



# Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative

2016 Annual Report



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Neighborhood Security Initiative**  
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**President** Les Wright  
**Executive Director** Jim Whyte

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In October 2014, The American Planning Association recognized the Central West End one of ten, “Great Neighborhoods in America.” This recognition resulted from many years of planning, hard work, investment and vision. It is also a result of the commitment of residents and property owners who invested in our community by electing to pay additional taxes to make the Central West End safer, cleaner and more attractive. The CWE Neighborhood Security Initiative is committed to working toward a safer community. We have a committed staff and the support of many of our wonderful residents.

There are constant challenges affecting our strategies to impact crime in our neighborhood. Recently, the most important challenge has been staffing our supplemental patrols with off duty St. Louis Metropolitan Police officers. The police department continues to struggle with maintaining their budgeted manpower level and operates with over one hundred fewer officers than authorized. This shortage of trained officers impacts

our ability to staff supplemental patrol shifts throughout the year. Fewer officers on the department mean fewer officers available to work secondary and provide a visible police presence in our neighborhood.

The NSI, our SBD commissioners and the provider of security services, The City’s Finest, LLC, have been working on implementing ways to recruit and maintain a pool of police officers willing to patrol our neighborhood. Our efforts paid off in 2016 as we finished the year utilizing most of the patrol budgets allocated for our area. The staff of the NSI appreciates the opportunity to serve our CWE residents, businesses and visitors. Please know that we are committed to making the CWE neighborhood safer for everyone. We believe strongly in our mission to impact crime and improve the quality of life for everyone in the CWE neighborhood.

**Jim Whyte**  
*Executive Director*  
CWE NSI



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## NSI HISTORY

With inspired leadership from the Central West End Association (CWEA), a group of community stakeholders created the Neighborhood Security Initiative (NSI) in 2007 to develop and manage a comprehensive, coordinated strategy for improving security in the Central West End. The NSI is funded through a partnership among five participating CWE Special Business Districts (SBD), participating Community Improvement Districts (CID), and Washington University Medical Center (WUMC). The NSI collaborates with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD), The City's Finest (TCF), and residents and businesses to unify prevention efforts and respond more efficiently to crime as a community. The NSI is led by an executive director, Jim Whyte, who reports to a board made up of representatives from each of the participating entities. Over the past ten years the Neighborhood Security Initiative has coordinated and monitored supplemental police patrols, implemented and managed an extensive security camera network, compiled monthly crime statistics, created a neighborhood court advocate program to represent

community interests in matters that come before judges and juries, sponsored regular public forums to educate and inform area residents, and initiated an awards program to recognize officers who serve and protect us.

## CRIME

Where cause and effect are often difficult to quantify when it comes to crime prevention, it is clear that the Neighborhood Security Initiative has had a positive impact on crime reduction in our neighborhood.

Figures obtained from the SLMPD for the Central West End neighborhood show that since the creation of the NSI in 2008 total crime index for the CWE has decreased by 31%. Person crime (aggravated assault, homicide, rape and robbery) has increased 10%, while property crime (arson, burglary, larceny, and vehicle theft) decreased 35%.

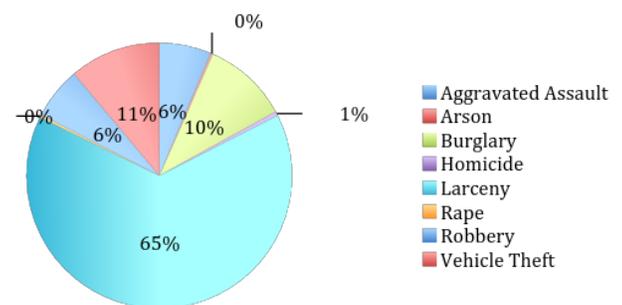
The majority of reported crime in the CWE are larcenies. In 2016, 65% of all crime reported

in the Central West End was a larceny. A larceny is a theft; stealing a license plate, shoplifting, a cell phone in a vehicle are all examples of a larceny.

