



**Spokane International District Safety Plan
2012**

*Prepared by ESBA for Spokane International District neighborhood action plan 2010
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Spokane International District Safety Plan:



This document will serve as a guide for increasing and maintaining safety in the Spokane International district. Creating an inviting and safe district for residents and businesses is critical to the success of a neighborhood. This document will identify strategic alliances between the residents, the business association, law enforcement and other key stakeholders that share a common goal of creating a strong, stable and healthy community through the reduction of persistent crime and the creation of safe physical space. The ongoing collaborative effort of interested government and community agencies, the business association and residents will produce specific action items targeted to address issues of crime and safety currently existing in the District and a provide a framework for securing additional resources, evaluating progress and publicizing successes in the future. The plan will be based on comprehensive community engagement and provide a holistic approach to a safe District.

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INVITING AND SAFE DISTRICT FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

A clean and safe environment is critical to the success of the neighborhood. Sidewalks currently have tripping hazards as well as lack of curb cuts. Sprague Avenue is a 4-lane street with a 30 MPH speed limit, making it difficult for pedestrians to safely cross. Enforcement of traffic and safety laws as well as slowing down traffic on Sprague would benefit both business owners and visitors.

The District has long been perceived as unsafe because of prostitution, drug activity and alcohol related crimes. Police department involvement with the neighborhood groups has been good, as has the police response time when crimes are reported. Businesses are currently engaged in the Business Watch program, but wider participation is needed.



An Alcohol Impact Area limiting the sale of single container high-alcohol content liquor has been implemented and expanded to include the Perry District and East of the International District to Freya Street. The ordinance approved by city council states that compliance by stores is on a voluntary basis. Alcohol related crime will be tracked until February 2012 after which a decision will be made whether mandatory compliance will be needed. Business owner's have been encouraged by the police department to report people with open containers of alcohol walking in the District.

There are several homes in the residential areas that are dilapidated and pose potential safety hazards. These issues also need to be addressed.

For several years the District has participated in the City's annual neighborhood clean-up program led by the East Central Neighborhood Council. In 2009, business owners focused more effort into the District by cleaning sidewalks, maintaining planter boxes, washing windows and picking up litter. This targeted effort in the area is planned to be an annual event that not only improves cleanliness, but builds community within the neighborhood with residents and business owners working side by side.

Section 2 – Resources

This section outlines various resources for residents and business owners within the District when trying to deal with safety issues. Available as well are contact information for dealing code enforcement issues. Most of the information listed below was made available from the *Safe Streets: Creating a Neighborhood Free From Nuisance* developed by the Spokane Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.) organization. It offers guidance for dealing with crime and code enforcement issues throughout the City of Spokane and Spokane County and is not intended as a substitute for legal advice.

- **Protecting your Neighborhood**

How Does My Neighborhood Appearance Affect Its Probability As A Crime Target?

Your neighborhood's appearance matters more than you think.

A defaced wall, a weed-choked lot, and trash in a back alley – if your immediate neighborhood bears visible signs of deterioration and neglect, you've got a problem. But is it a serious problem? Does it really call for a determined, collective response? If you and your neighbors are going to get organized, make phone calls, ring doorbells, have meetings...shouldn't it be about something more important than tidying up? Maybe not.

In recent years, criminologists have come to believe that signs of neighborhood neglect are like markers designating outlaw territory. Everyone senses them. Predators come forward, emboldened. Decent people draw back, intimidated. Kids get the wrong message. Activists lose heart. C.O.P.S. lose interest. When things look bad, in other words, they tend to get worse.

That means that when you work with your neighbors to clean up the area around you and enforce minimum standards of upkeep, you're not just sprucing up the place where you live, you're demonstrating and proving to one another, as well as to outsiders, that yours is not a "bad" neighborhood. You care about it; you face up to its problems. You stick together. And you're no pushovers.

Contact Code Enforcement for information on required conditions and city ordinances (625-6809)

How Can I Make Crime In My Neighborhood Harder To Commit?

Harden the Target – Make policing easier by making crime harder.

“Hardening the target” is a phrase coined by a prominent criminologist, for measures taken by ordinary citizens that make a criminal’s job harder – changes in habits and routines, investments in personal and home security, and so on. Visit your area C.O.P.S. substation for ideas and information about securing your property.

What Can I Do With A Vacant Lot?

