

FACT SHEET

“Clean & Safe” Initiative

Police Partnerships

Increased ACPD Presence in Tourism District - The Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD) has greatly increased its presence in the Tourism District as a leading partner in the Clean & Safe initiative. In January 2011, the ACPD re-established directed patrols (Tac Team 1) composed of nine officers and two sergeants who conduct operations targeting trouble spots within the city. A second unit (Tac Team 2) with the same level of staffing provides quality-of-life enforcement patrols in and around the Tourism District. ACPD has trained over 50 officers for bike duty and 34 casino security personnel.

25 Special Law Enforcement Officers - The ACPD has hired and is training 25 new special law enforcement officers who will provide additional foot patrols in the Tourism District. They are expected to be on the street by July 1.

Expanded Casino Security Perimeters & Security Staffing - The casino industry and the Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) have worked closely together to address security and surveillance issues for the entire footprint of each casino property. The DGE is establishing minimum security and surveillance staffing levels for each casino. In addition, the DGE has instituted a “zero tolerance” policy for persons who commit a crime, threaten the safety of casino patrons or employees, or disrupt casino operations in a casino hotel complex, excluding them from all casinos.

Atlantic City Violent Crime Task Force - Comprised of law enforcement officers from the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice Gangs & Organized Crime Bureau, the New Jersey State Police Street Gangs Unit, the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office, the Atlantic City Police Department, the Atlantic County Sheriff’s Office, and the State Parole Board, the mission of Atlantic City Violent Crime Task Force is to target organized criminal groups operating throughout the city and beyond, emphasizing long-term investigations aimed at dismantling criminal organizations. Since becoming operational on August 8, 2011, the Task Force has participated in arrests of 183 individuals in and around Atlantic City with charges ranging from narcotics and weapons offenses to homicide. The Task Force is assisting the ACPD when called upon in street operations to suppress violence. Meanwhile, the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office reported great increases in clearance rates for homicides from 2010 to 2011, with homicides solved in Atlantic City increasing from 25 percent in 2010 to 64 percent in 2011, and the percentage solved for the entire county increasing from 38 percent to 65 percent.

Ambassador Program - The Ambassador staff, which has been expanded from 22 to 60, allows for more than 20 personnel to be detailed along the Boardwalk, Pacific Avenue and Atlantic Avenue on a daily basis from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. In addition to assisting tourists, the Ambassadors will serve as eyes and ears for public safety and code enforcement. Each Ambassador will be equipped to report safety and quality-of-life issues to responsible agencies for immediate action.

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Technology Enhancements

Eyes on Atlantic City - The Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office (ACPO) has taken the lead in the “Eyes on Atlantic City” initiative, an intelligence project with the goal of pro-actively gathering data on where privately-owned surveillance systems are located and making that data accessible to law enforcement. To date, the ACPO, with the assistance of the Atlantic City Police Department, has identified and geographically mapped over 450 privately owned, non-casino surveillance systems within the city, including their location, owner, and field of view. That data has already successfully aided in capturing footage of criminal activity and getting that footage into the hands of law enforcement rapidly.

After data was collected on the private surveillance systems, the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office Intelligence Unit was able to take the information and store it in the ACPO Regional Information Sharing Network, which allows any detective who is registered with the Prosecutor’s Office the ability to access the data. The surveillance footage not only aids in increased public safety by expanding police presence, but also can serve as a non-biased third-party witness.

The Division of Gaming Enforcement, working in partnership with the casino industry, has been inspecting and documenting existing casino video surveillance and related public safety resources, including a comprehensive audit of the closed-circuit TV systems related to casino hotel parking garages and perimeters.

Public and private partners are working to fill in the gaps in a citywide network of surveillance cameras, with initiatives underway targeting the Gateway region of the city and the Boardwalk with overarching goal of developing a consolidated system of surveillance and public safety communication. This will enhance safety in the city and increase the effectiveness of police personnel on the ground in deterring and disrupting criminal activity. The CRDA has earmarked \$3.5 million dollars in support of efforts by the ACPD to implement these and related technology enhancements.

