



MEMORANDUM—RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

To: Manager Jessica Frances, President Ben Sells and Board of Trustees
From: Thomas Weitzel, Police Chief
CC: Deputy Chief Bill Gutschick and Lt. Frank Lara
Re: **POLICE CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOLLOW UP**
Date: October 30, 2019

Thomas Q. Weitzel
Chief of Police

William Gutschick
Deputy Chief of Police

Frank Lara
Operations Lieutenant

Pamela S. McCall
*Executive Assistant to
the Chief of Police*

This memo is a follow up on crime prevention strategies outlined in a memo to the Board on February 1, 2019.

That original memo was issued after two high-profile criminal incidents occurred in Riverside in January 2019.

I will review with the Board crime prevention strategies that have been accomplished, those that are in progress and those that would require future funding. This memo is a summary and not meant to include all crime prevention strategy phases. I will brief the Board verbally in addition to this memorandum.

The following topics were addressed in the February 1st, 2019 memo and discussed at the Board level.

- RPD reached out to landlords with the assistance of the Community Development department. We were given a list of all rental properties in the village and contacted those owners and property management companies to offer them an opportunity to have a crime-prevention walkthrough of their property. I am pleased to report many took advantage of this opportunity. Following the crime prevention walkthroughs, the following were accomplished: increased lighting, increased signage, installation of closed-circuit televisions, proper vetting of individuals renting property and landscape issues were addressed to help increase safety.
- RPD enhanced ways for sharing information more quickly than in the past. Information regarding significant criminal incidents was broadcast on the RPD Twitter account, released to media, and shared with neighboring jurisdictions immediately, if we were looking for offenders.
- RPD researched ways to make Riverside less enticing to criminals which included encouraging residents to increase lighting in and around homes, closing garage doors, locking vehicles, using the yellow-tag door hanger system which we developed and putting out informational flyers.
- RPD issued a directive stating that officers who were doing minor reports, those not requiring lengthy case reports or arrest situations, were to sit in the area of apartment and rental properties and do their small case reports. This was accomplished; every time that happened, officers generated calls for service so we could track their activity.
- We reiterated our current crime prevention programs that included the yellow tag door hanger program, house watch program, increased traffic enforcement, and the CCTV cameras that the vendor was beginning to install throughout the central business district.

After doing walkthroughs on rental properties, two major property management companies allowed Riverside to access their in-house closed-circuit television camera systems. These are the systems that are in the public way only, including walkways, courtyards, alleys, and any other public ways inside and outside of the apartment complexes.

These property managers gave access to the system to our detectives who can utilize this information when a crime occurs. This was a major accomplishment.

This department also instituted Phase 1 of the street camera, CCTV program. This included high-definition closed-circuit televisions at the below listed locations. It should be noted that all cameras are pointed in the public way and no video is kept longer than 90 days unless that video results in an arrest or is saved because the state's attorney's office or defense attorneys would need the video.

Cameras currently focused on the following locations include:

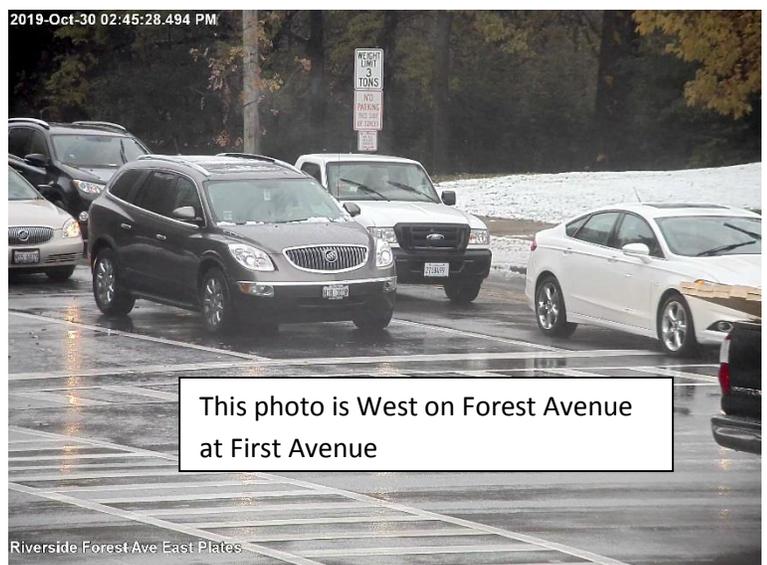
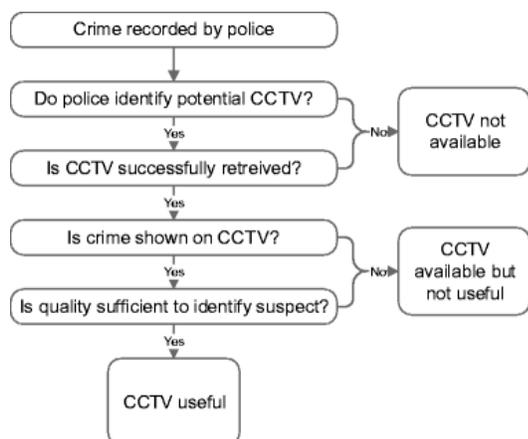
- First and Forest Avenues at the intersection
- Forest Avenue at First Avenue, westbound lanes
- Riverside Road in front of RPD
- RPD, Metra East
- RPD, Metra inside East
- RPD, Metra inside West
- RPD, Metra Bloomingbank Road
- RPD, Metra West Bloomingbank Road
- RPD, Metra PTZ camera at grade crossing
- RPD, Metra South
- RPD, Metra West
- RPD, Metra West pedestrian
- RPD station camera pointed at Burling and Riverside Roads



These high-definition camera systems have already resulted in five apprehensions or criminal arrests.

We have identified five individuals from incidents reported to the police department, three of which resulted in an arrest and the other two in identifying the offenders. However, the victim refused to sign complaints.

The closed-circuit television camera system works as follows



This is the type of signage that was recommended to property owners and property management companies who requested assistance with this issue during on-site property walkthroughs.



Ring Video

The department contacted Ring to participate in the Neighborhood App by Ring program.

There has been a delay because Ring was purchased by Amazon and there have been some technical issues, but we are on their waiting list to participate in this program.

When we are accepted into the Neighborhood Portal, a Ring product, it will provide the following:

- Allow conversations on the Neighbors App by commenting and posts.
- Posts about important crime and safety events to help keep our residents well informed.
- When a crime occurs, enlists the help of our residents by requesting video from users via Ring through the video request feature.

This is a voluntary program - residents will not be required to participate.

Once the Ring Crime Prevention Portal is set up, we will notify residents how the program works.

Crime Prevention Strategies going forward

As you know, the Village of Riverside has an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with District 96 for an antenna at the top of the smokestack on the building on Woodside Road. While we currently have not installed this, it is our intention to do so in Phase 2. Additionally, Phase 2 will include Harlem Avenue for additional cameras and a pole which would feed video to the police station. This will probably be the most expensive part of the project but we have received permit authority from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. These issues/camera systems will only happen if the Village Board approves additional funding or continued funding beyond what has already been spent.