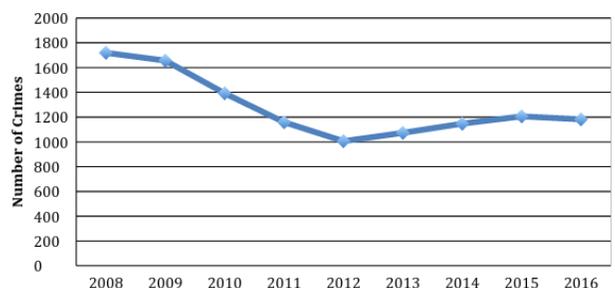
There were 6 homicides in 2016. This was an abnormal amount of homicides for this neighborhood. As comparison, there weren't this many homicides in the past 5 years combined. Only 1 of the homicides occurred with-in the NSI boundary and 3 resulted in an arrest.

A comparison of 2016 to 2015 shows a decrease in rape (-2), robbery (-10), burglary (-9), and larceny (-36). There was an increase

### 2016 Central West End Part 1 Crime



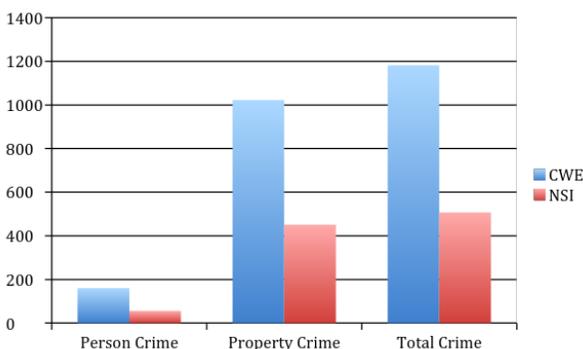
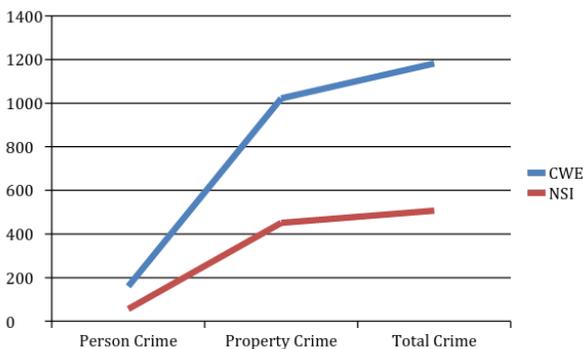
### CWE Part 1 Crime Comparison 2008-2016



in aggravated assaults (16), vehicle theft (10) and arson (1). Total person crime was up 10 incidents from the previous year while property crime was down 34 incidents. Total crime in Central West End was down 24 incidents from the previous year.

The previous stats reflect the Central West End as a whole. The supplemental patrols only monitor the participating Special Business Districts (see map on page #). In 2016, less than 35% of person crime occurred in the NSI boundary. Less than 44% of property crimes occurred within the boundary. That's remarkable considering the NSI boundaries are an extremely target rich environment.

*\*Figures are obtained from the SLMPD website. All figures are Part I crimes (arson, assault, burglary, homicide, larceny, rape, robbery, and vehicle theft) based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) from the FBI.*



## CAMERAS

The NSI supplements and supports security patrols with cameras located at strategic locations throughout the Central West End, primarily in commercial areas. The camera project began in 2012 with a pilot project in the North Special Business District. The camera's proved to be a successful tool, which led to the arrest of many suspects. Based on those successes, the NSI elected to expand the program to other districts. In 2014, Washington University committed \$315,000 to the project, and each of the participating Special Business District made contributions as well for a total investment of \$465,000. We currently benefit from 110 cameras. Including 23 that were added in 2016.

It should be noted that the camera project is considered "passive" in that it is not actively monitored around the clock. Instead, the NSI staff reviews footage as needed following a criminal incident.

The camera project has yielded numerous notable successes. In 2016, the NSI reviewed video footage 98 times, a total of 312 hours. 49 arrests can be attributed to the NSI camera reviews. In 2015 the NSI federated our cameras into the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department's (SLMPD) Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). The RTCC is

manned with Commissioned Police Officers 24-hours a day and 365 days a year.

