

**INVEST IN**   
**neighborhoods**

**Community Councils:  
Neighborhood Observations  
Crime & Safety.**

Law & Public Safety Committee  
Sep 15, 2020



## Invest in Neighborhoods:

Holding regular meetings and check-ins with Council Presidents and Community Council leaders

Recurring topical concern: changes in crime and concerns with public safety in their neighborhoods over the last 6 months

Based upon what we have been hearing, did a quick survey to gain some perspective

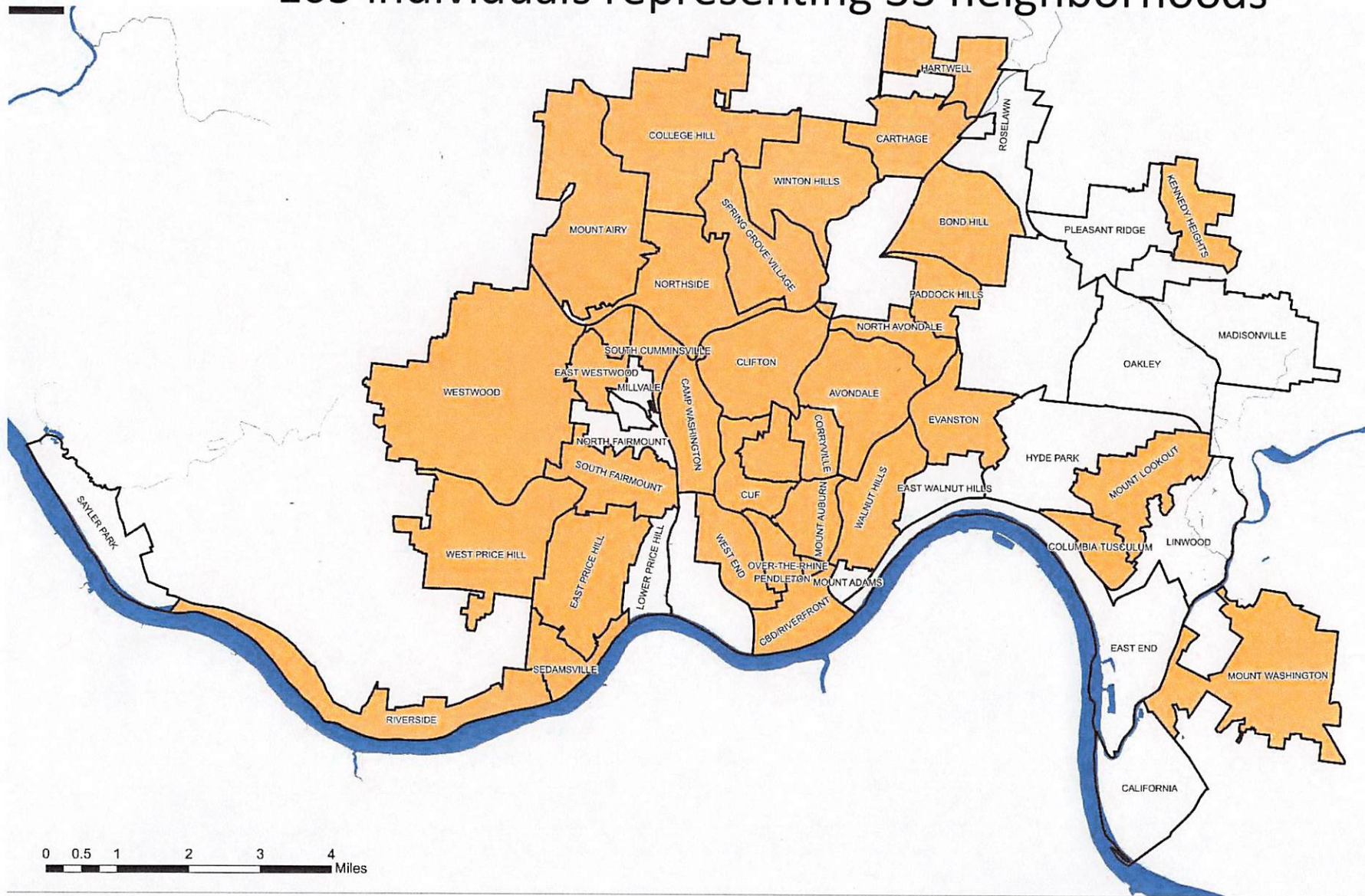
This information is not crime reporting data. It was a way to capture a summary of what people in the communities are seeing and how they are feeling





