

Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative

2017 Annual Report



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings to all Central West End residents, business owners and visitors:

I am happy to report that 2017 proved to be another successful year for the CWE Neighborhood Security Initiative.

In a significant enhancement of our capabilities, Lyndon Cornell joined the Neighborhood Security Initiative team as our Camera Project Manager, and his contributions have proven to be an effective addition to our efforts.

The NSI is fortunate to enjoy a strong working relationship with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Through Lyndon's work managing our camera network, we were able to provide valuable video to the St. Louis Police Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) which led to the arrest of 53 suspects in 2017. It is safe to assume that those arrests would not have been possible without our video evidence. The video also helps ensure that the right suspect is identified and apprehended. That sort of coordinated effort is not happening elsewhere in the region.

In turn, the success derived from video evidence and subsequent arrests led to an increased caseload for Carolyn Compton, our Court and Neighborhood Advocate. She experienced many successes in seeking favorable outcomes in multiple cases. The importance of courtroom advocacy on behalf of victims and our neighborhood cannot be overstated.

Sarah Wickenhauser, NSI Deputy Director, exercised her usual diligence and excellent oversight in managing our finances, resulting in the NSI finishing the year under budget. Our volunteer board of residents and business owners, representing the participating Special Business Districts and Community Improvement Districts, once again provided critical vision and direction.

In 2018 we will expand our video project. With the additional cameras we are certain our successes will continue. The NSI is looking to expand our presence into other neighboring areas where we can provide security services. Finally, we look to build upon our relationship with the SLMPD. Our friend and new Police Commissioner, John Hayden, who lives in the CWE, supports our efforts and understands the added value we offer to the area. The better job we can do helping police identify and apprehend criminals, the safer our community becomes.

Please be assured that your NSI team will continue its efforts to further enhance safety and security throughout the CWE.

Yours for a safe and prosperous 2018,

Jim Whyte

Executive Director
CWE NSI



**Central West End
Neighborhood Security Initiative**
2017 Annual Report

President Les Wright
Executive Director Jim Whyte

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

NSI HISTORY

With inspired leadership from the Central West End Association (CWEA), a group of community stakeholders created the Neighborhood Security Initiative (NSI) in 2008 to develop and manage a comprehensive, coordinated strategy for improving security in the Central West End. The NSI is funded through a partnership among six participating CWE Special Business Districts (SBD), participating Community Improvement Districts (CID), and Washington University Medical Center (WUMC). The NSI collaborates with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD), The City's Finest (TCF), and residents and businesses to unify prevention efforts and respond more efficiently to crime as a community. The NSI is led by an executive director, Jim Whyte, who reports to a board made up of representatives from each of the participating entities. Over the past ten years the Neighborhood Security Initiative has coordinated and monitored supplemental police patrols, implemented and managed an extensive security camera network, compiled monthly crime statistics, created a neighborhood court advocate program to represent

community interests in matters that come before judges and juries, sponsored regular public forums to educate and inform area residents, and initiated an awards program to recognize officers who serve and protect us.

CRIME

While cause and effect are often difficult to quantify when it comes to crime prevention, it is clear that the Neighborhood Security Initiative has had a positive impact on crime reduction in our neighborhood.

Figures obtained from the SLMPD for the Central West End neighborhood show that since the creation of the NSI in 2008 the total crime index for the CWE has decreased by 30%.

The majority of reported crime in the CWE are larcenies. In 2017, 70% of all crime reported in the Central West End was a larceny. A larceny is a theft of personal property; for example, stealing a license

plate, parking meter change from a vehicle, and shoplifting.

**Figures are obtained from the SLMPD website. All figures are Part 1 crimes (arson, assault, burglary, homicide, larceny, rape, robbery, and vehicle theft) based on Uniform Crime Reporting from the FBI.*

CAMERA EXPANSION

The NSI supplements and supports security patrols with cameras located at strategic locations throughout the Central West End, primarily in commercial areas. The camera project began in 2012 with

the deployment of 14 cameras. The cameras proved to be a successful tool, which led to the arrest of many suspects. Based on those successes, the NSI elected to expand the program to other districts. In 2014, Washington University committed \$315,000 to the project, and each of the participating Special Business Districts made contributions as well for a total investment of \$465,000. Today the NSI manages 23 sites with a total of 111 cameras. An additional 67 existing cameras in the area have been integrated into the NSI system for a total of 178. The NSI integrated these cameras into the St. Louis Metropolitan Police

