CRIME PREVENTION MECHANISMS IN URBAN AREAS:
A FOCUS ON ATLANTA

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BY
JUSTIN SIMEON EGWENIKE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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ABSTRACT
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Advisor: Professor James T. Jones

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The central theme of this paper is a discussion of the crime problems in the United States and the failure of efforts launched to date to reduce crime. Crime in urban areas and the programs developed by several cities to reduce crime are described in detail.

Crime prevention programs of the City of Atlanta are treated in more detail, followed by a presentation of materials developed by the Bureau of Crime Prevention, that may be used by individuals and businesses in both the prevention and detection of crimes.
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I. INTRODUCTION

By any reasonable standard the United States is known as an exceedingly criminal society. Within the population of 225 million, it is conservatively estimated that eight million serious crimes (felonies) are committed annually: many more that are less serious (misdemeanors) occur each year. For 1970, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported 5,568,200 felonies.\(^1\) This was an estimate of crimes known to the police across the country. Included in the reports were murder, and manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary and grand larceny, and auto theft. The figure would be much higher, of course, if other forms of crimes not known to the police were also included. But, taking the known figure of 5,568,200 only, one can calculate that in 1970, serious crimes occurred for every thirty-seven persons in the population. On the average during that year, one of these serious crimes was committed every six seconds.

During 1970, 4,836,800 major property crimes were known to have occurred in the United States: 2,169,300 of these were burglaries; 1,746,100 grand larcenies; and 921,400 auto thefts.\(^2\)


\(^2\) Ibid., p. 11.
Violent crime is of course also great in urban areas. The F.B.I. reported that in 1970, there were 15,810 murders, 37,270 forcible rapes; 329,940 aggravated assaults; and 348,380 robberies. These total almost three quarters of a million in crimes of violence. From these data, if violent crimes unknown to the police and the F.B.I. were included, obviously the violent crime rate for the United States for the year 1970 was 360 per 100,000 population. This means that during the year, 360 of the above types of violent crimes were committed for every 100,000 persons. On the average, one murder was committed every thirty-three minutes; one forcible rape every minute and a half; and one robbery every minute and a half. Taking those crimes together, a violent crime occurred every forty-three seconds on the average.

As Table 1 indicates, known crimes of violence rose markedly over the 1960s. The rate of 360 (per 100,000) in 1970 was well over double that of 156.4 in 1961. As noted, these are known rates. The increase is in part due to greater efficiency by police in recording and reporting crime. A significant portion of the increase, however, reflects an actual rise in violence. Murder is a useful index of violent crime in general. For years it has been unlikely that it would go undetected and it has been well reported.

3 Ibid., p. 40.
4 Ibid., p. 41.
5 Ibid., p. 12.
Property crimes (burglary, grand larceny, and auto theft) more than doubled in rate from 1961 to 1970. Table 1 shows that the known rate in 1961 was 981.9 (per 100,000). In

**TABLE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Violent Crime</th>
<th>Property Crime</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>156.4</td>
<td>981.8</td>
<td>1,138.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>160.5</td>
<td>1,030.8</td>
<td>1,191.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>166.2</td>
<td>1,125.8</td>
<td>1,292.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>166.2</td>
<td>1,251.7</td>
<td>1,439.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>197.6</td>
<td>1,314.2</td>
<td>1,511.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>217.2</td>
<td>1,449.4</td>
<td>1,666.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>250.0</td>
<td>1,671.7</td>
<td>1,921.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>294.6</td>
<td>1,940.2</td>
<td>2,234.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>324.4</td>
<td>2,152.5</td>
<td>2,476.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>360.0</td>
<td>2,380.5</td>
<td>2,740.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


1970, the rate was 2,380.5 per 100,000. The combined rate for violent and property crimes rose from 1,138.2 to 2,740.5 (per 1000) over a ten year period.\(^6\) Both the present very high rate

\(^6\)Ibid., p. 42.
and the enormous increase in recent times are indicative of a highly criminal society. Morris and Hawkins have noted that in the United States, and especially in urban areas, over 1,300,000 persons are in the custody of the overall criminal corrections system. This means that about one and a third million people are either in prisons, jails, or juvenile reformatories or are on probation or parole. This obviously is a considerable segment of the population. Moreover, most of those incarcerated or on probation remain inmates or probationers for less than a year. Hence the volume of persons moving through the correctional process is enormous.

Since this study focuses on Atlanta, it is imperative to look at the crime trend in Atlanta. Although the crime rate in Atlanta has been on the increase, this increase became intensified in 1978. Recent F.B.I. data show that in 1978, Atlanta had more crime per capita than any of the nation's forty largest cities, including many with a worse image, such as Detroit, New York, Washington, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Atlanta also had the highest crime increase (18 percent) of any major city.