# Invest in Neighborhoods:

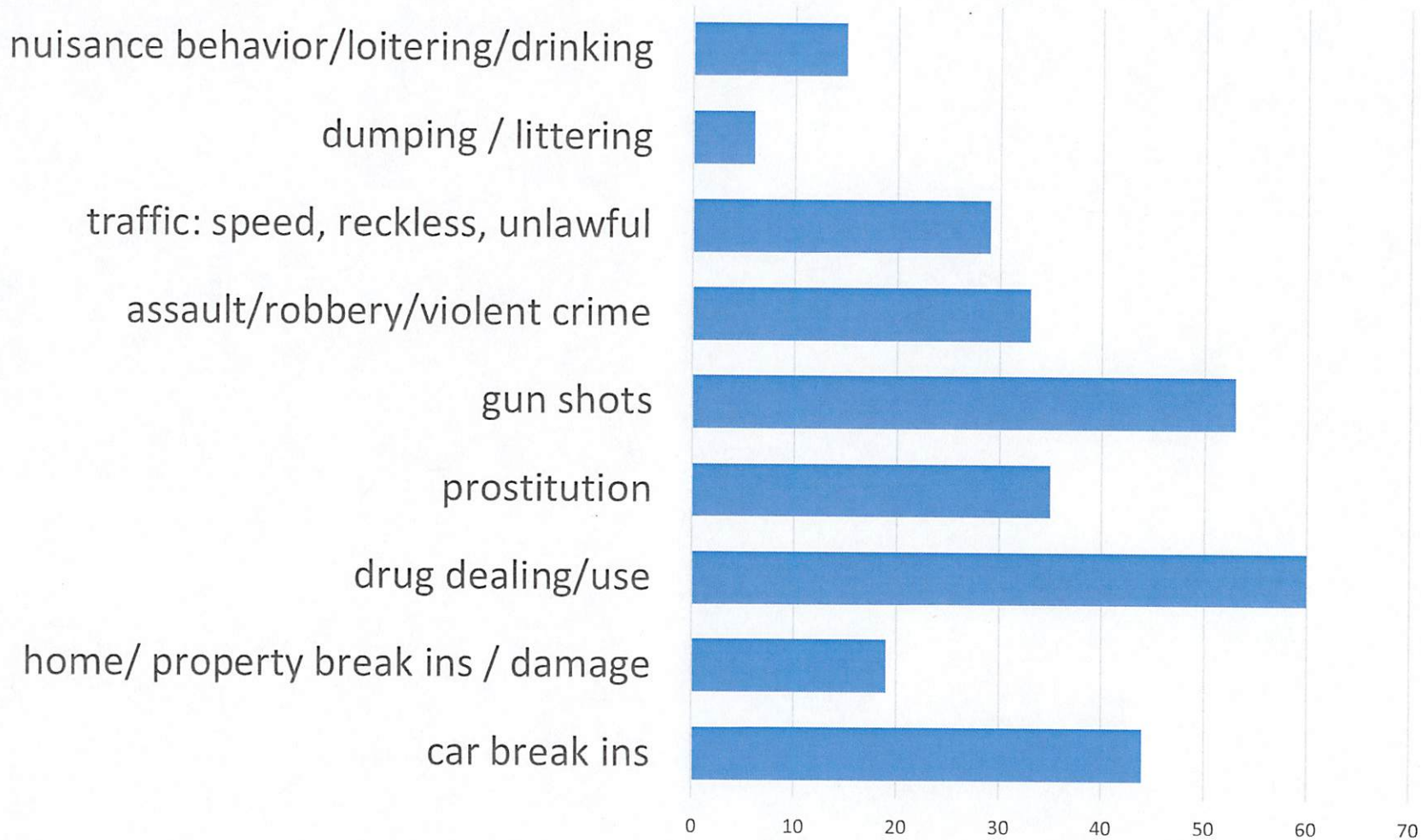
105 individuals representing 33 neighborhoods