Department's (SLMPD) Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). The RTCC is manned with Commissioned Police Officers 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

In November 2017, the NSI made a donation of four Automated License Plate Readers (APLR) to the SLMPD RTCC. These cameras are used to locate stolen vehicles, vehicles wanted for committing crimes in the region, and vehicles of interest that may be involved in criminal activities. These APLR's will also expedite solving crimes and assist in quick apprehension after crimes occur by providing both

usable video and data. If a vehicle of interest travels past one of the APLR cameras it will produce a "hit" and notify the RTCC.

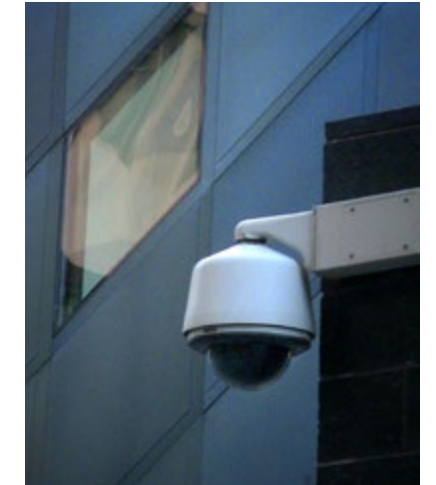


Image Courtesy of Michael Patrick

CAMERA SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

In early 2017, there were a string of business burglaries occurring throughout the Central West End. The suspect entered a business by breaking the front glass. While inside the suspect would steal the cash register. The NSI cameras captured six of these burglaries on video. As a result, the officers were able to quickly identify the suspect. He was later arrested and multiple charges were issued for burglary and stealing.

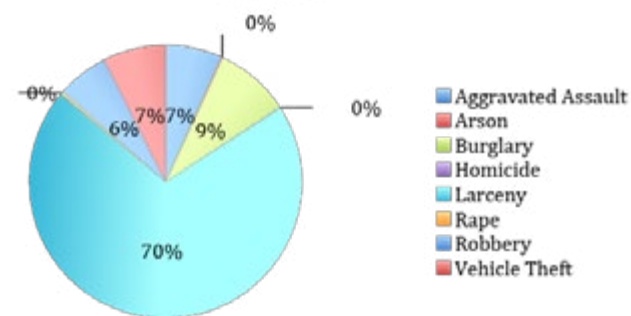
On March 16, 2017, a theft occurred in the area of Taylor and Pershing. Workers employed by Spire Energy were working at this intersection when two suspects occupying a silver Malibu parked behind one of the service trucks. The

passenger exited the vehicle and stole tools from the unoccupied work truck. The Malibu drove north on Taylor and out of sight. A month later, the suspects returned to the Central West End and observed the Spire Energy workers conducting some repairs on Maryland just east of Kingshighway. The vehicle stopped, the passenger exited and stole a concrete saw from the sidewalk. Both incidents were captured on camera. Images of the vehicle, license plate and suspects were provided to the police. The suspects were later arrested and charged with these thefts.

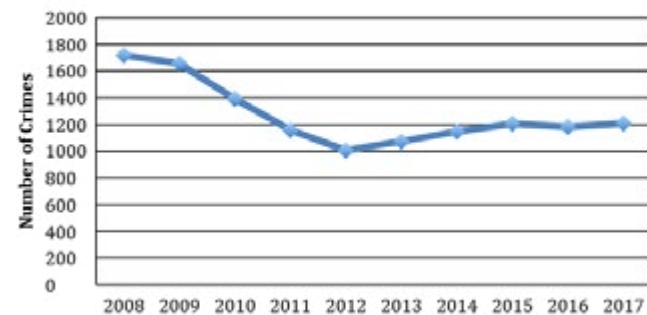
On August 31, 2017, a carjacking took place in the 4700 block of McPherson.

