



MANHATTAN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2012

Contact: Kasia Zabawa
Deputy Director of Communications
Manhattan Institute
(646) 839-3342
kzabawa@manhattan-institute.org

Manhattan Institute on the Ground in Detroit: *Motor City to Implement Proven “Broken Windows” Policing Strategy*

New York, NY: In an effort to revive Detroit’s neighborhoods, the Detroit Police Department has 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.

A new community policing initiative in the Grandmont-Rosedale community of Detroit launching on Monday, June 4th, transforms public safety through a proactive approach between the DPD and the community – a new paradigm in Motown’s policing strategy.

The community policing pilot program has 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 DPD and the Department of Corrections will conduct home visits to individuals who are most at risk, presenting a clear choice on behalf of the community. During the carrot and stick intervention, the officers will present an offer for a hand up so they can become contributing members of the community while emphasizing the severe and lasting consequences that will result from further criminal acts.

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, MI’s loaned executive to the City of Detroit, and Michael Allegritti, director of MI’s Center for State and Local Leadership, are currently conducting site visits as part of a collaboration with the DPD that is scheduled to continue through late 2013. During these visits, Kelling and Allegritti are working with the Detroit Police and Detroit Fire Departments 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.

In the 1980s, Kelling, along with the late James Q. Wilson, developed the innovative order maintenance policies that came to be known as “broken windows” policing, which ultimately led to radical crime reduction in New York City and Los Angeles. Broken-windows policing is now widely recognized as an effective approach to public safety, crime prevention, and crime intervention. A criminologist, Kelling has tweaked the 20-year old theory especially for Motown.

“Despite conventional views, Detroit continues to have some beautiful neighborhoods. This is an effort to maintain those neighborhoods by integrating “broken windows” into an overall strategy to maintain order, reduce home invasions, and reduce citizen fear,” said Kelling.

The Manhattan Institute has long taken a special interest in cities and their citizens. Thriving cities are key to thriving regions and societies. The Manhattan Institute is proud to be closely associated with Compstat and broken-windows policing, thanks to a close working relationship with former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and former city police commissioner William Bratton, whose successors have effectively continued and refined the policies.

“We are committed to making our city safe,” said Ralph L. Godbee, Jr., police chief, City of Detroit. “When the Manhattan Institute reached out to Detroit, we welcomed the opportunity to have access to national policing practices that

have been highly effective in New York City. Our approach of community policing responds to the needs of citizens with compassion, commitment, and persistence. We will assess our concerted, collaborative and cohesive community policing pilot program in the early fall.”

The Grandmont-Rosedale initiative is a pilot program redeploying existing resources as a test for a larger city-wide implementation in the future.

“We are overwhelmed by the strength and resilience of the Grandmont-Rosedale community and its willingness to be involved in this important initiative. This is a new day for Detroit,” said Allegetti.

For more information contact Kasia Zabawa at 646-839-3342 or at kzabawa@manhattan-institute.org.

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.