

# The 9½ Block Strategy





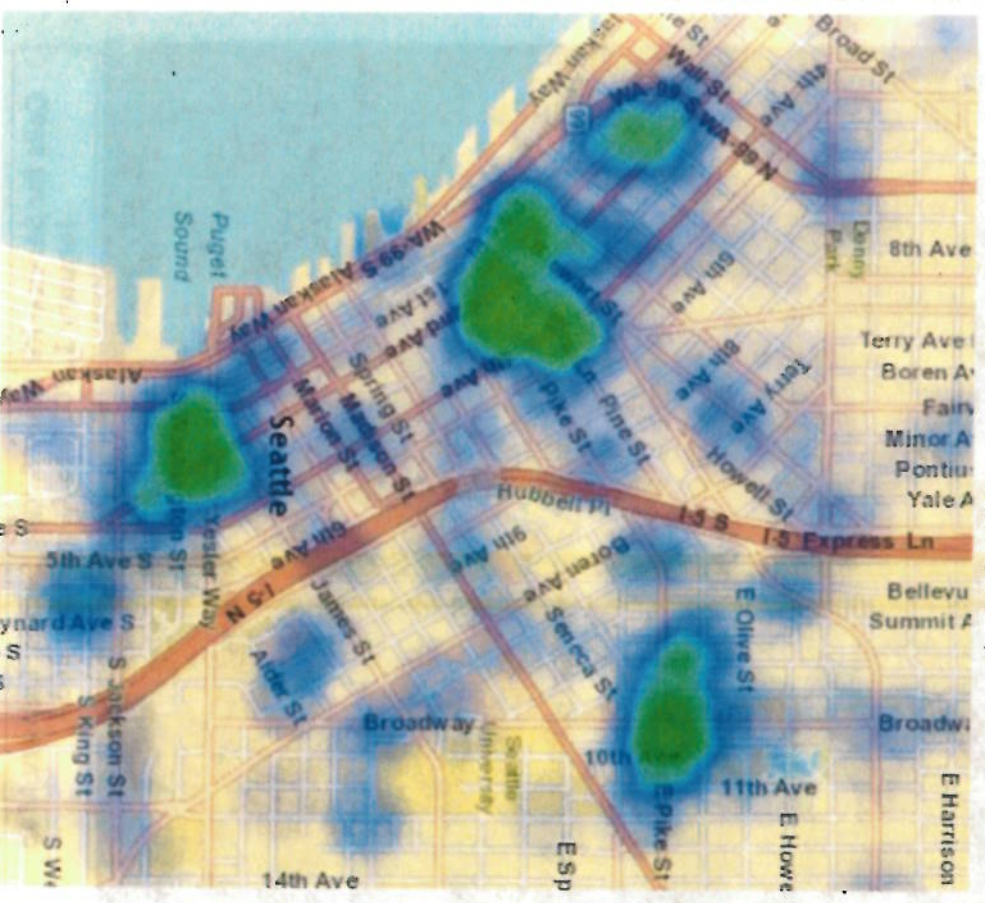


# Crime is Highly Concentrated

All downtown crime (2014)



Misdemeanor assaults (2014)





General Offenses for Mary & King Sector: Density Map  
January 1, 2011 to August 31, 2014



Calls for Service for Mary & King Sector: Density Map  
January 1, 2011 to August 31, 2014





**Legend**

- Downtown
- Capitol Hill

**Downtown Density Scale**

- Low
- Moderate
- High

**Capitol Hill Density Scale**

- Low
- Moderate
- High

**Seattle**

Map showing street names: 3rd Ave W, 1st Ave N, 5th Ave N, 9th Ave N, Terry Ave N, Boren Ave N, Fairview Ave N, Eastlake, Bellevue Ave E, Summit Ave E, E Olive Way, E Madison St, E John St, E Denny Way, E Union St, E Cherry St, E Jefferson St, E Spruce St, E Fir St, E Alder St, E Yesler Way, 28th Ave S, 30th Ave S, 32nd Ave S, 34th Ave S, 36th Ave S, 38th Ave S, 40th Ave S, 42nd Ave S, 44th Ave S, 46th Ave S, 48th Ave S, 50th Ave S, 52nd Ave S, 54th Ave S, 56th Ave S, 58th Ave S, 60th Ave S, 62nd Ave S, 64th Ave S, 66th Ave S, 68th Ave S, 70th Ave S, 72nd Ave S, 74th Ave S, 76th Ave S, 78th Ave S, 80th Ave S, 82nd Ave S, 84th Ave S, 86th Ave S, 88th Ave S, 90th Ave S, 92nd Ave S, 94th Ave S, 96th Ave S, 98th Ave S, 100th Ave S, 102nd Ave S, 104th Ave S, 106th Ave S, 108th Ave S, 110th Ave S, 112th Ave S, 114th Ave S, 116th Ave S, 118th Ave S, 120th Ave S, 122nd Ave S, 124th Ave S, 126th Ave S, 128th Ave S, 130th Ave S, 132nd Ave S, 134th Ave S, 136th Ave S, 138th Ave S, 140th Ave S, 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Data Source: SPD RMS 2/6/15  
Boundaries: Dept of Neighborhoods

