



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

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CONTACT: Leslie Pardo, 248-563-7213 cell
248-855-6777 office
lpardo@marxlayne.com

Kasia Zabawa
646-839-3342 office
kzabawa@manhattan-institute.org

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY POLICING PILOT PROGRAM SHOWS PROMISING REDUCTION IN CRIME; DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES 120-DAY RESULTS

Detroit, MI, Sept. 20, 2012 – Just a few months after implementing a community policing pilot program, the Grandmont-Rosedale community is already noticing a significant drop in home invasions compared to the rest of Detroit. The preliminary results were announced by the Detroit Police Department at a community meeting on the evening of Sept. 20.

Launched on June 4, the pilot program is focused on creating a collaborative approach between the Detroit Police Department and the community. The initiative was implemented by the Detroit Police Department in partnership with the residents and business owners in the Grandmont-Rosedale community, the criminal courts, Wayne County Sheriff Department, Michigan Department of Corrections, the Greater Detroit Centers for Working Families, and the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research with a shared purpose of preventing crime and keeping citizens safe.

In the first 120 days of the pilot program, there was a 32 percent reduction in home invasions in the pilot project area compared to a year ago. In contrast, there was an 8.5 percent decrease in home invasions throughout the City of Detroit during the same period.

These results were achieved at a time when violent crime has escalated in Detroit. The success of broken-windows policing has demonstrated in New York City and Los Angeles that a holistic approach is necessary in order to reduce violent crime.

"These preliminary results are promising and demonstrate that if you increase the felt presence of the police and conduct proactive outreach, you can begin to prevent crime and restore order in communities," said George Kelling. Kelling is a renowned criminal sociologist who co-authored "Broken Windows," a widely recognized and effective approach to public safety, crime prevention and crime intervention. He developed the order maintenance policies in New York City that ultimately led to radical crime reductions.

The Grandmont-Rosedale community policing pilot program consists of three main components: a focus on individuals who commit home invasions; an increase in what is known as the "felt presence"

of police by having officers proactively engage citizens to fix Detroit's equivalent of "broken windows"; and leveraging the community as the eyes and ears to report suspicious/criminal activity.

The Detroit Police Department and Michigan Department of Corrections tracked their respective involvement in the pilot program—specifically, focusing on individuals who commit home invasions and increasing the felt presence of police by having officers proactively engaging citizens.

During the initial 120 days of the pilot program, the Detroit Police Department made more than 650 proactive contacts with residents living in the Grandmont-Rosedale area. In that same timeframe, the Michigan Department of Corrections conducted more than 250 home visits to individuals on probation and parole living in the pilot project area. Of these 250 home visits, slightly over a dozen were assigned for special handling by the DPD as high-risk cases. None of these individuals committed a crime in the pilot project area during the 120-day period.

In addition, the Detroit Police Department made 11 felony arrests and one misdemeanor arrest, which officials attribute to citizen information and/or the one-on-one home visits to known offenders.

"We are committed to making our city safe and these are very promising results," said Ralph L. Godbee, Jr., police chief, City of Detroit. "Our approach of community policing responds to the needs of citizens with compassion, commitment, and persistence."

In an effort to revive Detroit's neighborhoods, the Detroit Police Department partnered with the Manhattan Institute to develop a long-range strategy to maintain order, reduce fear, prevent crime, and improve the quality of life of its citizens. While the results are promising, the initiative will continue as a pilot program redeploying existing resources and police will continue monitoring results throughout this period as a test for a larger city-wide implementation in the future.

"This city has resilient residents and dedicated police who are starting to work together in new and effective ways to restore order and take back their communities. While it is still early, signs are clear that it is working," said Michael Allegritti, director of the Manhattan Institute's Center for State and Local Leadership.

At no cost to the taxpayers of Detroit, the Manhattan Institute is funding an outreach team that is sharing its expertise in criminology and policy implementation. Kelling, the Institute's loaned executive to the City of Detroit, and Michael Allegritti are currently conducting site visits as part of a collaboration with the Detroit Police Department that is scheduled to continue through late 2013. During these visits, Kelling and Allegritti are working with the Detroit Police to assess challenges and needs in the community as well as to provide recommendations to the Detroit Public Safety Foundation on actions to further promote public safety.

"With an initial focus on home invasions, this crime fighting model has been successful in other cities leading to an overall reduction in crime," added Godbee. "I would like to acknowledge and thank all our partners in the Grandmont-Rosedale community for their assistance in helping us launch this community policing initiative."

*The **Detroit Public Safety Foundation** is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization formed in 2011 dedicated to providing world class public safety to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Detroit. The mission of the Detroit Public Safety Foundation is to promote safety by enhancing the capabilities of the Detroit Police Department and Detroit Fire Department by facilitating access to world-class processes and operational tools. The Foundation serves as a liaison between the public and private sectors of the City of Detroit and seeks to engage all on the core issues of public safety and serve as advocates for the police, fire and public safety departments.*

*The **Manhattan Institute** is a think tank, 501 (c)(3), whose mission is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility.*

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