

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
Response to Crime in Detroit
June 2004

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Michigan State Police (MSP) has been assigned to develop a proposal to provide a response to crime within the city of Detroit.

Any plan to address criminal activity includes three major components: crime, traffic, and community. Deterring criminal activity by arresting offenders either through criminal investigations or assertive traffic enforcement efforts is the foundation for reducing violent crime. The Detroit Police Department (DPD) and MSP, along with local, county, and federal law enforcement agencies in the Detroit metropolitan area, working in partnership with each other and given the necessary resources can address crime and traffic. However, "community" is arguably the most critical of the three areas.

From a high level perspective, "community" includes public and private resources and efforts at the local, county, state, and federal levels. Many other state agencies and their respective counterparts at the local/county levels could have a role in this endeavor. Community also includes, but is not limited to, businesses, churches, universities, schools, service organizations, and local watch groups. All are key components to the success of a community-based program.

A plan of this magnitude cannot be made in a vacuum. MSP is suggesting that discussions involving Col. Tadarial Sturdivant, Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, and select members of their staffs would be an appropriate starting point. Coming from the "state level," MSP cannot begin to understand the operational, political, social, and economic issues DPD faces daily. For this plan to be successful, DPD must support and welcome MSP assistance.

There could be huge political implications as well. Does the state provide the same level of attention to Flint, Saginaw, Benton Harbor, or any other jurisdiction with issues similar to Detroit? Assigning additional MSP resources in Detroit would require reducing resources in other parts of the state, significantly impacting our ability to provide routine services around the state. Pulling 50 additional troopers into Detroit equates to closing three fully staffed posts such as Ionia (18 troopers), Hastings (18 troopers), and St. Ignace (14 troopers). This is certain to draw criticism from out-state areas.

It must be noted that the number of arrests generated by these personnel would create a significant increase on the court system and increase the demand for limited jail space in the area. Both issues must be addressed prior to considering that assignment of enforcement personnel.

Finally, the "entire community" must embrace this effort; law enforcement cannot do it alone. Although discussed later in the proposal, the other state agency resources mentioned are only the beginning. Further development and refinement will need to be completed by the other state agencies. MSP is not in a position to have a full understanding of the resources others could bring to the table.

Other Crime Studies
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Detroit Special Enforcement Initiatives

- Aside from providing patrols and responding to calls for service on Detroit freeways, the Detroit Post regularly launches a number of high profile traffic enforcement initiatives where they target speed, safety belt, drunk driving, alcohol, and other hazardous moving violations. Many of these initiatives are worked collaboratively with the Detroit Police Department and Wayne County Sheriff's Department
- Project "CRUSADERS" (Crime Reduction Utilizing Statistical Analysis, Data Evaluation, and Response Strategies) - Program in which agencies in the city of Detroit will combine resources and simultaneously work on narcotics and morality related street enforcement, violent fugitive apprehension, assertive enforcement of traffic laws, and the immediate investigations and arrests of illegal gun traffickers. Project "CRUSADERS" is currently an indefinite program and each operation runs four weeks in different precincts of the city.
- MSP Motorcycles - Motorcycle patrols provide a variety of services including dignitary escorts and traffic related enforcement.

Traffic Crash Reconstruction - Second District Traffic Services personnel regularly provides traffic crash reconstruction services to the Detroit Police Department, Detroit Fire Department, and Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Two MSP reconstructionists regularly process high profile cases such as serious crashes causing multiple fatalities, trucking fuel tanker collisions, fatal patrol car crashes, hit and run fatalities, manslaughter cases, shootings, and homicides. Expert testimony in court is also provided by these officers.

Fugitive Sweeps - MSP regularly participates in fugitive sweeps targeting violent offenders wanted on felony warrants in the city of Detroit and throughout the Metropolitan area. Each sweep is a collaborative effort between MSP, DPD, Wayne County Sheriff's Department, and a number of other local and federal agencies. Some of the more notable fugitive sweeps include WEB Sweep, Operation Shock Wave, Operation Last Call, Arch Angel (pre-Halloween) and Operation ICE III.

Special Event Support - MSP regularly provides support to the Detroit Police Department for special events such as G-7 Economic Forum, OSE Conference, G-8 Energy Conference, Arab Economic Forum, FIRENET, North American Auto Show, Freedom Festival, and dignitary protection and motorcades for the President, Vice President and other dignitaries from across the world. With each event, MSP generally mobilizes numerous troopers, sergeants, and lieutenants to help plan, coordinate, and implement services to help ensure a safe and successful event.