The effectiveness and importance of the expanded security camera led to the creation of a new staff position approved by the NSI Board in September 2016. Retired SLMPD officer Lyndon Cornell served the department in many special assignments and brings with him, investigative skills, technical experience and key relationships with the police department. Lyndon will be overseeing the operation of the NSI cameras ensuring they are properly maintained and he will be working closely with our camera vendor, Will Electronics.

## NSI PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY'S FINEST

The City's Finest LLC is the provider of supplemental police patrols for the Neighborhood Security Initiative and it's participating SBD's. The men and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department that work for The City's Finest staffed almost 2,900 supplemental patrols during the year. The supplemental patrols are funded by five participating Special Business Districts, each with a varying annual security budget. Collectively, a significant investment of \$638,200 was spent in 2016. These bike patrols provide a highly visible and effective police presence in our neighborhood.

The NSI purchased an ATV to be used by the supplemental police patrols in the neighborhood. The ATV is highly visible and provides all-weather patrol capabilities for the officers. The purchase of the ATV was made possible through the generous donation of each of the participating NSI Special Business Districts.

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## FOREST PARK SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD AND GROVE CID CONTRACT

The Grove Community Improvement District (CID) and

Washington University Medical Center (WUMC), acting on behalf of the Forest Park Southeast Neighborhood, requested a proposal for security coordination services. As of July 1, 2016, The NSI was contracted to coordinate security efforts for both entities. We manage the supplemental patrols, attend safety and security meetings, crime analysis, and coordinate all efforts with the SLMPD.

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## NSI RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Each year the NSI recognizes people who help make our community safe. In 2016 the NSI recognized 19 men and women

whose efforts stood out and helped make our neighborhood safe. Through the course of the year we recognized fifteen St. Louis Metropolitan Police Officers and Detectives and a Licensed Security Officer. Also recognized was Alvin Ferguson of St. Patrick's Center Homeless Outreach and Richard Sykora of the City Counselor's Office, both of whom are great partners in all we do in the CWE neighborhood. Tim Kavanaugh was one of the many St. Louis Metropolitan Police officers we recognized. Tim has been an officer with the SLMPD for over 30 years, including many in the CWE neighborhood. Over the years Tim has become an invaluable resource for businesses and the

## SUCCESS OF THE CAMERA PROJECT

**On July 24, 2016,** Supplemental Detail Officers were in the area of Euclid and Washington relative to the recent influx of robberies occurring in the area, when they observed a subject who was acting in a suspicious manner. When the officers approached the subject relative to a filed interview he immediately fled from them. The officers gave chase at which time the subject was observed discarding a handgun. The subject was captured and arrested for Unlawful Use of a Weapon (Carrying a Concealed Weapon). Our cameras were able to capture the incident and images of the suspect.

**On October 26, 2016,** there was an incident that occurred in the 4400 block of Lindell involving a Green SUV occupied by two suspects breaking into work vehicles and stealing expensive tools. We were able to obtain video from our cameras and capture still images of the license plates and vehicle; which was provide to the police. The next day the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department was able to arrest one of the suspects for this crime. It was determined that he was responsible for several of these types of crimes throughout the St. Louis City and County region. He was later charged with these crimes.

**On November 1, 2016,** there was an incident that occurred in the rear of the 5200 block of Delmar where the victim reported that someone unlawfully entered his yard and stole a mini go cart (blue in color). We reviewed our cameras at which time we were able to obtain video footage and images of the suspect carrying the stolen go-cart. The video and images were provided to the police. The next day the suspect was observed within two blocks from which the crime occurred. The police was contacted and he was arrested for that crime. The suspect was just released from prison two months prior for similar crimes.

CWE community in his liaison role and sharing information to help make our community safer. We recognized these men and women at our NSI Public Security Forums held on the last Wednesday in January, March, May, August and October at the Mahler Ballroom, 4915 Washington. The success of this program is due in large part to the generous donation by the CWE North CID, which helps provide each recipient with a gift card and “Certificate of Appreciation.”



# COURT ADVOCACY TEAMS

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Court Advocacy is built on two equally strong elements, that are effective and essential to its success – Impact Letter Writing and Court Hearing Attendance. Court Advocacy is both highly supported and encouraged by our top law enforcement agencies in St. Louis - the Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) and the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office (CAO).

