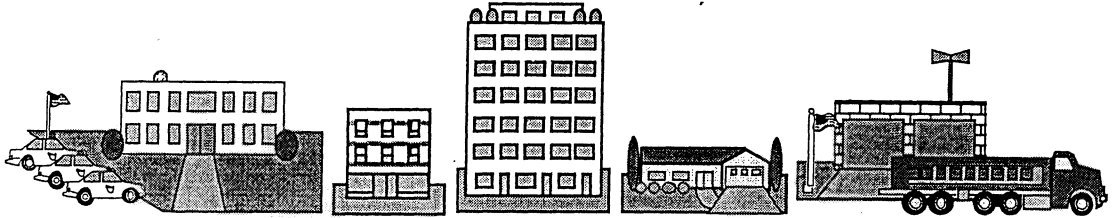# PUBLIC SAFETY

A. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS

- Crime is decreasing
- Parkville has three blockwatch groups
- Parkville is perceived as a lower crime area when compared to other Hartford neighborhoods

Information

- Total crime dropped 25.8 % over last year.
- Of all 17 neighborhoods, Parkville ranked 6th in total crimes.
- Most of those were "crimes against property." For example, in burglary, larceny and auto theft <u>Parkville ranked 5th</u>. These figures are even more significant knowing that Parkville has <u>half the population</u> of other neighborhoods that have more crime (except for Downtown which has more people as a result of the workforce).
- Parkville ranked 11th in "crimes against persons," for example, rape, murder, robbery.
- Parkville's Police Staffing

1st shift	2 patrol cars, 1 beat officer
2nd shift	1 patrol car
3rd shift	1 patrol car, 1 beat officer

Opportunities

- Given the collaborative atmosphere among civic groups, it should be easier to come together to solve problems.
- The neighborhood has enjoyed positive working relationships with its Community Service Officers, and hopefully will continue to do so.

B. CHALLENGES

- The perception is that home ownership is decreasing in the neighborhood and with that change, a fear of more crime.

- Decline in property upkeep in highly visible areas such as Capitol and Sisson Avenues feeds into the perception that these are 'bad' neighborhoods and there is more crime than there actually is.

Information

- Parkville ranked 5th in "crimes against property," for example, burglary, larceny and auto theft. These figures are even more significant knowing that Parkville has half the population compared with the other neighborhoods that have more crime (except for Downtown which has more people when including the workforce).

Negative Consequences

- Fear of crime, whether actual or perceived, will impede development efforts for the neighborhood and more homeowners and businesses will leave the area.
- Crime will increase

C. ACTION PLAN

Parkville's Goals and Objectives

Goal One: Parkville will be a safe neighborhood with high quality of life achieved through the active participation of its residents and cooperation of city departments.

Objective One: In one year there will be improved quality of life in the neighborhood as measured by the following indicators:

- there will be a reduction of all crime by at least 25% percent
- there will be a reduction of quality of life crimes by at least 30% percent
- there will be an increase in neighborhood participation in neighborhood groups including blockwatches

Parkville's Strategies

1. Establish a Parkville Public Safety Committee
A subcommittee of the Problem Solving committee will be formed to deal with public safety issues. This group will work closely with the Community Service Officer (CSO).

2. Work with other civic groups to Increase Police Visibility/Presence
Lack of police visibility and presence in the neighborhood and other community policing issues have been a major concern for neighborhood business and residents for several years. Attempts at working with the Police Department have produced sporadic results. Concerned citizens must work with other neighborhood groups to

address this issue that affects not only Parkville, but the whole city to achieve the systemic changes in city departments that are required to bring about meaningful improvements.

3. Increase the number of blockwatch groups and interaction among them. There are presently three blockwatch groups with varying degrees of resident participation. Meetings aimed at sharing concerns and strategies among neighborhood groups have the potential to rejuvenate interest and increase efficiency as well as foster a greater sense of community. Theses groups would work the CSO to increase the number of blockwatches.

4. Initiate a public education campaign
Prevention is key to addressing many of the public safety concerns. The subcommittee will work with the CSO, officials, businesses and the children of Parkville Community School and their parents to develop and implement a public safety campaign. Expanding to involve other community representatives is essential if the campaign is going to be effective.

5. Create a new system for keeping records of crimes
Statistics can be helpful and deceiving. Reporting crime in a more objective way at the problem solving committee meetings would help the community get an accurate picture of public safety realities in the neighborhood. Statistics would also assist the neighborhood in measuring progress.

ACTION STEPS

Activity	Expected Results	Responsibility	Date Due	Expected Barriers
1. At the CCP meeting the idea of a Public Safety Committee will be presented	Parkville Public Safety Committee	CCP president	One month after approval of plan	Not enough volunteers
2. Work with other neighborhood groups	City-wide department changes	Parkville Public Safety Committee and other interested groups	Sept. 98	Lack of cooperation
3. Increase Blockwatch groups	More Block watch groups important information to assist with strategic plan	Parkville Public Safety Committee, CCP, and CSO	Sept. 98	Difficulty to motivate some residents and coordination
4. Initiate a public education campaign	A program that involves many residents and city depts.	Parkville Public Safety Committee	Oct. 98	Difficulty to motivate some residents
5. Create system of record keeping	Reporting system	Parkville Public Safety Committee, CSO	Sept. 98	Difficulty to motivate some residents