In 1979, Marc Tetelman, a prominent Ohio doctor, was shot while attending the convention of the Society of Nuclear

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9 Ibid., p. 52.
Medicine. Leonard Freeman, president of the New York City based society, stated that the group of about 600 conventioneers encountered forty separate crimes during a four-day meeting here--including muggings, hotel room robberies, approaches by pimps and people who appeared to be peddling stolen property. On October 22, 1979, a legal secretary to former Governor Carl Sander was shot to death during lunch hour in the center of downtown by a Vietnam veteran who then killed himself, setting off a chain reaction of outrage, protests and fear. By the end of that week, five other persons were killed. It was at this time that Atlanta Mayor, Maynard Jackson, called for stricter handgun control. Urging citizens not to "react hysterically" to each incident, he ordered the construction of six police booths and an experimental police telephone system in the downtown area. On August 11, 1979, fifty Georgia troopers were assigned to Atlanta after 140 people had been murdered. The troopers joined a special unit called the "flying squad" which was composed of fifty special police officers organized to fight the soaring murder rate. During this time, the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, Central Atlanta Progress

11 Ibid.
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
and the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association committed between $60,000 and $75,000 to finance a six-month campaign by Hill and Knowlton, a New York public relations firm with an office in Atlanta. The firm was to conduct public opinion surveys and will make presentation to convention planners, travel groups and businesses in many cities.\footnote{Ibid., p. 17A}

The incident involving the twenty murdered and two missing black children has precipitated intense reaction from concerned black people. Numerous steps have been taken to apprehend those responsible for these disappearances and murders.

The facts outlined above are indicative of the fact that crime is indeed a problem facing urban areas and that urgent preventive measures should be taken to curb it. This paper will give an account of various steps taken by individuals and law enforcement agencies, businesses and many civic organizations to prevent crime. Tips on how to prevent some of the more frequently committed crimes will be stated. Reasons for lack of effective crime prevention will be discussed.
II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Although the United States is considered to be the wealthiest nation in the world, with technological superiority and enlightened social legislation, the nation is failing to meet the first responsibility of government, which is the maintenance of law and order and of personal security. Today, fear is a part of the daily lives of many Americans, whether they are walking alone on a dark street, or working in a shop, or driving a cab, or even sitting in their own homes. Crime affects individuals, their properties and their businesses. Crimes against individuals include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, prostitution, narcotics, and gambling. Property crimes are mainly burglary, larceny and auto theft.

Business properties or products are either stolen by that businesses' employees or they could be shoplifted by a customer. Businesses located in high crime urban areas pay high insurance cost. They also stand the chance of loosing some customers who have stopped patronizing the business for fear of crime. In order to minimize loss of life, property and income, many preventive measures have been taken to control crimes. The high incidence of crime has been blamed primarily in part on the absence of gun controls, and the lack of effective treatment programs for drug addiction. Despite the dedicated efforts of many thousands of individuals, the traditional
process of the United States criminal justice system—the police, the courts, the correctional agencies, the probation and parole services—are simply not performing adequately. It is commonly believed that police departments in urban areas are understaffed and ill-equipped, and the low pay levels fail to attract enough of the high-quality personnel needed. However, crime should be prevented because (1) it is threatening to the society, (2) it is expensive, (3) it is corrosive of public morals and morale, and (4) it is occurring at a socially intolerable rate.\textsuperscript{15}

III. PROBLEM DEFINITION

While Whisenland and Snibbe have defined crime prevention as the reduction or elimination of "the desire"\(^\text{16}\) and/or "opportunity to commit crime,"\(^\text{17}\) Platt sees crime prevention as everybody's business and that everyone seems to be getting into the act.\(^\text{18}\) Similarly as the Task Force of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence noted:

> Government programs for the control of crime are unlikely to succeed all alone. Informed private citizens, playing a variety of roles, can make a decisive difference in the prevention, detection and prosecution of crime, the fair administration of justice, and the restoration of offenders to the community.\(^\text{19}\)

These and other pleas for citizen action are heeded by too few. Urban dwellers agree that crime prevention is everybody's business, but too many fail to accept crime prevention as everybody's duty. Crime prevention as each citizen's duty is not a new idea. In the early days of law enforcement, well over a thousand years ago, the peacekeeping system encouraged

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the concept of mutual responsibility. Each individual was responsible not only for his actions but for those of his neighbors. A citizen observing a crime had the duty to rouse his neighbors and pursue the criminal. Peace was kept, for the most part, not by officials but by the whole community. With the rise of specialization in industrialized societies, citizens began to delegate their personal law enforcement responsibilities by paying others to assume peacekeeping duties.

