

INKSTER TASK FORCE ENGAGEMENT TEAM
SAFETY CHARTER, 2013

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Suggested Participating Members: Block clubs, neighborhood watch members, public housing, emergency service providers (ie. police, fire, etc.), community leaders, and interested citizens and stakeholders

Summary of the Issue: Safety is a growing concern within the City of Inkster. Budget constraints have led to extreme reductions in police services, and the population base has become increasingly transient. Poverty has become more concentrated as residents continue to face declining rates of education, staggering unemployment rates, and more homes are headed by single mothers than by two parents. The disintegration of the sense of community – the feeling of a large, extended family that Inkster has always prided itself on - is increasingly being replaced by a sense of isolation within many neighborhoods. The results of these factors are reflected statistically: Neighborhood Scout assigns a crime index of only 6 on a scale of maximum scale of 100 – indicating that 94% of U.S. cities are safer than Inkster. ¹ *The violent crime rate is reported as 456% greater than the Michigan average and 464% greater than the national average.* ²

Safety Data Overview: Crime in Inkster is significantly higher than the national average, and significantly higher than in surrounding communities. For example, the national average rate of violent crime in 2011 was 213, while Inkster’s rate was 1,064.

Total Crime Rates in Surrounding Communities³

Inkster:	797.7
Dearborn Heights:	263.5
Garden City:	207.7
Wayne:	426.7
Westland:	280.5
Taylor:	342.9
Romulus:	345.3
Dearborn:	292.7
Allen Park:	143.9

Violent Crime Comparison per 1,000 residents

National Median 3.9

My chances of becoming a victim in Inkster: 1 in 55

My chances of becoming a victim in Michigan: 1 in 225

¹ NeighborhoodScout- Crime Rates & Crime Statistics, Inkster, MI www.neighborhoodscout.com/mi/inkster/crime (accessed 6/21/13)

² Inkster, MI Crime Rates & Sex Offenders Report. www.areavibes.com (accessed 7/2/12)

³City Data: Crime Rates in the City of Inkster. www.city-data.com/crime/crime-Inkster-Michigan.html (accessed 6/21/13)

PURPOSE: *The Inkster Task Force's Safety Engagement Team exists to coordinate efforts aimed at improving safety within the City of Inkster. Specific indicators have been identified to help gage the effectiveness of our efforts, as described below.*

SAFETY INDICATORS

**OVERALL CRIME
RATES DECREASE
IN INKSTER, AND IN
TARGETED
NEIGHBORHOODS.**

**INCREASE IN
SELF-REPORTED
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH NEIGHBORS.**

**INCREASED BLOCK
CLUB/
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH
PARTICIPATION.**

**STUDENTS FEEL
SAFE TRAVELLING
TO AND FROM
SCHOOL.**
(PN Indicator)

**DECREASE IN
VIOLENT CRIME.**

**STUDENTS FEEL
SAFE AT SCHOOL.**
(PN Indicator)

2013 Charter Priorities:

The Safety Team's Charter Priorities for 2013 are specific actions designed to begin moving toward changes in the defined indicators.

- 1) Engage key stakeholders, including police and community leadership, as participants in committee. With these key participants, host discovery/conversation sessions with Inkster stakeholders and residents to determine the core safety issues they'd like to see addressed.
- 2) Find the bright spots. Determine what's working in neighborhoods that are safe and vibrant, and create a "lessons learned" summary that can be shared with struggling neighborhoods.
- 3) Coordinate with existing groups such as block clubs to develop a shared agenda that includes a focus on activities and events that encourage neighbors to interact, develop relationships, and be active in their neighborhood in order to address isolationism.
- 4) Develop a report detailing best practices in neighborhood safety and community building strategies that also includes prioritized recommendations for the Task Force to consider for 2014.

SAFETY STRATEGY

The Safety Strategy describes the specific action plans for each safety charter priority item.

1. Goal: Engaging Stakeholders

Actions	Resources/ Assigned To	Timeline	Results
Coordinate with Zara to reach key community players	Anna		Zara shared contact list with Anna. Anna contacted all individuals and groups on the list within the month of October, 2013.
Develop an engagement strategy, including lists of recruitment options and timelines for contact			
Review and adapt engagement strategy at each Safety team meeting			
Strategically deploy members to support safety efforts by other community groups working toward shared agenda			

2. Goal: Finding Bright Spots

Actions	Resources/ Assigned To	Timeline	Results
Identify neighborhoods that are safe and vibrant	Census Tract Data; Community Perceptions; Crime Reports		
Meet with residents, block club and neighborhood watch groups in identified communities			
Create a list of common actions/ elements			
Assess common actions/elements for replicability			
Share final report with struggling neighborhoods			

3. Goal: Coordinating Efforts

Actions	Resources/ Assigned To	Timeline	Results
Create a systems map			
Create a community calendar			
Develop a shared agenda that reinforces action toward addressing key indicators			
Create a process for assessing opportunities to support other groups			

4. Best Practices Report

Actions	Resources/ Assigned To	Timeline	Results
Research best practices			
Create a best practices report			
Distribute best practices report			
Host study circles RE: best practices			