Currently underway is the Gateway Security Initiative, a public-private partnership involving Tanger Outlets which seeks unity of effort on video technology, security practices and information sharing in the Gateway region of the city, including the Atlantic City Expressway entry/exit, Tanger Outlets The Walk, Columbus Mixed-Use Center, Convention and Transportation Centers and the additional restaurants and businesses in proximity to this area.

The Atlantic City Police Department, partnering with the city administration, is moving ahead with (1) improved video-surveillance capacity for properties owned by the Atlantic City Housing Authority, (2) installation of traffic control cameras, which will expand the surveillance network, (3) procurement of gunshot-detection technology for high-crime areas, (4) acquisition of Automated License Plate Readers, and (5) use of Mobile Data Terminals, 20 of which are currently installed in patrol vehicles.

In the Tourism District, public and private partners are developing recommendations for implementing an upgraded system on the Boardwalk incorporating integrated video surveillance and public address capabilities. These developments directly complement lighting upgrades underway along the length of the Boardwalk through the teamwork of the CRDA and the Atlantic City and Corson Electric Companies.

Improved Boardwalk Lighting - New lighting will more than double the intensity of illumination of the Boardwalk's surface. Phase 1 will be completed this month with 244 lights installed from Albany Avenue to Rhode Island Avenue along the Boardwalk at an investment of \$2.5 million in CRDA funds. Phase II of the project will include 130 lights plus 72 street end poles. This will represent an additional investment of more than \$2.5 million in CRDA funds.

Mutualink - The New Jersey State Police, working in conjunction with the Division of Gaming Enforcement and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security Preparedness, established protocols with the casino industry to activate an interoperable system in each casino to allow dispatchers, police, fire, EMS and other public safety agencies to share voice, video, text and files across a secure Internet connection. Mutualink dramatically enhances and changes the way emergency responders communicate.

Tip411 - The ACPD will soon launch a new crime fighting tool that gives citizens the capability, at their fingertips, to provide immediate, anonymous tips and intelligence to police. "Tip 411" is a privately operated Internet-based system that enables the public to text message a tip to police, and allows law enforcement to respond, creating a two-way confidential "chat." Funded by the CRDA, the new tool will help citizens play a more active role in keeping their neighborhoods safe and will be more likely to engage younger residents who frequent the Internet and favor text messaging as a means of communication.

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Quality-of-Life Initiatives

Zero Tolerance Crackdown - Since January 2011, the ACPD and the State Police’s Casino Gaming Bureau have implemented a “zero tolerance” policy regarding prostitution, conducting numerous anti-prostitution details in casino lounges and along Pacific Avenue which have resulted in 232 arrests. A new cooperative effort to keep prostitutes out of the casinos involves casino security staff photographing prostitutes arrested during police stings in the casinos and filing trespassing complaints against them in order to place them on “exclusion lists.” This allows the casinos and State Police to evict listed prostitutes immediately if they are spotted in a casino.

Outreach at the Beach Initiative - Commencing on Dec. 4, 2011, the ACPD, in conjunction with the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, Jewish Family Services, AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center and the Veterans Administration, have implemented the Outreach at the Beach initiative to screen homeless and transient individuals in the Tourism District, connect them with social services, and, when possible, return them to their families or other support networks. The police and social service agencies have screened more than 110 homeless individuals since December.

Demolition of Abandoned Buildings - In Fall 2010, 44 properties were identified as abandoned buildings in and around the Tourism District. To date, more than half of the original properties identified have been demolished or slated for demolition or renovation. Specifically, 12 properties have been demolished, seven are currently undergoing renovations by their owners, and five are currently out to bid for demolition. Efforts continue to address additional buildings.

Clean Parks & Neighborhoods/Graffiti Abatement - The ACPD has worked closely with the CRDA and Special Improvement District (SID) to clean up the Tourism District and surrounding neighborhoods, including parks and playgrounds. The SID has established effective protocols to respond to police alerts regarding issues related to trash, graffiti or other problems. Up to 40 locations weekly are addressed and graffiti removed by graffiti wipes, power washing or painting over the areas. The City Department of Public Works is also a critical partner in these efforts.

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