Law enforcement evolved into a multifaceted specialty as citizens relinquished some of their crime prevention activities. But the benefits of specialization are not unlimited. Criminal justice professionals readily and repeatedly admit that:

... in the absence of citizen assistance, neither more manpower, nor improved technology, nor additional money will enable law enforcement to shoulder the monumental burden of combating crime in America, especially in urban areas.

The need today is for a more balanced allocation of law enforcement duties between the specialist and the citizens to reassume many of their discarded crime prevention responsibilities.

The typical citizen response to the crime problem is a demand for greater action by the police, courts, correctional institutions and other government agencies. The citizen asks too infrequently what he can do himself. And when the public

__20__Ibid., p. 281.

__21__Ibid., p. 282.
does decide to act, its activities often are short-lived, sporadic outbursts in response to a particularly heinous crime or one that occurred too close to home. Fortunately, this limited and frequently counterproductive type of citizen action shows signs of yielding to more informed citizen involvement in crime prevention efforts. Today, the public is beginning to heed the advice of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice: "Every American can translate his concern about fear of crime, into positive action." The committee warned that individuals should be cognizant of the many avenues of approach to a given crime problem.22

Major crime prevention activities include those aimed at what many consider to be the "infrastructure of crime." For example, insufficient education, inadequate job skills and lack of recreational opportunities.23 Citizen action in these areas are brought to bear outside of the criminal justice system and are designed to reduce significantly the need to utilize the sanctions of that system. Other major crime prevention measures are those that are closely related to the three components of the criminal justice system—police, courts, and corrections. In general, these activities seek either to


23 Block Association of West Philadelphia, "Neighborhood Block Safety Program" (mimeographed handout, 1972).
complement the operation of one of the components, as might a
citizen crime commission, or to strengthen the component, as
might probation volunteers. Efforts in these areas are
designed to help the criminal justice system become a more
effective crime deterrent. To deter crime, however, educa-
tional, employment and recreational programs have been estab-
lished in urban areas.

Crime Prevention Through Education

Many citizens are involved in encouraging school drop-
outs to complete their education. The "Keep a Child in School"
program in Charleston, West Virginia attempts to meet this
objective by working with students on a one-to-one basis, and
insuring that they have adequate clothes and supplies. This
program also provides tutors for students who have fallen
behind in their work or need special help. Other groups have
found it necessary to offer alternative educational opportuni-
ties, such as street academies or vocational programs. New
York City's Harlem Prep is one of the best known and most suc-
cessful street academies. It is supported by foundations and
industries and its purpose is to prepare dropouts for college.
The Philadelphia Urban Coalition has developed a vocational
program to serve the needs of the inner city high school youth
with poor reading skills who are planning to drop out. The

24Community Crime Prevention, "Attacking Crimes Infra-
structure" (Washington, D. C.: National Advisory Commission
on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, 1973), p. 11.

25Ibid., p. 12.
school system and the business community cooperate to give the youth the training he needs for a specific job in a specific industry. It is assumed that people with adequate education and skill will always find a job, and thereby not commit crime.

Crime Deterrence Through Employment

Businessmen are working to place the unemployed and especially the disadvantaged youths in summer and part-time jobs during the school year. The National Alliance of Businessmen's jobs program is the largest program of this type. They have placed almost one million youths in part-time and summer jobs provided by private business and industry. At the urging of the Urban Coalition and other citizen organizations, some companies have agreed to fill a certain percentage of new jobs with the hard-core unemployed and to set new eligibility standards in this regard. In Riverside, California, a group of employers founded the Job Opportunities Council to recruit the hard-core unemployed and to handle the paperwork involved.26 Citizen groups are promoting "hire first, train later" programs, whereby an applicant undergoes a two-week orientation program prior to being placed with an employer who agrees to provide on-the-job training and other support.27

26Ibid., p. 13.
27Ibid.
Recreation As A Crime Deterrent

Citizen organizations are active in financing or operating summer camps for disadvantaged young people. "Send a Kid to Camp" programs, sponsored by many local newspapers, solicit funds to provide disadvantaged youth with new experiences and recreational opportunities.28 The Fresh Air Fund in New York City has served an estimated 18,000 children by providing free vacations at its camps or at the homes of host families. Some groups have financed youth centers or spearheaded drives for better parks and other municipal recreational facilities. In an effort to reach youth from urban areas, the National Audubon Society has established nature demonstration centers at wildlife sanctuaries.