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**Legend**

- Non-DV Agg. Assault (N=265)
- Downtown
- Density Scale
  - Low
  - Moderate
  - High

Sources: East Deltona, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, GeoANAL, Esri, NOAA, Esri, China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom 2013

**Data Source:** SPD RMS 2/6/15  
**Boundaries:** Dept. of Neighborhood

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# 2014 Street Robbery for Downtown Seattle



DRAFT AND DELIBERATIVE ONLY



# 9½ Blocks: Calls for Service

Category	Calls for Service (2014)
Disturbance	2,053
Theft	1,931
Intox/Liquor Violation	1,762
Mischief/Nuisance	1,233
Suspicious Circumstance	1,042
Narcotics	996
Prowler	500
Assault	447
Crisis	336
Robbery	150
Domestic Violence	109
Fraud	101
Fight	62





# 9½ Blocks: Offender Supervision

- 9½ blocks is the most likely place for the Department of Corrections NCI team to find offenders under State supervision engaged in illegal activity
- Violation of parole terms frequently results in return to prison
- Area drug market serves as a magnet that holds offenders in the revolving door of prison

## 2010-2014 NCI Stats for 9½ Block Area

Contact	Number
Narcotics warnings	2,091
Narcotics arrests	45
Suspicious circumstances	629
Assist Other Agency	545
Liquor violations	20

# 9½ Blocks: Retail Theft Loss

- Largest retailer within area reported a 50% increase in retail theft loss in 2014 despite increased security presence (\$1.8m total loss)
- Other retailers in focus area report increasing brazenness and assaults on store employees
- Dealers/fencers provide lists of goods for addicts to steal in exchange for drugs
- Goods are then sold online at numerous new websites

## TOP RETAIL THEFT SITES IN SEATTLE

Uwajimaya (ID)

Macy's (300 Pine St)

Bartell Drugs (1404 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave)

Westlake Center

Target (1401 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave)



# Open-Air Drug Market Is Driver of Downtown Crime and Disorder

- Downtown retail core does not have concentrations of housing or services; the major attractant for those engaged in crime and disorder is the drug market itself
- The open-air drug market at 3<sup>rd</sup> Pike/Pine and Westlake Park is the source of significant crime and disorder activity, beyond the purchase or use of narcotics
- The association between open-air drug markets and crime/disorder is well-chronicled (*e.g.*, Weisburd and Mazerolle, 2000)
- People take cues from their physical environment and act accordingly
- Long-standing open-air drug markets create unique sociological ownership of space by dealers and addicts that fuels aggressive behaviors. They are the ultimate “broken windows.” (Kleiman, 2009)
- Traditional crime-control strategies are ineffective at addressing open-air drug markets

## Past Efforts Insufficient

- Almost every other major American city has successfully addressed open-air drug markets in their center city retail cores
- Seattle has struggled and failed to address the drug market on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue for over thirty years, and the problem is only getting worse
- Seattle Police have arrested thousands of drug dealers and users at this location with no long-term impact on crime and disorder at the market
- Service providers have treated and housed thousands of substance abuse addicts who frequent this location with no long-term impact on crime and disorder at the market



# Closing Drug Markets: What Works?

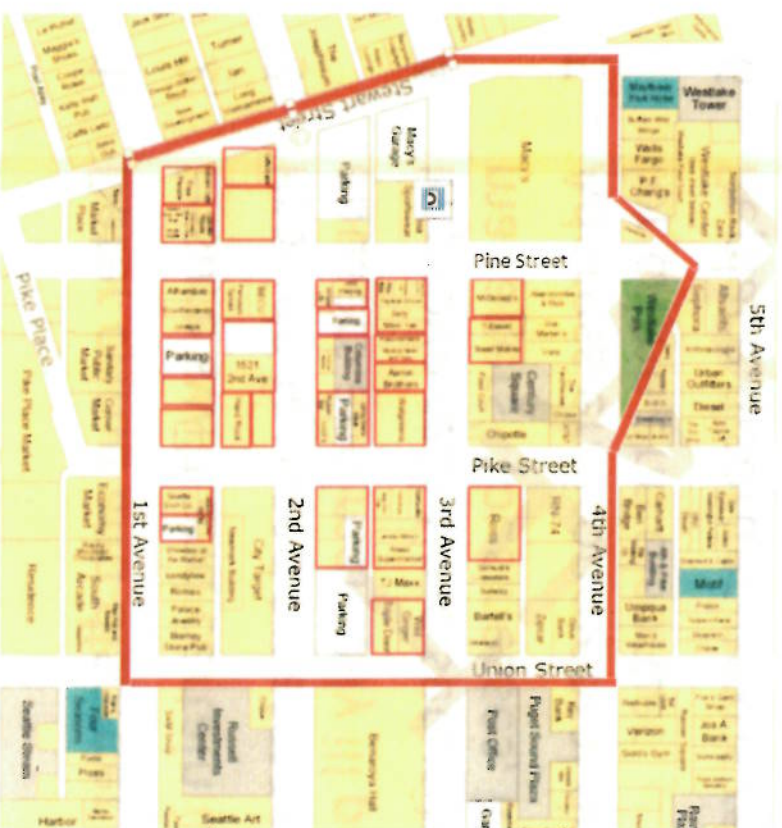
- *From literature by COPS program, David Weisburd, David Kennedy, POP Center, and others*
  - Center for Problem-Oriented Policing:  
[http://www.popcenter.org/problems/drugdealing\\_openair/3](http://www.popcenter.org/problems/drugdealing_openair/3)
- **Focus on eliminating the drug market itself**, not arresting drug dealers or treating addicts
- **Emphasize deterrence**: “What hundreds of arrests over most of two decades had failed to do, credible, concentrated warnings backed up by only seven arrests did and they broke up the market” (Kleiman, 2009)
- **Concentrate resources in “all levers” approach**: intensive short-term saturation of intervention efforts combined with remake of physical space
- **Radical environmental redesign** – every drug market is different, therefore identify what makes this market so successful and durable