The victim was parking on the lot when he and his wife were approached by armed suspects who demanded the vehicle. This was followed just a few days later by another carjacking involving the same suspects which occurred in the rear alley of 4900 Washington. In that instance, the victim was parking on the secure parking lot when the suspects entered from the alley and approached the vehicle. The suspects pointed handguns at the victim and demanded his vehicle. Video of the crime and suspects was captured and immediately provided to the police. Based on our video evidence from both crimes, the police were able to identify the suspects and make arrests.

2017 Central West End Part 1 Crime



CWE Part 1 Crime Comparison 2008-2017



In the short 2 months the APLR cameras were up, there were 4 notable incidents that triggered hits. One of which, a vehicle was detected in the CWE that was wanted in connection with a case involving unlawful use of a weapon. The vehicle was located at Forest Park and Kingshighway. The suspect was arrested and the weapon was recovered.

The effectiveness and importance of the expanded security camera led to the creation of a new staff position. We now have a full-time camera project manager who oversees the operation of the NSI cameras.

The camera project has yielded numerous notable successes. In 2017, the NSI Camera Project Manager reviewed video footage 141 times for a total of 268 hours resulting in 53 arrests.

It should be noted that the camera project is considered “passive” in that it is not actively monitored around the clock. Instead, the NSI staff reviews footage as needed following a criminal incident.

NSI PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY'S FINEST

The City's Finest LLC is the provider of supplemental police patrols for the Neighborhood Security Initiative and it's participating Special Business Districts. The men and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department who work for The City's Finest staffed 2,800 supplemental patrols during the year. The supplemental patrols are funded by the five participating SBDs, each with a varying annual security budget. Collectively, \$617,031 was

spent on these security efforts in 2017. These bike patrols provide a highly visible and effective police presence in our neighborhood.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2016, the NSI expanded its footprint to include security efforts for the Grove Community District and the Washington University Medical Center, acting on behalf of the Forest Park Southeast neighborhood. NSI manages the supplemental patrols, attends safety and security meetings, provides crime analysis, and coordinates all efforts with the SLMPD.

NSI is looking to expand its services to neighboring districts, which will help realize economies of scale while also providing even greater security for the CWE community.



COURT/NEIGHBORHOOD ADVOCATE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Court Advocacy is built on two equally strong elements that are effective and essential to its success – Impact Letter Writing and Court Hearing Attendance. Court Advocacy is both highly supported and encouraged by our top law enforcement agencies in St. Louis — the Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) and the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office (CAO).

Since 2014, NSI's Neighborhood Court Advocate has encouraged people to attend criminal hearings, helped them write impact statements to judges explaining how crime impacts our neighborhood, and has sought favorable outcomes of criminal cases connected to the Central West End and Forest Park Southeast neighborhoods. Overall, the Court Advocate and volunteers have attended 257 court hearings, tracked over 308 criminal cases and submitted 149 Impact Statements.

This is an example of how the NSI is advocating on your behalf. We coordinate with police and the courts, assist victims of crime and engage the criminal courts to seek the best outcomes for victims and our community. We believe this sets the CWE neighborhood apart from any other neighborhood in the region. We know that this helps make the CWE a better place to live, work and visit.