It is not within the scope of this study to probe the effectiveness of citizens actions toward the educational, employment and recreational programs. It should, however, be noted that these programs have contributed tremendously in the prevention of crime.

Since the enactment of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Act of 1968, the LEAA has spent millions of dollars to prevent crime. As indicated in Figure 1, the LEAA spent $61 million in 1969. In 1972, $700 million were spent. The act made it possible for the federal government to establish and fund law enforcement agencies projects with the aim of preventing and controlling crime. In 1971, the LEAA

awarded a multimillion dollar contract to the Westinghouse Electric Corporation for a program entitled "Crime Prevention Through Environment Design." The program called for the design of four environments for crime prevention—residential, business, schools and transportation. The residential project involved Minneapolis, Minnesota. The business project was assigned to Portland, Oregon and the school project was awarded to Broward County, Florida. The Bay Area Rapid
Transit System in San Francisco was the recipient of the fourth project.\textsuperscript{29} The Portland commercial project implied working with a commercial strip, transforming blighted areas into markets. Fencing off blind pockets, and creating small plazas to encourage citizens to use the areas in the evening hours.\textsuperscript{30}

Washnis noted that community involvement is a necessary crime prevention ingredient. He maintained that police manpower, computers, better equipment, and new police techniques are not the total answer to the prevention and reduction of crime.\textsuperscript{31} Washnis said that, with this emphasis, that crime has been consistently increasing. He referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation figures which showed that during the years 1960-1970, that the nation, especially urban areas, experienced a 176 percent rise in major crime; included in the figure was a 76 percent increase in murder and manslaughter and a 224 percent increase in robberies.\textsuperscript{32} Finally, Washnis mentioned that block clubs, neighborhood watch, whistle stop, operation identification, anticrime crusades, eyes and ears of the police, police-community councils, neighborhood walks and


\textsuperscript{30}Ibid., p. 46.


\textsuperscript{32}Ibid., p. 6.
mobile patrols are activities established by concerned urban area citizens to prevent crime. While each of the citizens' crime prevention activities specialize in particular kinds of crime prevention techniques, they work together as watchdogs to prevent crime. For example, the Exchange Club of Monterey Park, California, upon the recommendation of Police Chief Everett Holladay in 1963, initiated "operation identification" to coincide with Crime Prevention Week. The club purchased a supply of electric etching tools which they placed at the Information Desk of the Police Department for loan to Monterey Park homeowners and businessmen to etch their operator's license numbers on items of personal property. The club also supplied window decals upon which is printed: "We have joined Operation Identification." The decals were given to citizens who participated in the program and were placed in front doors or windows to warn the potential thief that his chances of successful theft from the premises have been materially reduced. The city council of Monterey Park and the Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations endorsed the project. Although it cannot be said that the publicity given to the program was wholly responsible for the drop in residential burglaries, the following month, the committed efforts of the 4000 members of the club was regarded as outstanding.

Another citizen crime prevention association which has

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34 Ibid., p. 246.
gained acceptance in urban areas is the block club. Block associations are the natural product of a number of factors. These include the adverse experiences and provocations of the victims of crime, the general fear of crime, dissatisfaction with law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and the desperate feeling by some citizens that they have to get actively involved in order to reduce crime. A close look at the West Philadelphia Block Association will highlight the importance of block associations in urban areas. The Block Association of West Philadelphia (BAWP) was formed following a spate of crimes during the Christmas season of 1971. Robberies, muggings, burglaries, and rapes frightened and angered the community. Families found their living rooms empty of gifts and appliances when they returned from communion with their friends.

The basic plan, which began to take shape early in 1972, was to organize every block in an entire area. Neighbors on each block meet monthly to review techniques of how to watch each other's homes and to exchange information on home security as well as new hardware and other related items. Complete cooperation with the police was maintained. If a neighbor sees that a friend's house is being burglarized, he either telephones the police directly or contacts the block leader, who in turn calls the police. The association's participants

36 Ibid., p. 17.
do not attempt to intervene physically against crimes or to use force. They act simply as eyes and ears.

