

# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM



Date: 05/21/2010

TO: Assistant Chief Gregory A. Habeck

FR: John M. Hagen  
Inspector of Police

RE: Safe Streets Initiative- NPB 10-001  
Safeguarding Foreclosed and Vacant Properties

The following Safe Street Initiative will be conducted Citywide:

**Dates:** Tuesday, June 1, 2010 through Friday, October 15, 2010

**Operation Hours:** 12:00 p.m. to 3:00a.m. depending on need.

**Generalities:** Safeguard foreclosed and vacant properties from vandalism, theft and burglaries. Prevent and detect crime occurring at these properties including enforcing quality of life violations to preserve neighborhood stability.

**Location:** Citywide, based on locations provided by the Department of City Development

**Squads:** District Bicycle Patrol and Community Prosecution Unit supplemented by Sector car as needed. Squad conducting property checks will be conducted on grant-authorized overtime not to exceed \$200,000 for the period of the initiative.

**Mission Commander:** Deputy Inspector Ramon Galaviz in conjunction with respective District Commanders.

**Comments:** With less the ideal economic conditions, the City of Milwaukee, like many other metropolitan areas has experienced an increase in foreclosed and vacant properties. It is the experience of the Milwaukee Police Department that vacant properties are magnets for crime and disorder. Vacant properties experience significant instances of loitering and are often used to deal illegal drugs. Frequently, unauthorized occupancy has occurred and turned these properties in to drug houses. The city has also experienced incidents of prostitution and homicide in vacant buildings.

A major problem associated with vacant properties is that of theft and burglary. It is common for the aluminum siding, copper plumbing, cabinets, lead glass, woodwork and mechanicals to be stolen from these properties. This creates significant economic loss and creates a situation where the property is put in to a state of further vacancy compounding the original problem.

**Strategy:** Working with the Department of City Development, a list of foreclosed and vacant properties will be mapped for each police district. A database spreadsheet will be developed with the list of addresses to be monitored. The Police Department will have a close working relationship with the Department of City Development, Division of Neighborhood Services and Department of Public Works to communicate any status change to any of the properties including additions and subtractions from the active list of monitored properties. This will also include securing any homes that may have been compromised. The Police Department will provide an update on activity on a bi-weekly basis to

the Commissioner of the Division of Neighborhood Services. Squads assigned from the respective neighborhood bicycle patrol and community prosecution units will develop a schedule to perform a thorough check of these properties a minimum of two times per week. The check will be to ensure the property is secure and no ordinance violations or criminal activity is occurring at the location.

**Specific Enforcement:** Squads will conduct proactive patrol at these properties by conducting subject and traffic stops, concentrating on suspicious behavior, loiterers and trespassers, and checking the physical condition of the property. In the event the property has been damaged, entered or another event takes place, officers will note this on the database spreadsheet in their district. Officers will take appropriate police action if encountering violations of laws or ordinances

**Administration:** Officers WILL file a daily activity sheet, and field interview cards with the SSI number noted on the reports to the shift commander. This activity will be tallied nightly and the report left in the Captain's in-basket. This activity sheet will include the addresses of the properties checked. The project manager at the District will be responsible for entering the data from the activity sheet in to the database.

**Officers and supervisors who are on overtime in regards to this SSI will use the proper program code and grant number for tracking purposes. (Program Code TBD/Grant Number TBD – Overtime must be taken in green).**

**Preemption:** Non-preemptable. Officers will not perform any other assignments, follow up or reports not related to the vacant foreclosed property assignment while working on this overtime initiative

**Notifications:**

Original retained at NPB

Fax to Crime Analysis

Copy to all Districts

Fax to Communications Division

Fax to Neighborhood Task Force