Additionally, while the Michigan State Fair is primarily a state sponsored event within the city of Detroit, MSP and DPD have traditionally worked closely to provide security and police services inside and outside the State Fair grounds, to help ensure a safe family environment for residents throughout the state. MSP resources are mobilized from outside the Second District for the State Fair annually.

Investigative Services Bureau Resources

Ongoing efforts and resources involving MSP Investigative Services Bureau personnel include:

Field Detectives - Currently two detectives are assigned to the Detroit Post. Detectives supervise and direct investigative activities of troopers as well as provide guidance on case supervision, proper investigative techniques, evidence handling, forfeitures, crime scene processing, and assistance with interview and interrogation.

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Intelligence Unit - The Intelligence Unit provides investigative assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout Michigan, nationally and internationally. The unit maintains comprehensive cross-indexed, and rapidly retrievable information that is relevant and useful in identifying organized criminal activities, suspects, and associates. Unit personnel collect, collate, and analyze vast amounts of information, developing leads to initiate or better focus criminal investigations. Currently, the Intelligence Unit has two enlisted members and one civilian analyst who provide these services to all law enforcement agencies in southeast Michigan.

Gaming Section - The Gaming Section provides a full-time law enforcement presence in all three Detroit casinos, in addition to serving as the enforcement arm of the Michigan Gaming Control Board. The section's primary responsibility is to investigate criminal violations arising from gaming related activities. Working closely with the Detroit Police Department's Gaming Division, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Section, and the Michigan Attorney General's Office, the section plays a major role in maintaining integrity and public safety in the gaming industry. The Gaming Section consists of an Inspector, 1 - Detective/F/Lieutenant, 3 - D/Lieutenants, 7 - D/Sergeants, 18 - D/Specialists, and 2 - secretaries. It should be noted that the Gaming Section does not receive general fund monies.

Violent Crimes Investigative Section - The Violent Crimes Investigative Section is supervised by a Detective/F/Lieutenant 15 and is comprised of the following areas of responsibility:

- Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) - VCTF serves as a rapid response force for high-profile crimes and horrific acts of violence in the city of Detroit. Consisting of officers from the MSP, Detroit Police Department, FBI, and ATF, this group handles or assists in the identification and arrest of Detroit's worst offenders. Their jurisdiction and respective expertise is a force multiplier to detectives working in Detroit's precincts. Personnel assigned include 1 - D/Lieutenant, 1 - D/Sergeant, and 2 - temporary troopers. Current vacancies includes 1 - temporary trooper.
- Alliance Fugitive Task Force (a.k.a. Alliance) - The Alliance Fugitive Task Force is a major force in the fugitive community. Comprised of officers and agents from the FBI, MSP, and the Detroit Police Department, this unit focuses its attention on the most serious felons wanted on federal flight warrants. Personnel assigned include 1 - D/Sergeant and 2 - temporary troopers.
- REDRUM Homicide Task Force - This group has the daunting task of solving narcotic related homicides in the city of Detroit, along with dismantling and disrupting drug trafficking organizations that use violence to further their operation. The task force consists of agents and officers from the DEA, Detroit Police Department, and the MSP. Two D/Sergeants are assigned to the Task Force.
- Cold Case Homicide Squad - This team consists of members from the MSP, Detroit Police Department, and ATF. Their focus is on the many unsolved homicides in the city of Detroit. This multi-agency team marries technologies not available when the crime occurred with old fashion, gumshoe investigating to bring dated homicides to closure. The group is crucial as it helps to increase the closure rate of cold cases in the Detroit Police Department's homicide bureau, allowing their other squads to center their attention on more current investigations. Currently assigned are 1 - D/Sergeant, 2 - temporary troopers, and 1 - temporary trooper vacancy.
- DEA Group 6 - The MSP have full-time participation in DEA Group 6. Their activities have led to disruption and/or dismantling of drug trafficking organizations in metropolitan Detroit, arguably the root of most homicides in the city. Personnel assignments include 1 - D/Sergeant and 1 - D/Specialist.
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) - The HIDTA Deconfliction Center was involved in five major fugitive sweeps for 2003. Their involvement includes providing intelligence packets to the arresting officers. Their participation has greatly increased the number of fugitive arrests in the city of Detroit, while creating a safer environment for law enforcement. One D/Lieutenant and 1 - D/Sergeant are currently assigned.