The plan also involves security in the streets. Community walks are the prime volunteer resources and are used to scout for potential lawbreakers roaming the streets. Residents also make use of ear-splitting freon horns when danger seems imminent. Loud, piercing noise from the horns has scared off many a would-be attacker as well as alerting neighbors that immediate help is needed. When a resident hears a horn or spots trouble, he or she is instructed to go to the window and set off his or her own horns, call the police, turn on lights, and continue to make noise and to offer assistance when able. 37

Freon horns are more reliable than battery-powered devices, and, most significantly, are usually superior to whistles because many times victims are frightened and short of breath when under attack and therefore are unable to blow a whistle. Furthermore, whistles are too easily available. Almost every "kid on a bike" has one, so they begin to lose their effect as a result of the "cry wolf once too often" syndrome. 38

Under the Philadelphia program, the manufacturer agreed to limit freon horn sales to adults and crime prevention groups. They are not given to anyone until that person is well versed in their use. They are also not indiscriminately sold at bazaars or parties.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid., p. 18.
IV. CRIME PREVENTION IN ATLANTA

The emergence of community crime prevention as a legitimate alternative to addressing the crime problem can be attributed directly to progressive police administrators who have acknowledged publicly that they need citizen help if the crime problem is to be brought under control. In this section, emphasis will be placed on some strategies (programs) which have been developed in Atlanta to initiate citizen involvement in the fight against crime. It is not an exhaustive listing of all crime prevention programs. Rather, it is a summary of some of the more successful programs.

Atlanta Police Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Section of the Atlanta Police Bureau is basically responsible for preventing crime in the city.\(^{39}\) Established in 1974, the section now provides training, literature, and security surveys to all residents and businesses. The section also provides non-resident workers and visitors with crime prevention literature. These services are aimed at reducing opportunities for crimes, and increasing risks for crimes. The services are delivered in a proactive as well as reactive mode. The section is subdivided as follows:

\(^{39}\)Interview with Sgt. B.C. Dean, Commercial Crime Prevention Unit, Atlanta Bureau of Police Service, January 8, 1981.
These units work diligently with citizen organizations to prevent crime. Crime prevention organizations, and programs in Atlanta include:

(1) 126 Community Organizations
(2) 300 Neighborhood Watch Programs
(3) 9 Citizen Neighborhood Advisory Programs
(4) 250 Neighborhood Planning Unit
(5) 25 Tenant Associations.

The Crime Prevention Section of the Atlanta Police Bureau in collaboration with the citizen organizations utilize the three basic crime prevention categories to prevent crime: (1) punitive, which is the treatment of punishment which deters a person from committing an offense for which he might be punished; (2) corrective, here the major emphasis is to work with individuals or social conditions in order to assure that the individuals will not commit other offenses or that the community environment will be such that criminal behavior is discouraged; (3) mechanical, this is the placing of obstacles in the path of the would-be offender to make committing the crime

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40 Interview with Lt. Dixon and Officer A. R. Lawrence, Residential Unit (THOR), January 7, 1981.
more difficult. 41

It is important to note that tenant associations are formed by citizens in public housing units, while the community organizations are basically for homeowners. The tenants of public housing units choose a respectable person in the neighborhood to be their president and act as a middleman between the people in the neighborhood and the police bureau; the community organizations have block captains who perform the same duty as the tenant association president. 42

Though the four units in the Crime Prevention Section of the Police Bureau work together to prevent crime in the city, a description of some of the crime prevention commercial units duties will show the important role played by that unit.

Crime Prevention Commercial Unit.-The units' duties include:

(1) Conducting commercial security surveys;
(2) Staff and employee educational programs on personal safety, rape prevention, robbery and shoplifting prevention;
(3) Provision of emergency contact system

Chart 1 shows the organization chart for the Atlanta Police Commercial Crime Prevention Unit. The unit is supervised by a sergeant, whose primary job is the management of the unit on a day to day basis. He has a twelve-hour, six day a


42 Commercial Crime Prevention Unit, Prepared by the Atlanta Bureau of Police, 1974, p. 2.
CHART 1

BUREAU OF POLICE SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
COMMERCIAL CRIME PREVENTION

MAJOR
   |
   LIEUTENANT
   |
   SERGEANT

CITIZEN ALERT
BUSINESS SECURITY SURVEYS
OPERATION IDENTIFICATION
EMERGENCY CONTACT SYSTEM (ECS)
FEDERAL CRIME INS. SURVEYS
ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT (OI)

MAN POWER
1 SERGEANT
9 SWORN PERSONNEL
1 NON-SWORN PERSONNEL

UPDATES NEW BUSINESS

CRIME PREVENTION WORKSHOPS
SPEAKERS
DISPLAYS
week responsibility in that he is the only supervisor assigned to the unit. His duties include:

(1) The monitoring of the officers' performance by visiting them at their respective job sites.

(2) Continuously updating the inservice training program on crime prevention.

The unit's crime prevention activities are as follows:

(a) Emergency Contact System.—The ECS of the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services uniformly identifies key security people in all commercial establishments (excluding apartment buildings). Formally, business people placed their names and telephone numbers in their shop windows to help the police or emergency service personnel notify them of bona fide emergencies. Unfortunately, this information was also available to criminals who occasionally deceived people and convinced them to return to the place of business in order to rob them.