## CWE-NSI COURT ADVOCACY SUCCESS STORIES: Neighborhood Victim Involvement

The team saw favorable outcomes for the community in some of the longest running cases. One case spanned the court docket for twenty-two months. A dedicated group of residents taking time from their busy schedules to attend multiple

bond, plea, and sentencing hearings were crucial to the success. The case involved drug dealing and an assault on a Law Enforcement Officer. The group turned in letters and gave verbal statements in court. A ten-year prison sentence concluded the case. Another case that took two years and nine months to move through the 22nd Circuit Court finally ended in 2016. Letters were submitted by the court advocacy team. The Neighborhood Advocate attended and gave a verbal statement. The defendant in this case

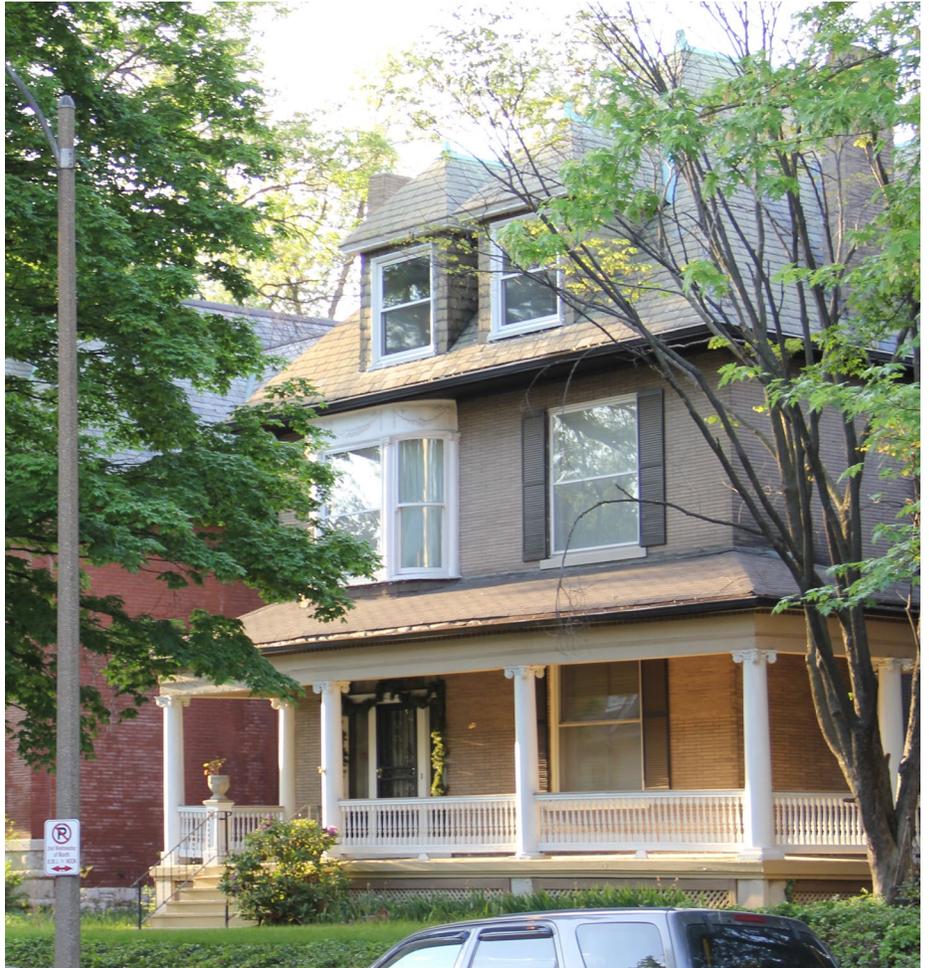
had committed multiple robberies, he was ultimately sentenced to three consecutive life sentences for the crimes. These success stories are notable examples of the impact participation in the process can have. We are proud to have contributed in these cases and for the outcomes the cases saw.

is something many may not be used to witnessing. The team has been effective in contacting vulnerable populations in a compassionate and safe way throughout the city and now here in the CWE as well.

