

Community-Driven Crime Control

Neighborhoods Have (Crime) Problems

People, as with neighborhoods, have problems, including crime and disorder. Problems of, and arising from, crimes need to be solved by *the people* with resources from: police; community prosecution; probation officers; judges; property owners; public housing authority; and a myriad of non-profits ranging from human services to community development.

Since problem solving can only be accomplished by identifying and mobilizing resources, the neighborhood/community must have the authority and capacity to control resources, including those resources provided by local government.

What is holding neighborhoods back from realizing greater control over crime-problem solving resources? Answer: The people themselves. The people must take responsibility for solving their own problems, including crime and disorder.

Empowered neighborhoods are those that have a greater sense of control over crime and disorder than their peers. These are neighborhoods whose challenges are achieving diversity, stability and economic growth which can only be achieved by a community-driven approach, (i.e., through self-help).

What is Community-Driven Crime Control¹

Community-Driven Crime Control (CDCC) is a different way of thinking about crime fighting; different than problem-oriented policing (POP), community-oriented policing (COP), and certainly set apart from traditional policing (TP).

There are four CDCC operating principles:

1. The Democratic Principle: Neighborhoods should drive crime fighting.
2. The Social Resource Principle: Neighborhoods draw upon all kinds of resources to fight crime.
3. The Collaboration Principle: Neighborhoods fight crime with help from others as a team.
4. The Reality Principle: Community crime fighting should be driven by evidence and be results oriented.

CDCC Dramatic Difference

CDCC departs from Traditional Policing and Community Problem-Oriented Policing in the following ways:

- (1) it looks at crime as problems;
- (2) it looks at problems from the grass-roots and personal perspective;
- (3) it looks at police as one of the many social resources;
- (4) it puts the community in control of solving problems;
- (5) it solves problems with information and knowledge.

CDCC is Underway in Cincinnati, Ohio

The practical application of CDCC in the U.S. began during Y2007 within several city of Cincinnati neighborhoods: Bond Hill, North Avondale and West End. These neighborhoods are drawing upon community and government resources, whereby they have taken charge using the four CDCC operating principles. Highlights of their CDCC activities were presented at the 2008 Neighborhood Summit and the 2008 Regional Neighborhood Network Conference in Lima. Questions regarding CDCC can be directed to Dr. Kam C. Wong, Ph.D., Xavier University Criminal Justice Dept, phone: 513.745.2098; email: Wongk1@xavier.edu

¹ Kam C. Wong, "A General Theory of Community Policing: State Police as Social Resources Theory," The International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice (Forthcoming 2008); http://works.bepress.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=kam_wong