Bust It: The law requires that property owners keep their lots clear, clean and safe.

Clear It: Is there anything preventing you from cleaning up that lot yourself?

Fence It: Some cities assist residents in clearing and fencing city-owned lots.

Buy It: It may be cheaper than you think.

Farm It: Urban gardens can help you turn an eyesore into food, flowers, and fun.

How Can We Overcome An Unsightly Residence In Our Neighborhood?

The law requires that property owners keep their lots clear, clean and safe...

In Washington State, private owners of vacant lots have to comply with the Health and Nuisance Codes, just like private owners of buildings. Among other things, vacant land has to be kept free of rubbish. The rules are enforced by code enforcement officials, either at the city or county level. If a lot is unsafe or unsightly (i.e., if it tends to degrade the area around it or poses a health hazard to nearby residents), the Code Enforcer finds out who the owner is and requires him or her to bring it up to code within a specified time or face fines.

Contact the owner. If a friendly phone call does not bring actions, write a letter demanding action. The appendix contains two sample letters to property owners. If the lot turns out to be city or county owned, as some are, typically because of tax delinquency forfeitures, its upkeep is the responsibility of that entity. Whether it’s private or public, be aware that a littered and neglected vacant lot is a magnet for illegal dumping. So don’t put off doing something about it.

Can I Do Anything About Illegal Dumping?

Illegal dumping can be a big problem in some communities. Vacant property, particularly when it isn’t being properly cared for, tends to attract trash from elsewhere, courtesy of unscrupulous haulers, contractors, and others who want to save themselves the trouble and dumping fees by imposing on you and your neighbors.

Don’t allow dumping. It is a serious crime punishable by stiff fines. Report violations to the appropriate authorities and, if possible, give them a description of the dumpers, the license number, make, color and model of any vehicle involved, and some idea of the material that was dumped. See pages 54-59 for Nuisance Information about civil and criminal laws. These apply to dumping as well as other types of nuisance.

Can I Clean An Unsightly Residence Myself?

Is there anything preventing you from cleaning up that lot yourself?

If you and your neighbors are concerned about the safety of appearance of a vacant lot in your area, don't overlook the possibility of simply cleaning it up yourself. It is always a good idea to get owner permission. In instances where cleanup will only take a short amount of time and only a few garbage bags, permission may not be necessary.

What Can I Do As A Last Resort About An Unsightly Residence?

Buy It...It may be cheaper than you think.

If the private owner hasn't been paying the taxes on the property, and long-term neglect and unpaid taxes do generally go hand-in-hand, you can see if the city/county has seized the property, and made it available for purchase at a sale. If the owner has been cited and fined for code violations, the unpaid housing court fines can also result in a lien on the property in favor of the city or county. In addition, the Spokane County Assessor at 477-5793 or any title company can help you determine legal ownership of the property in question.

What Can I Do About Graffiti In My Community?

Call your area Spokane C.O.P.S. substation to report incidents of graffiti. (625-4180)

Citizens, such as you, are trained by the police department to make a report, estimate damages, photograph and file the report with the police department for its documentation. The owner of the property will be contacted to cover up the graffiti as soon as possible.

What Does The Law Say About Defacing Property?

In the State of Washington, defacements, such as graffiti or vandalism, are covered by malicious mischief laws.

Our city ordinance reflects expectations of removal the responsibility of the victim;

Regulation of Activities Division I: Penal Code

Chapter 10.10 Offenses Against Peace and Order

Listing 10.10.070 Graffiti Prohibited

No person owning or in control of any property may allow the property to be used as a location for graffiti, or fail or refuse to remove, cover or grant permission to city personnel to remove or cover the graffiti from the property when so directed by a police officer.

Listing 10.10.080 Graffiti Defined.

For the purposes of this chapter "graffiti" is any sign or symbol, including the painting of murals, placed upon property

- A. by the application of a substance, such as paint, ink, dye, chalk, or other marks, or by the removal of material by scratching, carving, gouging, or cutting,
- B. for the apparent purposes of communicating, in code or otherwise, among members of a club, organization, gang, or other group, any message, including the presence of the organization in a location,
- C. which communication is likely to incite or foster violence or other criminal

Creating a phone tree

For Business Watch and Block Watch programs a phone tree, or even e-mail distribution lists, are a great way to get information out quickly about events going on in the neighborhood. Having a phone tree and e-mails lists connect people together to rally behind a problem. The SID Safety Plan encourages use of such communication efforts.

