for homes, focusing on Alley's. Provide residents with information via door hangers that will include the site survey, fight crime at home pamphlet, Home depot work shop flier, handy phone numbers and resources that can help install or repair security issues that need addressed.
- Utilize the program to bring cohesion within the community and their associated support groups, churches, schools and businesses.

Contact: Hugh Messer; hmesser@cityoftacoma.org

Reduce Theft from Motor Vehicles; 6th Avenue & UPS

The team's goal is to reduce theft from motor vehicles around 6th Avenue and UPS through a combination of educational materials, block watches, and improvements to environmental design.

Contact: Wes Rogers; wesrogers6@studio6ballroom.com

Develop and Distribute Gang Resource Inventory

The intent is to disrupt the cycle of multi-generational gang activity by taking inventory of the existing groups / agencies and to identify existing resources and services available.

Program will be focused around four main activities:

- Define the multi-generational culture and associated phases of gang involvement.
- Take inventory and evaluate resources already available within the community.
- Determine best channels, facilitate and disseminate information.
- Create a sustainable plan.

Contact: Charlie Solverson; csolvers@cityoftacoma.org

Reduce Domestic Violence Incidents

The team is bringing together stakeholders to gather, compile and review existing information and data around domestic violence that will inform the creation of a short and long term action plan that will include communication, education, collaboration and culture change.

Contact: Rob Jepson; rjepson@cityoftacoma.org

Targeting Spaces Prone to Crime in the West Mall Neighborhood

Provide Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) educational materials, security assessments and physical improvements which will result in reduced opportunity for crime in the West Mall area in the short-term and provide guidance for long-term safe development. The project will initially focus on S. 45th to S. 48th Streets between Pine Street and Union Avenue.

Contact: Barbara Tucci; BarbT@soundscreening.com

Car Prowl Prevention Team

The Team has/will assemble and create educational materials for distribution. Using the educational materials, the Team will create public awareness of how to reduce the opportunity for crime.

The Team is researching materials from other successful programs in other communities to develop a targeted program in Tacoma.

Initially, the Team plans to conduct outreach at the Tacoma Mall, Tacoma Public Library and to City of Tacoma employees. Subsequent activities will focus on those areas where car prowling is reported most frequently, with Team members distributing materials door to door or car to car after initial program development.

Contact: Mike Fitzgerald; mfitz@cityoftacoma.org

Municipal Code Review for Effective Drug Enforcement

The team is looking for opportunities to clarify and strengthen the City's Municipal Code to enable better enforcement of drug violations.

The team is researching code provisions in other cities as well as Tacoma's provisions. The team plans to recommend code changes as appropriate.

Contact: Starr Wetzel; swetzel@cityoftacoma.org

Ex-Offender Re-Entry

The team would like to promote effective re-entry plans that provide continuity from incarceration back into the community that uses existing community resources. There are several potential strategies that the team is exploring including:

- Inventorying services and the degree of success experienced through these services.
- Evaluating drug court model for application to misdemeanor offenses.
- Identifying tools for successful re-entry.
- Researching opportunities to incent treatment.

Contact: Terry Munson; tmunson@cityoftacoma.org

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved now?

Visit the Safe and Clean Web site at www.cityoftacoma.org/SafeandClean and sign up for the Safe and Clean e-mail notification list for the latest updates about what is happening with the effort.

What are the expectations and limitations for the Safe and Clean efforts?

There are no additional budget resources devoted to the Safe and Clean effort at this time, so all of the efforts must be tackled within the current City of Tacoma budget. There is also an expectation that the efforts will all include an element of public outreach and partnership, as we work with the community to Make Tacoma Safe and Clean.

What crimes will be measured?

Information about quality of life crimes that is collected by the FBI under the National Incident Based Reporting System will be those measured in the Safe and Clean effort. These crimes include Assault, Burglary, Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, Homicide, Larceny/Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, Prostitution, Robbery, Sex Offenses (forcible), Sex Offenses (non-forcible), Stolen Property, and Weapon Law Violations.

What if I want to get involve, but don't want to join a team. How can I get involved in my neighborhood?

One place to get started in your neighborhood is to connect with your local Neighborhood Council. You can learn more at www.cityoftacoma.org/neighborhoodcouncils. Here is a list of Neighborhood Councils and liaisons:

Neighborhood Council	Liaison	Phone	E-mail
New Tacoma Neighborhood Council	Shane Petit, City Manager's Office	594-7944	agriffith@cityoftacoma.org
Eastside Neighborhoods Advisory Council of Tacoma (ENACT)	Matt Peelen , City Manager's Office	591-5590	mpeelen@cityoftacoma.org
South Tacoma Neighborhood Council	Matt Peelen , City Manager's Office	591-5590	mpeelen@cityoftacoma.org
South End Neighborhood Council	Shane Petit, City Manager's Office	594-7944	agriffith@cityoftacoma.org
Central Neighborhood Council	Eric Meyer , City Manager's Office	594-7925	emeyer@cityoftacoma.org
West End Neighborhood Council	Eric Meyer , City Manager's Office	594-7925	emeyer@cityoftacoma.org
Northeast Tacoma Neighborhood Council	Matt Peelen , City Manager's Office	591-5590	mpeelen@cityoftacoma.org
North End Neighborhood Council	Eric Meyer , City Manager's Office	594-7925	emeyer@cityoftacoma.org
Community Council	Elton Gatewood , Neighborhood Council coordinator	591-5229	egatewoo@cityoftacoma.org

Another community resource for you is Safe Streets. Safe Streets assists neighborhoods in organizing block groups. If you are interested in learning about existing block groups that are addressing problems in your neighborhood, or want to start a new block group, you can contact Safe Streets at 253-272-6824 or visit their website at www.safest.org.

There are also things that you can do in your every day life to help make Tacoma safer and cleaner.

1. Talk to your neighbors- Getting to know your neighbors and talking about what you're seeing is one of the most effective steps in reducing crime and blight. Learn their names and the names of their kids. Go for walks around your neighborhood together. Most importantly, share your contact information.
2. Report crime and blight- When you see a problem in your neighborhood, report it! If you see a crime in progress call 911. If it's not an emergency, such as graffiti, call the police non-emergency number at 798-4721. To report blight or a violation of the Tacoma City code, call Tacoma Cares at 591-5001.
3. Make your own home safe and clean- There are a lot of things you can do to your own home to help prevent crime. Modifying your own home by using CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) techniques is an effective way of reducing the risk of crime happening to you. To learn more about CEPTED, call Tacoma cares at 591-5001.
4. Learn more about City services that are available and spread the word- Did you know that each Tacoma City household gets two Call-2-Haul pick ups a year to dispose of items that are too large to fit in the garbage container. That's just one of many services that the City provides. For further information on services that help make the City safe and clean visit the City's website at www.cityoftacoma.org/topresources or call the City Manager's Office at 253-591-5130.