In the emergency contact system, a coded decal is placed in a business and it is matched on a file card in the Bureau's Communication Section. A patrol officer on his beat can radio a business code number into the communication's room, where it is matched with the names and telephone numbers of the security people.

(b) Organizational Involvement Team.—The Organizational Involvement Team has three police officers whose main responsibility is to do the public speaking for the Police Bureau on crime prevention techniques.  

43Ibid., p. 4.
The main areas of concern are: burglary, robbery, rape, personal safety, shoplifting and drug abuse. The audiences which presentations are made to are diversified, ranging from business groups to college classes, to church and civic organizations. In 1979, there were 5,877 programs done with 264,342 people attending. Any media coverage given to crime prevention related events is handled by the Organizational Involvement Team.

(c) Citizen Alert.—The Citizen Alert Program was established to aid the Bureau of Police Services in reducing crime in the neighborhoods of the City of Atlanta. The program was designed to sensitize workers of public utility companies to be alert to suspicious activity and behavior as they move through the community. They were urged to be observant of important details and to be aware of the proper reporting procedures. It is assumed that the police alone cannot prevent crime. The Police-Community Relations Division of the Atlanta Bureau of Police Services train those workers who agree to participate. Page 26 gives the kind of crimes to be reported and what to look for when reporting a crime. Figure 2 shows the physical features of a suspect that should be noted. On page 26 the reader will find how to report a crime. The Citizen Alert Program has made it possible for thousands of workers who are assigned by their employers to virtually every part of the city to report any criminal activities to the police.

44 Ibid.
REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

A. WHAT TO REPORT

SERIOUS crimes, such as: rape, robbery, burglary, auto theft, as well as suspicious activity should be reported. These types of crime involve possible injury to death to the victim or large property losses.

A. WHAT TO LOOK FOR

1. Exact Location
2. Type of Crime
3. Suspect(s):
   a. Race
   b. Build
   c. Weight
   d. Height
   e. Hair color
   f. Hair style
   g. Facial hair

4. Vehicle
   (year) (make) (model)

5. Tag Number

6. Direction of Travel
   (street name and direction)

7. Time
   (AM or PM)

Source: Atlanta Police Crime Prevention (Handout)

HOW TO REPORT:

1. Call your dispatcher and advise him to notify the police. Be sure to give the above information correctly.

2. If you do not have a two-way radio, call the police
emergency number 658-6666. Be sure you give the above information correctly. Answer any questions that are asked.

Source: Atlanta Police Bureau (Handout)

Figure 2

Source: Atlanta Police Crime Prevention Handout.
(d) **Commercial Security Survey Team.**—The Commercial Security Survey team does a complete security analysis of businesses in Atlanta upon request. Emphasis is placed on perimeter security, lighting and possible internal problems such as shoplifting, robbery, and employee theft. Three police officers perform this function. The security survey is a tool by which the police can inform a businessman or homeowner that he is susceptible to criminal victimization together with steps that can be taken to reduce and minimize that potential.\(^{45}\)

Since 1974, there have been 25,946 security surveys performed.\(^{46}\) A unique function of the team is the federal crime insurance inspections. In order for a commercial establishment to receive a reduced rate on a federally financed insurance, a member of the survey team must survey the establishment or see if the owner has properly secured his business. Without a passing mark on the inspection, the owner cannot obtain federal crime insurance.

Other key programs designed in Atlanta to prevent crime include, SAFE, The Neighborhood Justice Center, Atlanta Downtown Civitan Club, and the Crime Stoppers.

SAFE.—Which is "Safe Atlanta for Everyone," is designed to coordinate the Police Bureau's programs with community

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organizations in crime prevention. Safe staff members identify crime problems and coordinate existing public and private prevention efforts in these areas. Where no programs exist, Safe attempts to organize new measures to impact on problems. It provides speakers and literature to inform citizens on how they can assist in crime prevention and actively recruits volunteers for certain programs. Safe works closely with the Crime Prevention Section of the Police Bureau, the Neighborhood Planning Units, the Atlanta School System, and many civic groups. Safe's activities include:

(1) Distribution (over 200,000) of posters and cards with crime prevention information;
(2) Holding regular meetings with Neighborhood Planning Units to discuss community problems;
(3) Conducting crime prevention workshops at Atlanta Housing Authority facilities;
(4) Working with the Police Bureau's Crime Prevention Unit to sponsor Officer Friendly visits, security inspections, bike registration rodeos, and drug abuse seminars;
(5) Publishing a monthly crime prevention newsletter.48