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles



# Invest in Neighborhoods:

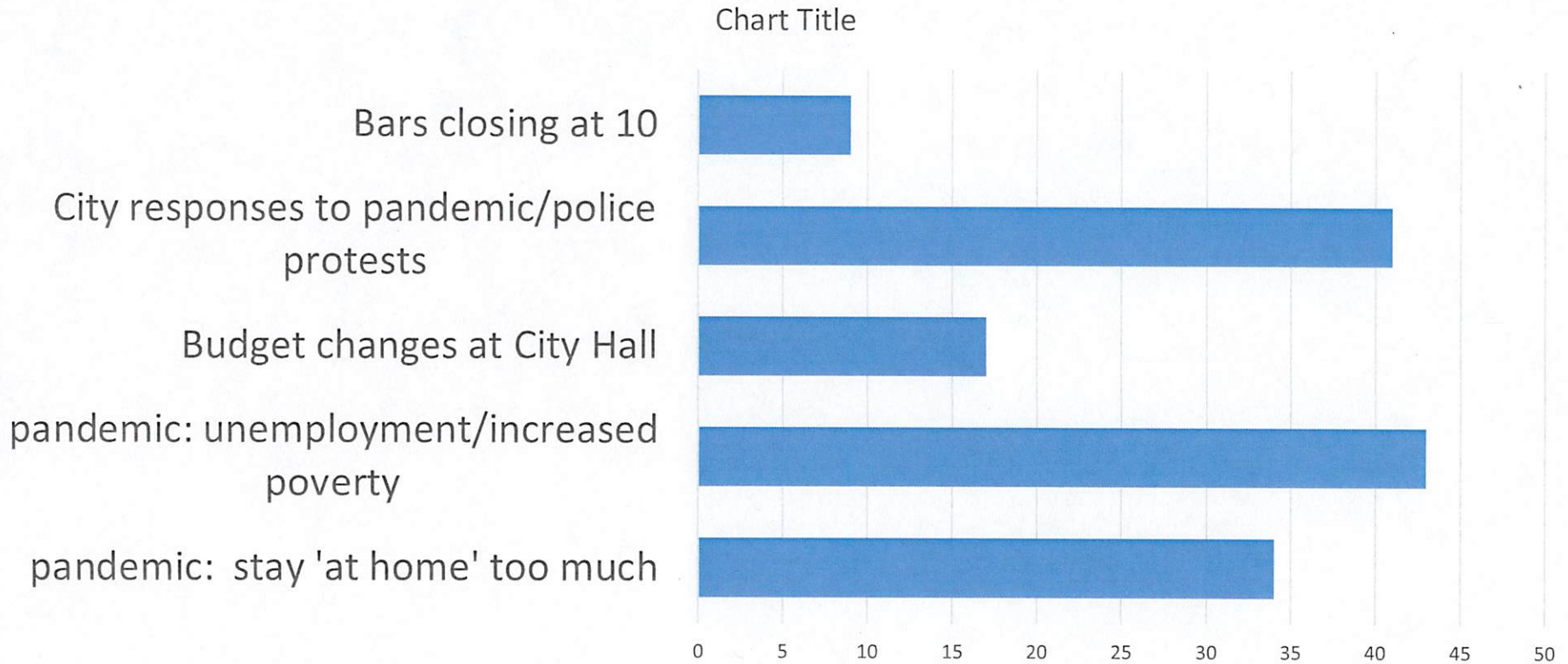


Q 1: What problems are you seeing that have increased in your neighborhood?





# Invest in Neighborhoods:



Q2: Do you think this is because of:?



## Invest in Neighborhoods:

Most common comments on “change in policing”

- Less police presence
- Not responding
- Not enforcing laws
- Not engaging/involved with Community Councils/neighborhoods

Perception that those who would/do commit crime and disregard laws believe that ‘they can get away with it’



## Invest in Neighborhoods:

Most common comments on social issues behind increase in crime

- Unemployment is a major factor
- High poverty rates in Cincinnati are only increasing
- Inequity is exacerbated

Awareness that this is a complex issue of social imbalance and inequity – social and economic disadvantages from good paying stable jobs to secure housing to education to addressing mental health

*“Life looks bleak for a lot of folks right now.”*



## Invest in Neighborhoods:

Thank you

*Comments from the survey are attached for review by Council members*



## Open Comment Section of Crime and Safety Survey of Community Councils

Police have been called and email to community liaison with no responses. Description of vehicles and license # have been provided as well.

The Community Need Connectors. Residents taking ownership .. Community Engagement Training has been very affective and will provided residents an opportunity to be a part of all the great things taking place in Avondale. Employment and having stable housing has been link to most of the violent taking place . Organizing tenants by starting a Tenant Association in every building where the landlords refuse to address the issues.