Keep a phone log

With the Alcohol Impact Area enforcement going on, it is advisable to keep a phone log of calls to 911 and Crime Check (456-2233). All incidents report to either of these numbers requires dispatch to enter an incident number. Ask the operator for this number as a way to track reporting of problems in the neighborhood.

Who to call for help?

Enforcement Agencies and Resources

Agency	Address	Phone	Area
Abandon Car Hotline		625-4246	City of Spokane
Assessor	1116 W Broadway 99260	477-5793	Real property - legal description
Auditor	1116 W Broadway 99260	477-2270	Real property – recording
Block Watch, CPTED, Crime-Free Multi-Housing	Area C.O.P.S. or SC.O.P.E. substations		City and County
Building & Planning	1026 W Broadway 99260	477-2205	County code & zoning
Child & Family Services	1313 N. Atlantic #2000 99201	456-4451	
City Attorney	808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. 99201	625-6225	Represent city
City Council	808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. 99201	625-6225	City Complaints
City Mayor’s Office	808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. 99201	625-6250	City Complaints
Code Enforcement	808 W Spokane Falls Blvd. 99201	625-6083	City Code and Zoning
County Commissioners	1116 W Broadway 99260	477-2265	County complaints
County Prosecutor	1100 W Mallon 99260	477-3662	County prosecution
Crime Check		456-2233	Non-emergency crime reporting
Crime Reporting	1620 N Rebecca 99217	532-9266	Non-emergency crime reporting
Drug/Gang Houses	1100 W Mallon 99260	363-8210 477-4778	City County
Environmental Health	1101 West College 99201	324-1589	Sewer problems
Fire Marshall	44 West Riverside 99201	625-7000	Call for your local department – smoke alarm

			inspection and alley Obstructions
First American Title Company	521 W 1st Avenue 99204	838-5281	Real property ownership
Fulcrum Institute	905 W Riverside 99201	838-4858	Neighborhood Mediation
Havermale Alternative Center	1300 W Knox 99201	354-6409	Truancy
Northwest Conflicts Management Center	525 W 2nd Avenue 99201	456-0103	Neighborhood mediation
Mediator Directory Spokane County Courthouse	1st floor – information desk 3rd floor – clerk’s office #300 4th floor annex – Bar Assoc.	477-7612 477-2665	A reference book of mediation services. “Settlement Week” Wed.-Fri – twice yearly (April & Sept.) scheduled through your attorney
Police Department	1100 W Mallon 99260	625-4100	City law enforcement
Regional Health District	1101 W College 99201	324-1500	Animal bites, solid waste, etc
S.C.O.P.E.	1100 W Mallon 99260	477-4717	County substations
Sheriff’s Office	1100 W Mallon 99260	477-2240	County law enforcement
Small Animal Control	2521 N Flora Road 99216	458-2532	County complaints
Small Claims Court	721 N Jefferson 99260	477-6386	Civil claims under \$2500.00
Spokane C.O.P.S.	901 N Monroe #254 99201	835-4592	City substations
Spokanimal	710 N Napa 99204	534-8133	City animal complaints
Traffic Hot Line	1100 W Mallon 99260	625-4150	Spokane Police Department
Weed Board	222 N Havana 99212	456-5777	Noxious weed complaints

Section 3 – Workplan

2012

SAFETY WORKPLAN

A safety committee of the East Spokane Business Association has now been formed to analyze crime in the neighborhood and create strategies to implement positive change. Input from police, health department workers, social workers, business association members, city attorneys, economic development staff, and other community leaders at a “clean & safe” focus group has led to a breadth and depth of understanding of what the current conditions of the neighborhood are and what steps need to be taken to make improvements.