Neighborhood Justice Center. The center is a program for mediation of minor problems between individuals. Types of problems the center becomes involved in includes:

1. Domestic arguments
2. Neighborhood problems concerning noise, pets, etc.

48 Ibid., p. 42.
3. Landlord-tenant disputes
4. Small claims involving money or property
5. Juvenile fights, vandalism

The service provided by the center is designed to solve problems before they escalate and involve the police or court system. In many instances, the courts refer cases to the center for mediation.49

Atlanta Downtown Civitan Club.-The activities are similar to those of Safe. ADCC has begun a program to educate members in crime prevention techniques. Literature and speakers from the Bureau of Police Services Crime Prevention Section are being used to instruct members in methods of preventing commercial and residential crimes.50

Crime Stoppers.-Atlanta Metropol, a non-profit law enforcement and private security association, sponsors the Crime Stoppers reward program. Unsolved felony crimes in metropolitan Atlanta are publicized through the mass media. Persons with information concerning the crime can call 588-1770 and provide information to investigators (anonymously if they prefer). If their information results in the arrest and indictment of the person or persons responsible for the crime, the individual supplying the information is eligible for a reward of up to $1,000. Since the inception of the program in July

49Ibid., p. 39.
50Ibid., p. 37.
1979, over 900 calls have been received, three felony crimes have been solved, and three rewards collected.51

An additional listing of organizations, programs, and projects designed to prevent crime in Atlanta may be found in Appendix A.

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51 Ibid.
V. CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

This section discusses those precautionary measures that must be strictly followed in order to prevent crime. The section also gives some advice on what an individual can do concerning robbery, rape, larceny and burglary. Prevention of crime against business is also discussed.

(a) Robbery Prevention.-In order to prevent the taking of goods or money from another individual by force or by the threat of force, The Crime Prevention Section of the Atlanta Police Bureau encourages people to be aware of the following:

1. To take part in crime prevention programs that deal primarily with physical and procedural precautions that can be taken by the victim before, during, and after a robbery;

2. Not to open their doors to strangers;

3. Not to be lured into a false sense of security;

4. To prepare always for emergency exit;

5. To look always through peephole before opening their doors as shown in Figure 3;

6. Not to struggle with a purse snatcher;

7. To check their cars before entering;

8. To avoid dark streets and deserted alleys;

9. Not to pick up hitchhikers;

10. To remember the police emergency
52
number.

Figure 3

Source: Crime Prevention, Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission, March 1977, pp. 3-134.

(b) Rape Prevention. - Safer Atlanta for Everyone gives many preventive measures to avoid the universal crime against women. The committing of violent sexual acts against the woman's will, brought about by threat or the use of force can be prevented at home, on the street and in the car.

(1) At home, rape can be prevented as follows: by keeping all entrances well illuminated; never give personal information to a stranger on the phone; by pretending to be asleep if an intruder enters the bedroom.

(2) Rape can be prevented on the street by: walking at a steady pace and appearing confident and purposeful; listening to footsteps and voices nearby; turning around to the opposite direction of the street when followed; not getting into a stranger's vehicle.

(3) Rape in or around a female's car can be prevented

52Robbery Prevention, published by the Department of Public Safety in Atlanta.
53Rape, published by Safer Atlanta for Everyone, Atlanta.
by: keeping the car door locked; being alert to vehicles following a female; and by having a taxi driver or friend wait until a lady is safely inside the building.

Ladies are encouraged to prevent rape by other means:

(1) By smashing a lighted cigarette on their attacker;

(2) To use umbrella to apply quick jabbing motions to the eyes, neck, groin or stomach of the attacker;

(3) By using pointed items like keys, hatpins, pens, pencils, to scrape across the face and eyes or jab into eyes, face or neck of a would-be attacker;

(4) By aiming a fist or outside edge of the hand in an upward motion to the attacker's nose.

(5) By screaming, thereby drawing attention to oneself.

While some of these rape preventive measures can put the attacker in pain for a while allowing the victim to escape, it could be dangerous to the woman if not properly used.

(b) Larceny Prevention.-Since larceny takes many forms, it is difficult to construct any one strategy to deal effectively with it. However, larceny can be regarded as follows: pickpocketting, theft from motor vehicles, theft of motor vehicle parts and/or accessories, theft from buildings, shoplifting, employee pilferage, forgery, bad checks, etc. The Target Hardening/Opportunity Reduction Unit (THOR) of the Atlanta Crime Prevention Section has recommended that personal properties be marked.