Kids do not have nothing to do, Rec Center closed, Idle mind is devil workshop

Greetings: I believe that all of the excuses you have listed could and are contributing factors to crime in Bond Hill. But I see the biggest factor as the extremely lackluster policing. I'm not talking about rude, abusive criminal policing, I'm talking about involvement in the neighborhood. Cincinnati police to a very bad job of contributing to the safety of the community.

City hasn't been engaged enough in Bond Hill Port Authority has caused a lot of blight in Neighborhoods which causes loitering and crime.

A resident friend and business owner wrote me today: "I have seen more drugs and prostitution, and more robberies and theft. It's because people are desperate and don't have work and are hungry. But also because the cops have been less responsive than they had been in the past in Camp. We have a new liaison for Camp Washington and he has not been a good fit so far. Last week our friend's car was stolen by a pregnant, drugged up woman. We caught the entire thing on film and it was turned in to District Five and filed. Two days later we saw the woman across the street. We called the cops and the response was, 'you need to bring the video to district 5.' We said "We already did - the woman is here, now. Please come arrest her." And again the response was, 'there's nothing we can do.' The neighborhood has had to take crime into our own hands time and time again. In this case, a neighbor found the car and we escorted the proper owner to the car and waited with her until the tow truck came.

It is disingenuous to blame this on the pandemic. These issues are not new, nor the same tired approach to address them that continue to fail. The unstable social order has many root causes, none that come with an easy fix.

Seems like the police were more reluctant to patrol or talk to loitering etc people using the pandemic as excuses

I support our police. Am disappointed in the decline of this quiet, serene neighborhood, the disrespect to our neighbors from those visiting our businesses and 1 particular business owner. Sometimes Vine St reminds me of the old west as seen in Westerns.

The drug dealing is out of control, especially with the drive by deals where both cars drive off at high rates of speed. Paraphernalia is commonly left behind and the dangerous driving is untenable. This is a known issue and the police need ot have a plan to address the problem. Its unacceptable to say that they don't have the staff or resources, as that is simply a failure of leadership. Come up with a plan and do something that make things better.

Traffic and engineering should shrink Clifton Ave to one lane each way, use roundabouts and add a bike lane and make Clifton Ave safe for the more than 1200 students at Annunciation, Fairview and CANS

I wish there were a way to slow down this traffic. It is a true hazard to walk on Clifton Avenue, which is a shame as it is a beautiful street. Further, I don't allow my teenage children to cross it without an adult because I simply don't trust the drivers.

I would like to see more traffic enforcement on Clifton Ave. Motor vehicles cause almost as many deaths as guns but our police department does not treat it as a priority.

Reported a fistfight in progress inside a business and it took about 15 minutes for officer to arrive. No lights, siren or sense of urgency when one did show up. I sympathize with everything police are having to deal with right now, but damn.

Let the police do their job without fear of second guessing.

Speeding is big problem

I'd like for police to be able to get back to enforcing all the laws. Including speeding, reckless driving and even parking issues. I felt they have stopped for many complex reason and getting back to enforcing them isn't and easy switch on. However, I think letting these go unpunished breed more and more of the feeling of "who cares if no one stops or punishes me". I think ticketing people is a win, win. It helps fund the city that need cash flow desperately but also work as a highly motivating factor to stop a behavior.

Most neighbors want a peaceful neighborhood. If the city does nothing else, it should assure peaceful neighborhoods.

I do not believe bars closing at 10 has anything to do with current gun violence in some neighborhoods. No one is policing bars. Too many guns on the streets.

Lack of police presence in our neighborhood.

The increase in recent crime is very intentional!

The steady trend of people moving into downtown can be reversed if reasonable public safety cannot be maintained.

General lawless behavior

lots of homeless people in Price Hill since this pandemic started

We need to get back to business as normal so some of these problems can be addressed. Cincinnati needs to invest more in its communities and people, particularly youth. Our leaders cannot gentrify and develop their way out of the problems that exist here: the greatest historic example of elitism and systemic racism in action in Cincinnati has always been city hall. People, particularly young people, are and have been dying from those actions and policies which have consistently and overall deprived them of hope and opportunity. Change is needed.