2012 Quarterly Outline

Q1 January- March

- Electronic monitoring system
 - Outside company or internal (ESBA)
- Social issues
 - Prostitution
 - Vagrants
 - AIA
 - Nuisances
- Building maintenance
 - Owner of property
 - Property renter

Q2 April- June

- Social issues
 - Prostitution
 - Vagrants
 - AIA (follow up invite P.D. Officer Max Hewitt to ESBA meeting)
 - Nuisances
 - Graffiti (invite P.D. Officer Walker to ESBA meeting)
- Spring clean up
 - Trash removal
 - Planter boxes
 - Explore hanging flower baskets
 - Repainting traffic lines/ crosswalks
- Lighting
 - Work with Avista on donating lighting to the district
 - Bulb replacement and maintenance
 - Timer and lighting positioning adjustments

Q3 July- September

- Cleaning
 - Street cleaning
 - Clean up storefronts
- Code enforcement
 - Property survey
 - Invite City Code Enforcement Director to the ESBA meeting
 - Create and implement a complaint strategy
- Social issues
 - Prostitution
 - Vagrants
 - AIA (follow up invite P.D. Officer Max Hewitt to ESBA meeting)
 - Nuisances

Q4 October-December

- Snow removal
 - Street removal
 - Sidewalk removal
 - ESBA funding snow removal
 - EPA approved removal site
- Lighting
 - Business lighting
 - Security lighting
 - Holiday lighting
- Graffiti
 - Surveillance systems
 - Interactive Surveillance system
 - Remote alert Surveillance system

Section 4 – Accomplishments

Hotspot Area	Crime/Nuisance /Safety Issue	Strategies to Implement	2009-2011 Actions Taken	2009-2011 Outcomes/Results
Sprague, 1 st & Riverside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prostitution ● Shoplifting ● Vandalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase “eyes on the street” via open businesses and pedestrians ○ Increase participation in Block Watch & Business Watch ○ Encourage businesses to install own cameras ○ ESBA to install cameras on Sprague <p>Document activity by prostitutes & take down license plate numbers and report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Participation in business watch ✓ ESBA exploring camera systems & costs ✓ Safety committee formed ✓ Agreement with Securitas to patrol area – merchants to provide coffee, and other benefits to encourage security officers to visit businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Decreased presence of prostitution in the District ✓ Catch bad guys ✓ Deterrence ✓ Decreased losses resulting from stolen goods at businesses
1800 Block Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drug Dealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase “eyes on the street” ○ Improve Crime Check reporting. Develop sign in system so don’t take all the personal info each time ○ Report and log activity ○ Cameras ○ Post or distribute pictures of known dealers ○ Lighting study to determine additional lighting needs ○ Educate and promote use of CPTED principals to deter crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Immediate Crime Check reporting. ✓ Alert business of the individuals participating. ✓ Meet regularly with Neighborhood Resource Officer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arrests made ✓ Crime statistics lowered ✓ Perception of District has changed so visitors feel safe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alcohol Impact Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ AIA Adopted – currently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regulars are still seen

	Intoxication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call 911 – get report number ○ Security Cameras ○ Security Patrol program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ voluntary ✓ voluntary ✓ voluntary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> drinking on Sprague ✓ Pressing to remove High alcohol singles from being sold in the District
Alley between Sprague and 1 st 1700 Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report to Crime Check &/or Cop Shop & photograph ○ Remove Promptly ○ Security Cameras ○ Graffiti removal crew to clean off or paint over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Photos taken and mapped of current graffiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ District is free of graffiti or promptly removed when discovered
All Sprague Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous to cross street • J walkers • Speeding • Heavy trucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slow down traffic ○ Three lane study yielding center turn + E-W traffic ○ Enforcement of traffic laws including regarding pedestrian right of way ○ Traffic cameras at stop lights ○ Emphasis patrols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Grant to study and recommend 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter/junk cars/debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual clean-up to include businesses & residents ○ CDBG \$5000 cleanup for all EC. Dump passes. ○ Safety subcommittee work with Code Enforcement to identify and address problem areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety committee formed. ✓ Subcommittee formed to work with Code Enforcement ✓ EC Neighborhood Council allocated funding for clean-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ District is clean ✓ Code violations have been addressed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruit volunteers or DOC for litter pick up 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dilapidated housing ● Business with garbage, cars, junk viewable from Sprague ● Buildings used for storage on Sprague 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with Code Enforcement Clean & Safe Committee to identify and address problem properties ○ Work with CA and City to get ordinances enforced and strengthened ○ Work with CA & City to create ordinance to require windows blocked for views of junk inside ○ Work with building owners so that junk/storage not visible from street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Safety subcommittee formed to work with Code Enforcement ✓ Storefront Improvement Program Created ✓ City working with some building owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Buildings will be used for appropriately zoned purposes, decreasing blight and the image of an ill maintained neighborhood