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT

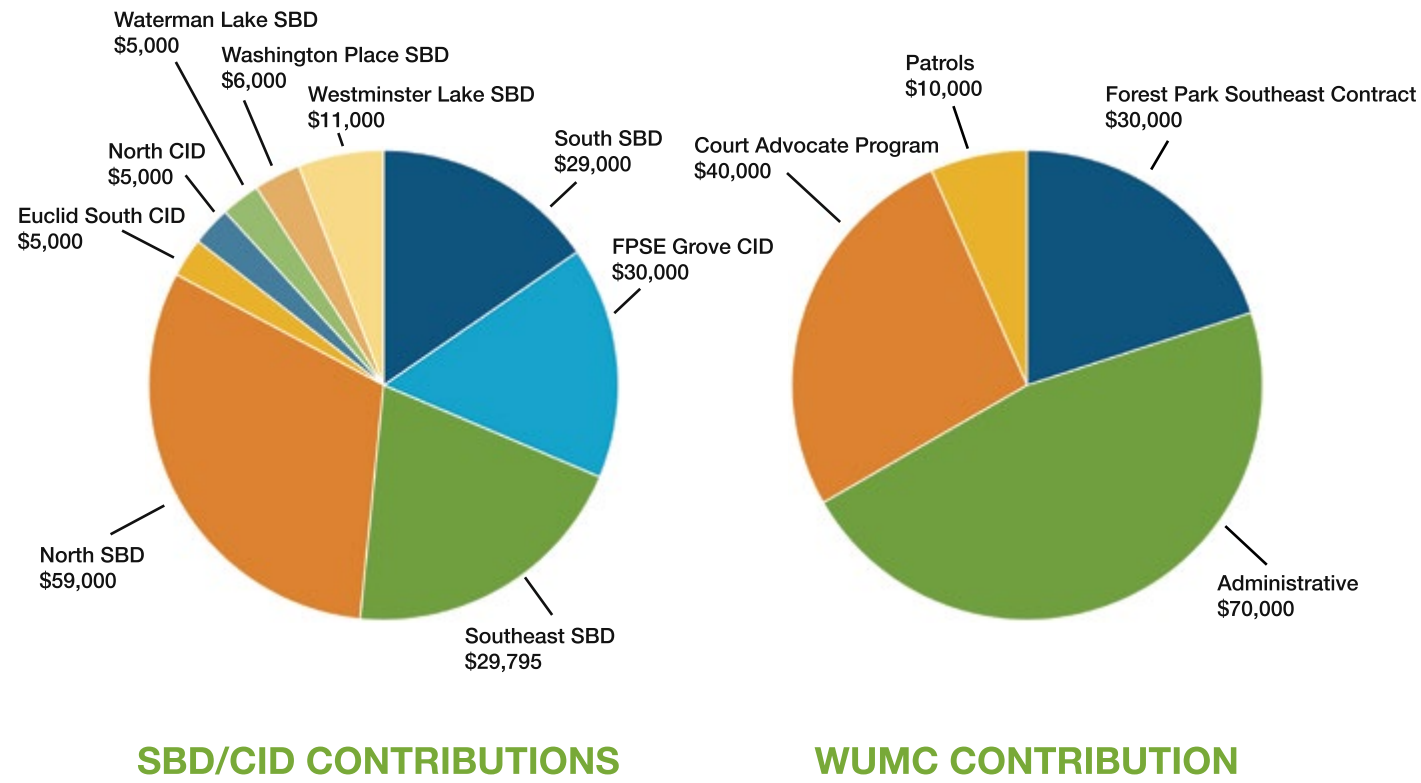
Neighborhood Court Advocate – *Carolyn Compton*

Carolyn Compton, BSW, our Neighborhood Court Advocate, was selected as a NOVA 2017 Honored Victim Advocate in the category of Community-Based Advocacy. Carolyn received the award at the 2017 NOVA Crime Victims' Rights Week event held in San Diego.



FINANCIALS

The NSI staff consists of four full-time personnel and is funded by six participating Special Business Districts (SBD), three Community Improvement Districts (CID), and Washington University Medical Center (WUMC), for a total of \$338,000 in 2017.



GLOSSARY AND MAP OF PARTICIPATING SBDs

- CID** - Community Improvement District
- SBD** - Special Business District
- SLMPD** - St. Louis Police Department
- TCF** - The City's Finest
- WUMC** - Washington University Medical Center





CWE NSI Board of Directors

Les Wright	President	Westminster Lake SBD
Kate Haher	Vice President	North CID
Jim Dwyer	Vice President of Finance	North SBD
Yusef Scoggin	Secretary	Southeast SBD
Bill Latz	Board Member	Washington Place SBD
Henry Edmonds	Board Member	North SBD
Nick Georges	Board Member	South SBD
Richard Weiss	Board Member	Waterman Lake SBD
Brian Phillips	Board Member	WUMC
Matt Green	Board Member	Euclid South CID

Staff

Jim Whyte	Executive Director	jwhyte@cwensi.com
Sarah Wickenhauser	Deputy Director	swick@cwensi.com
Carolyn Compton	Neighborhood Court Advocate	ccompton@cwensi.com
Lyndon Cornell	Camera Project Manager	lcornell@cwensi.com

Contact information

Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative
 447 N. Euclid St. Louis MO 63108
 (314) 454-5808
 cwensi.com