We have always needed our police out of their cars and on our streets. It is not and will never be enough to simply see them rolling through in their vehicles, but the only neighborhoods that get cops on the street are downtown, the riverfront and OTR, and anticipated to soon include around the FC Cincinnati

stadium in the WE. Every citizen of every neighborhood in this city deserves to feel as safe and protected as any patron of an OTR restaurant or Washington Park.

young adults and teenagers need safe and positive activities for Saturdays and evenings before 8pm

We have an apartment building divided into rooms for rent weekly. The landlord gets referrals from drug programs, and other social workers. These transient people cause many issues, including walking around after using drugs, stealing from cars and porches, begging, overall a constant general nuisance with a steady flow of new rentals with disruptive behaviors to the homeowners near the property.

Defund the CPD, fund social services, build infrastructure designed for people (not cars), annex the suburbs

All kinds of violence and violent crimes are important to address, but gun violence, in my opinion, is the number one problem at Mt Airy in the way of crime.

We were sitting at my picnic table yesterday and multiple shots fired at 4:30 in the afternoon. Police chase into Washington Park by the splash pad and bar where many people are "playing" on a Friday afternoon. Prostitution in a residential area....people speeding through red lights and stop signs plus a lot of littering as folks drive by.

drug dealing has returned as the primary engine for economic development for young adults. I expect no improvements from the current federal administration...

City Manager, Elected Officials and Police Leadership should engage with wealth of research capabilities from U.C., Xavier and other institutions to learn if - and how - other cities have successfully reduced violent crime and unlawful motorcycle swarms.

The City Manager, Elected Officials (Council Members) and Police Leadership should engage with the wealth of research capabilities available at University of Cincinnati and Xavier University (and other institutions) to learn if other cities have successfully dealt with issues of violent crime and the motorcycle menace. Return the Citizens Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV) to its former strength. Ensure that the Police Department works with the Citizen Complaint Authority (in earnest and with timely complete responses to CCA's requests and recommendations. Both City and Police Department strengthen partnerships with neighborhoods and social agencies. Ensure Community Policing is strongly in force and at work within the city's neighborhoods.

I think the abandonment of neighborhood policing is a big factor. Whoever is assigned to the neighborhood should be a proactive presence, visible to us and in contact with us.

Speeding has increased. Gun shots heard almost nightly.

Something has to change! The streets are lawless now.

City needs to implement Collaborative Refresh and monitor/ensure police response to Complaint Authority recommendations.

Union President Hils is doing little to improve police community relations.

I just past 4 prostitute peddling their trade in the broad daylight in the 300 block of West McMicken. I haven't seen any attempt by law enforcement this entire year to intercede. I haven't seen any evidence



of traffic law enforcement in OTR this year and it is commonplace to see total disregard of stop signs and red lights.

It will take convincing a generation of young black men that there is a better option to guns.

Community Council needs to have more connection with D1 liaison and captain. Since the change in leadership and pandemic we haven't had a connection.

These suspects use to drive through and make deals, now they walk through!

I no longer feel safe in my neighborhood. I have seen many cars driving up and down the alley and around the corner store of Rhinegold and Highland that have stopped for an uncomfortable amount of time. There are people constantly outside the corner store drinking and "hanging out." There is trash absolutely everywhere. My car has been broken into 4 times. We want to move due to the lack of safety.

we know there are bigger problems in the City, but we cannot let the drug dealers think they can move in to our Community because we are considered quiet. We keep hearing that there is an on going investigation but to have a drug drive thru with is obvious to everyone makes us wonder who is really watching.

The new data driven approach is not pro-active it is reactive. No police support until you become a hot spot. Let's wait until it is broken then try to fix it.

Life looks bleak for a lot of folks right now.

We have had an increase in gun violence since at least 2019 in the West End. The pandemic and all that it entails has had increased the violence.

Back in late March/ April 10-15 plain clothes officers and one Officer in uniform swarmed guns drawn on our home looking for a man who used to live in our home. My son and I were very frightened and luckily a neighbor called my husband who works around the corner and arrived shortly after. For some reason this man the police were looking for, still has our address on his driver's license. We bought this home 3 YEAR AGO and don't have any contact with that man. Was there any surveillance before hand to show the police he was not at our residence, EVER in the last 3 years? How could all those officers show up to the wrong house like that? And yet that man is still in the neighborhood often. And there are cameras catching all kinds of illegal activity and the police do not do anything about it. All up and down Baymiller, Findlay and Livingston. Are they waiting for the stadium to get complete to start protecting the community from the individuals breaking the law? Or are they waiting until some gets shot before they show up? Please stop waiting and protect the community now.

There has been a rash of gunshots the last couple of weeks

Its been happening way before covid