



Community Prosecution Unit, 2004

The Community Prosecution Unit involves an Assistant District Attorney, MPD, and the community in pro-actively fighting nuisances on Milwaukee's Near South Side. "Nuisances" include problem properties and behaviors that create an environment that is disruptive for families and businesses. For example, nuisance conditions can be created by drug activity, loitering, littering, or excessive noise.

In the program, Assistant District Attorney Jeff Altenburg is assigned to work full-time with the Milwaukee Alliance to rid their south side target area of nuisances. He works from the District 6 Police Station and the Milwaukee Alliance office on 21st and Mitchell.

The Assistant District Attorney also is involved in training the Neighborhood Ambassadors and making sure they have the support of the district police. The Neighborhood Ambassadors remove litter, graffiti and help to landscape the commercial areas. They also refer larger nuisance problems to the Assistant DA for follow-up.

Milwaukee Alliance staff provides support and direction for Community Prosecution abatement activity. We have abated nuisances at over 400 properties since the start of the program in 2002.

Community Prosecution Unit activities include:

- Outreach to involve residents and identify nuisance properties. This is done through partnerships with other community organizations (especially SDC-Community Partners) and through the Neighborhood Ambassadors.
- Developing and maintaining the Community Prosecution Unit database using the City of Milwaukee's COMPASS program.
- Using a team-based approach that brings together the Assistant District Attorney, District Police, Department of Neighborhood Services, and Division of Sanitation to coordinate action on nuisance properties.
- Using a follow-up system that includes a weekly review of all open cases and an annual review (follow-up with complainants, review of city records) of all serious problem properties.

The Community Prosecution Unit program has abated over 500 drug house and other nuisance complaints at 400 properties since the start of the program. On average the DA and MPD officers visit 40 properties each month. The program has closed several known drug houses and decreased area crime rates by 12.5% last year.

2004 Community Prosecution Unit Budget

2002 Funding Allocation: \$200,000

2003 Funding Allocation: \$150,000

2004 Funding Request: \$125,000

2004 January through June: Allocated \$50,000

\$35,000 Assistant DA salary and fringe

\$15,000 Milwaukee Alliance Director salary

\$50,000

2004 July through December: Requesting \$75,000

\$37,000 Assistant DA salary and fringe

\$15,000 Milwaukee Alliance Director salary

\$12,000 Community Prosecution Coordinator salary

\$11,000 Neighborhood Ambassador Manager salary

\$75,000