(d) **Burglary Prevention.**—Although there are many burglary prevention methods, some of the most important ways to prevent burglary are as follows:

1. Make sure that children know how to lock and unlock doors;
2. Never leave notes announcing departures;
3. Always make sure that the home doors and windows are in good condition;
4. Make sure that a few lights are left burning in different parts of the home;
5. When out in the public, never broadcast a vacation;
6. Do not hide a house key outside of the house;
7. Always discontinue milk and newspaper deliveries before going out of town;
8. Play a radio or TV, while away;
9. Inform the police when leaving for vacation;
10. Ask trusted neighbors to look out for your home.

In addition to the above precautionary measures, the Target Hardening/Opportunity Reduction Unit has encouraged citizens to own a dog, purchase an alarm system and to keep their valuables in the safe.

(e) **Business Crime Prevention.**—Though crime against business include shoplifting, employee pilferage, forgery, bad checks, embezzlement, and counterfeiting, attention is paid mostly to shoplifting. The Commercial Unit of the Atlanta Crime Prevention Section has given businesses, especially small businesses, the following suggestions:

1. To participate in the bureau's shoplifting seminars;
(2) To install closed circuit televisions in their stores;

(3) To hire floor detectives with two-way radios;

(4) Running alarm cords through expensive items;

(5) Placing merchandise neatly;

(6) Limiting the number of exits;

(7) To have reward programs for employees;

(8) Locking cash registers or putting alarms on registers;

(9) Having price tags with special printing which destruct if attempts are made to change them.  

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VI. REASONS FOR LACK OF EFFECTIVE CRIME PREVENTION

Despite all the crime prevention programs and activities involving individuals, civic organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies, the crime rate still escalates in urban areas. Empey mentioned some of the reasons why the crime rate is always on an increase. He said that criminology has not developed, nor is it prepared to develop, a major crime prevention model.\(^{56}\) Empey pointed out that the major assumptions or paradigms for criminology are in opposition to crime prevention for several reasons:

1. Criminology has not developed an interdis-
ciplinary theory of behavior. Rather, it has drawn almost exclusively on sociology to the exclusion of biology and psychology.

2. Criminology has ignored the physical environment in favor of the social environment. Crime occurs in specific physical locations, and crime prevention through environmental design argues that crime control must relate to the physical setting of criminal acts, and criminology relates to urban design and spatial analysis.

3. Criminology is either punishment-oriented or treatment-oriented. The major obstacle to crime prevention is a political system which refuses to look at new alternatives to crime control and which continues to rely heavily on punishment, prisons and electric chairs.\(^{57}\)

\(^{56}\text{Ibid., p. 46.}\)

\(^{57}\text{Ibid.}\)
While reasons for the lack of effective crime prevention sounds impressive, there are other reasons.

1. Crime reduces surplus labor by creating employment, not only for criminals but for law enforcers, locksmiths, welfare workers, professors of criminology and a hoard of people who live off the fact that crime exists.

2. The American political system is liberal in punishing criminals.
VII. CONCLUSION

This paper has discussed the intensity at which crime is occurring in urban areas of the United States. Individuals, law enforcement agencies, civic organizations and business involvement to prevent crime was emphasized. Programs and activities developed in order to prevent crime in urban areas, especially in Atlanta were discussed. Tips were given on how to prevent rape, robbery, larceny, burglary and business related crimes. Reasons for the lack of effective crime prevention were also discussed.

Crime can never be effectively prevented in urban areas unless people are more careful with their lives and properties, and, until the American people accept new alternatives to crime control, rather than relying heavily on punishment, prisons and the electric chair.
APPENDIX

PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS HELPING ATLANTA TO PREVENT CRIME
### Programs and Organizations Helping Atlanta to Prevent Crime (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program or Organization</th>
<th>Operated By</th>
<th>Kind of Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perry Homes Emergency Child</td>
<td>Junior League of Atlanta</td>
<td>Child Development and Health Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Community Education on Crime Prevention Project</td>
<td>Latin American Association</td>
<td>Crime Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Delinquent Diversion/Prevention Project</td>
<td>Interfaith, Inc.</td>
<td>Crime Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Atlanta Project</td>
<td>Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Central Atlanta Progress and Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association</td>
<td>Crime Prevention tips and perception of Atlanta to other states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Atlanta Project</td>
<td>Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission</td>
<td>Crime Prevention Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Fugitive Squad</td>
<td>Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Board of Correction, Georgia Sheriffs, etc.</td>
<td>Location of wanted persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMCA Crime Eradication Project</td>
<td>Edgewood, Kirkwood and East Lake Communities</td>
<td>Crime Prevention Programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from various crime prevention materials related to the City of Atlanta.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Block Association of West Philadelphia, "Neighborhood Block Safety Program" (mimeographed handout, 1972).


