



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

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Mayor Mallory, Manager Dohoney, and Chief Streicher Expand Police Patrols in Neighborhoods Leaders also announce Vortex Unit becomes permanent

Cincinnati – Mayor Mark Mallory, City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr., and Police Chief Tom Streicher announced a series of newly enhanced strategies to address the increase in violent crime in Cincinnati. The city leaders are increasing the number of police patrols in Cincinnati neighborhoods through the end of the year. The Police Department also has made the successful Vortex Unit a permanent part of the department. In addition, on Saturday, the Police Community Partnering Center and a large collection of community organizations are launching Operation Ceasefire in Avondale.

“We are increasing the police patrols in our neighborhoods. There is no substitute for increased police presence in our neighborhoods,” Mayor Mallory said. “The level of violent crime is unacceptable. The goal is to make people feel safer and to make it harder for criminals to operate.”

The Mayor, City Manager, and Police Chief are increasing the number of planned police patrols in neighborhoods through the end of the year. The patrols are an expansion of the Take Back Our Streets program that increased police walking patrols during the summer months. In December, City Council appropriated funding for the program from May to September. Through effective management and cost control within the department, the Administration and Police Department have identified funding to continue the patrols through the end of the year, which coincides with the city’s budget year.

“City Council provided the department with additional funding which allows us to expand patrols and make the Vortex Unit permanent. These resources afford us with the opportunity to be flexible in deploying patrols whenever and wherever necessary,” Chief Streicher said.

Last Sunday, the Vortex Unit became a permanent unit within the Police Department. Vortex is a specialized unit that is deployed to aggressively target high crime areas with a zero tolerance approach to street crime and drug trafficking. The unit has 50 officers, including one captain, one lieutenant, and five sergeants. The Vortex Unit began in May as the Over-the-Rhine Task Force and was so successful that it expanded first to Walnut Hills and then to Price Hill. Over the summer, the Task Force developed into Operation Vortex and expanded into all neighborhoods of the city.

“It will take meticulous detail to improve our overall crime situation. These measures are good examples of the kind of thinking we need to do,” City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. said.

CeaseFire Cincinnati is a community effort in Avondale to reduce gun violence and homicides and is being launched on Saturday, September 30. The program is a partnership between the City, the Community Police Partnering Center, the Urban League, the Avondale Community Council, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, the Uptown Consortium, the Out of the Crossfire Program, the Cincinnati Human Relation Commission Youth Streetworker Program and others. The program is modeled after CeaseFire Chicago, a program that gained national attention for its effectiveness.

CeaseFire Cincinnati will organize community rallies within 72 hours of every shooting in the neighborhood. The rallies will bring together the community around the common message rejecting gun violence. The program will also include a public education campaign to change attitudes toward gun violence and an outreach component to high-risk populations. The overall goal is to change the community by developing a culture of nonviolence.

Attached: Overview of the Vortex Unit

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Vortex Unit Overview

Vortex is a highly visible proactive unit that has a zero tolerance approach to street crimes, drug trafficking and quality of life issues. The focus of this highly motivated unit is to seek out and physically arrest both minor and major criminal offenders by enforcing every law available, and using every tool at our disposal to inconvenience criminals. By utilizing uniform patrols, Mountain Bike Officers, plain-clothes officers and confidential informants, Vortex has made a positive impact in the City. Vortex has assisted all districts by targeting hot spots and providing additional uniform presence during high profile events.

Vortex has provided saturation patrol in several neighborhoods including the following:

- Over The Rhine
- Price Hill
- Westwood
- Fairmount
- Avondale and North Avondale
- Coryville
- Clifton
- Winton Hills
- Walnut Hills
- Bond Hill
- Evanston
- Madisonville
- Mt. Washington

The Unit has made a total of 2619 arrest, confiscated over 64 guns and seized more than \$ 37, 000.00 dollars.

Types of weapons recovered include:

- Tech 9 pistol
- 9 MM
- .45 caliber pistol
- SKS rifle
- 12 gauge shotgun
- .22 caliber semi-auto pistol

- .357 revolver

District Two operation on Kinney Avenue resulted in recovery of 5 lbs of marijuana, 29.08 grams powder cocaine SKS assault rifle, 12-gauge shotgun, 2 handguns.

District Four Operation in Avondale and North Avondale resulted in 5 arrests for drug trafficking and recovery of .40-caliber pistol.

Operation in Evanston and Walnut Hills in which special attention was given to the area around Montgomery Road and Clarion. This resulted in numerous arrests including the recovery two stolen guns.

Operation in District Five on Larmon Ct. resulted in several arrest for Drug Trafficking and the recovery of 7 ounces of powder cocaine including material for packaging and distribution.

Operations on Auburn Ave. and Huron Ave resulted in several arrest and 9 ounces of cocaine.