# What Doesn't Work?

- **Arrest-based strategies** – as long as the market exists, sellers will be rapidly replaced
  - “Due to the replacement effect, an established retail [drug] market can sustain itself in the face of even relatively high levels of arrest.” (Kleiman, 2009)
  - Open-air drug markets are attractive to new dealers because they know there is a steady source of business without the need to advertise
- **Services-based strategies** – trying to treat or help chronic addicts may work for some individuals but the market quickly attracts new users
  - Open-air drug markets lowers the barriers to buying drugs and invites new buyers as quickly as chronic addicts can be treated



# 9½ Blocks Strategy



- Dynamic concentration of resources in the 9½ blocks that encompass the open-air drug market at 3<sup>rd</sup> Pike/Pine and Westlake
- Focus on deterring criminal behavior and reshaping the physical environment to make it less attractive for crime and disorder
- Strategic goal is to close the open-air drug market and then maintain closure

# Key Elements of Strategy

1. Deter crime and disorder with high visibility policing
2. Ensure swift and certain intervention to criminal activity
3. Provide focused treatment and services to substance abusers and mentally ill population
4. Improve real-time security coordination among “place managers” (businesses, MID, residents, Parks Rangers)
5. Address environmental design issues that make area ripe for crime and disorder
6. Replace disorder-nexus retail and businesses
7. Activate key street segments and properties
8. Establish joint storefront presence in heart of drug market



# Key Principles of Strategy

- **Concentration of resources:** focus intensive effort on micro geographic area rather than dispersing forces over larger area
- **All levers at once:** initiate all efforts at the same time rather than sequencing
- **Swift and certain intervention:** disrupt business as usual using all available resources (enforcement, diversion, or services) , – if you are coming here to buy or sell drugs, there will be interference
- **Direct communication of deterrent threats:** give specific, credible warnings to non-violent players, and back those threats up with action where ignored
- **Closure of drug market is single metric of success:** get away from individual offender outcomes (# of arrests, # of people connected with services, etc.)
- **Net reduction in crime, not displacement:** there are unique attributes to the physical space of this drug market that do not exist elsewhere; focus here will produce net reduction in crime, not displacement of crime to other nearby locations

# Place-Based Policing



## Place-Based Policing

By David Weisburd

Police practices are focused primarily on people and often begin when people call the police. They are focused on identifying offenders who commit crimes, and end with the arrests of those offenders and their processing through the criminal justice system. Police attention is also directed at times to broader community problems and "community crime" (Klein and Maresca 1998; Maronick 1999), and the police are expected to play a role in securing communities in emergencies and more recently in responses to homeland security threats (Waldington and Neyrand 2007). But despite the broader mandate of the police, the core practices of policing assume that people, whether victims or offenders, are the key units of police work.

Police professionals might take exception to this portrait

of policing. They will agree that police in recent years have begun to think not only about offenders and victims but also about the situations and places that are the context of crime. To bolster this argument, they might note that police agencies throughout the country have begun to focus in on crime hot spots and that crime mapping has become a central feature of cutting-edge law

enforcement (Weisburd and Lounsbury 2005). Moreover, they could argue that the location of crime is a key component of many recent police innovations, such as Compstat (Sherman 1999), hot spots policing (Sherman and Weisburd 1995; Weisburd and Braga 2006a), and problem-oriented policing (Eck 2003). In this sense, many forward-looking police agencies have begun to

*Idea for a 20-minute Policing practice, community and family, from building crime, and spots in areas of interest to victims, practitioners, and policy makers. The paper published in this work is from the Police Foundation in Berlin, version of the same volume. Please of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Police Foundation or the Police Foundation. The Police Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes the development of police practice and research. The Police Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes the development of police practice and research.*

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- *David Weisburd, 2008*
- Crime is highly concentrated in micro hot spots that are particularly suited for crime and disorder
- 50% of all crime in Seattle occurs on less than 5% of street segments
- Policing places puts emphasis on reducing opportunities for crime, not on waiting for crimes to occur and then arresting offenders
- Successful place-based crime prevention need not lead to high numbers of arrests
- Place-based efforts lead to diffusion of benefits, not displacement of crime to neighboring areas