

Crime Observatory Newsletter

Violence Prevention
Alliance (Jamaica)

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December 11, 2006

Crime Observatory Meeting

Held on December 6, 2006, the second Crime Observatory meeting was focused on the outcome of a meeting convened with Jamaica Public Service (JPS) and the National Housing Trust's Inner City Housing Project.

Representatives from the Observatory met with Mr. Anthony Ray, director of External Affairs at JPS to discuss a possible collaboration of both groups to initiate sporting interventions within areas of the Kingston Western division. The plan of action is to upgrade and utilize existing facilities (schools and parks) within the division to host these activities during the night (critical period).

Sports was the preferred intervention because it has been proven to unify individuals from conflicting backgrounds. As reiterated by Mr. Saleem Lazarus from the Jamaica Labour Party, sports has been successful in bring together the communities of Tivoli and Arnett Gardens. However, he noted that community leaders had an important role in the process.

The schools and park that were decided upon are *Trench Town High, Tivoli Gardens High, Denham Town High,, St. Annie High, Charlie Smith High and Wilton Hill Park*. When contacted, the schools' major request is that police be

placed on their premises during the period of intervention. Col. Oral Khan mentioned that the officers in his Safe School Programme may be used to assist.

Letters are currently being drafted for JPS and the Office of Utilities and Regulations in order to implement plans.

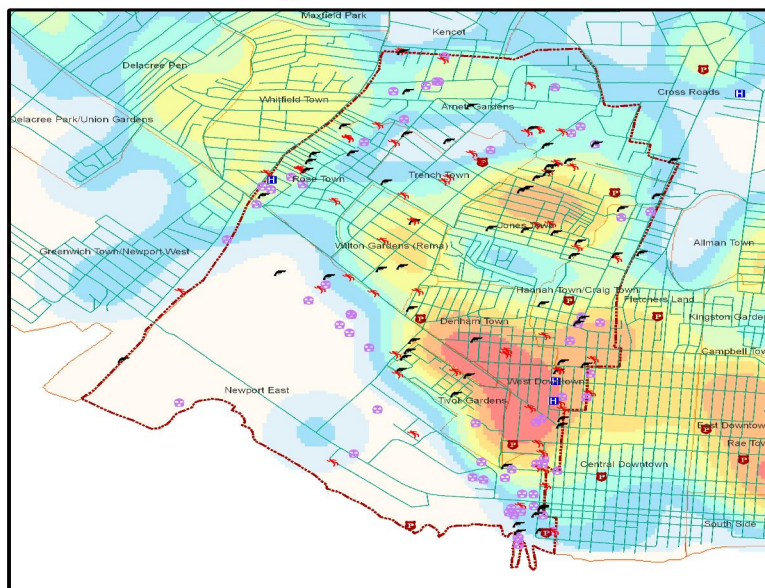
Ms. Kim-Marie Spence of the National Housing Trust delivered her presentation on *Social Development within the Inner-City Housing Project*. Areas of intervention under this project are Denham Town, Han nah Town, Maxfield Park, Monaltrie, Trench town, White

Spanish Town Road.

The aims of the Social Development Unit, as highlighted by Ms. Spence are (1) Economic Viability-urban renewal, sustainability (2) Social Relations - civic engagement, parenting (3) Healthy Lifestyle-nutrition (4) Community Maintenance and Sustainability - strata management.

Components of the Inner-City Housing Project (ICHP) Social

Homicides and Violence Related Injuries Kingston Western 2006



This Violence Related Injuries file was generated by the Health GIS software and represents 58 % of the cases reported to the KPH for the period of January to September 2006.

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers

Health GIS
Health Promotion & Protection Division
Ministry of Health, Jamaica



Updated map of Kingston Western highlighting the "hot spots" and the types of crimes committed in the region for January to September 2006. It also shows the social infrastructure in these communities (hospitals and police stations).

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Development are skills training (alternative to crime), psycho-social courses, and the implementation of children's programmes. The successes of the ICHP includes the training of over 592 persons, job creation, formation of children's clubs, good garbage disposal and the institution of conflict management courses. The Observatory will liaise with Ms. Spence to create potential linkages with the ICHP.

"communities affected by malaria also are burdened by crime and poor environmental and social conditions "

"...approximately 29% of individuals have no secondary schooling..."

"Malaria 24 hours helpline 1-888-663-5683"

Malaria Outbreak

The Ministry of Health has confirmed 56 malaria cases within the Kingston 12, 13 and 14 areas. Specifically, cases were seen in the communities of Delacree Park, Denham Town, Hannah Town, Trench Town and Tivoli Gardens.

Dr. Elizabeth Ward from the Ministry of Health noted that the communities affected by malaria are also burdened by crime and poor environmental and social conditions which exacerbates the situation. These conditions include lack of health promotion activities, limited health

services, poor solid waste management, lack of proper lighting, broken fire hydrants, financial inadequacies and inadequate education (approx. 29% have no secondary schooling).

Malaria is a life threatening disease, which is caused by a parasite transmitted by the female *Anopheles mosquito*. The symptoms include intermittent fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, weakness, vomiting and tiredness.

The following health centres are opened for persons

with malaria; St. Jago Park, Sydenham, Christian Pen and Greater Portmore in St. Catherine and in Kingston are Denham Town, Hagley Park, Maxfield Park, Comprehensive and Kiwanis Maternity Centre in Tivoli Gardens.

Precautionary measures include covering one's body at nights, using insect repellent containing DEET chemical and eradicating mosquito breeding sites in your home and community. A 24 hour Malaria helpline has been established, 1-888-663-5683.

Upcoming Events

- "Learning for Life" Launch in January
- Monthly Crime Observatory meeting on January 4, 2006 commencing at 9:30 am sharp

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Crime Statistics Update

According to statistics obtained from Superintendent Norman Hewitt from the Kingston Western Police Division, there has been a steady decrease in murders during the period of September to December of last year compared to the same period this year. Specifically, 13 murders were committed in September of last year while 5 were committed

in September of this year, 12 in October 2005 while 5 were committed in October 2006, 15 in November 2005 while 13 were committed in November 2006 and finally, as at December 8, 2006, there were 3 cases of fatal shootings compared to 4 murders during the same period in 2005.

As at November 12, 2006, compared to the same period last year, there has been a 35% decrease in murders, 38% decrease in shootings, 9% increase in rape, 29% increase in carnal abuse, 33% increase in robberies, 50% decrease in breakings and larceny remained the same with two cases each for both years.

Parent Month Activities-Ministry of Education Youth and Culture (MOEYC)

During the month of November, the MOEYC hosted a few activities that targeted parents under the theme "Parents Today, You Guide, Tomorrow They Lead." Activities held included a parenting workshop which was held at Terra Nova Hotel where over 80 parents from 23 inner city primary schools attended to receive a presentation by Dr. Wendel Abel geared towards motivating them as parents. Other activities during the month included a Church Service held on November 5, 2006 at Boulevard Baptist Church, the launch of "Reading Pals" (which is aimed at involving parents in the literacy aspect of their children's development) and a National Parents Award for the most outstanding mother and father, which was held at Knutsford Court Hotel.

We're on the Web!
www.moh.gov.jm/vpa/index.htm