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## HOMELESS OUTREACH EFFORTS

In 2016, the CWE-NSI began a relationship with the St. Patrick's Center Mobile Outreach effort. The collaboration has taught the agency a lot about resources, challenges, and systemic issues related to the efforts to address homelessness. The outreach team that assists the CWE-NSI regularly is comprised of two dedicated individuals. Alvin Ferguson with the St. Patrick's Center Mobile Outreach and Officer Larry Dampier with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department are an example of what innovative approaches to outreach can look like. Connecting law enforcement to the community by way of highly trained and dedicated outreach staff



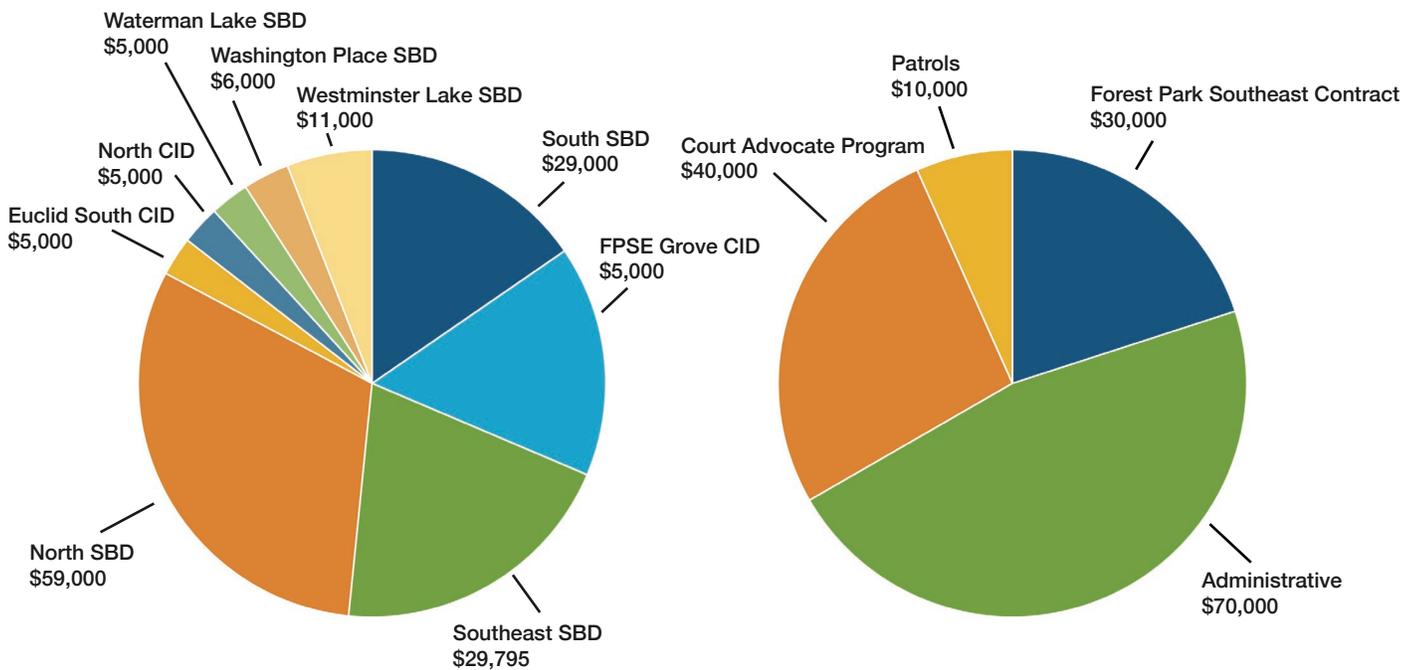
## RESIDENT VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Court Advocacy Team Member – *Janet Meyer*

Janet Meyer has dedicated much of her free time to volunteering. The CWE-NSI considers itself lucky Janet chose to spend her valuable time here. When we met to talk, the Neighborhood Advocate learned a lot about how the Criminal Justice System looks to citizens from the outside. Janet said, “I really didn’t know what to expect when I started attending court.” She learned a lot, fast. Janet said, “I was surprised how much time is spent on managing probation cases.” Janet explained “one of the difficult things to witness is how long and slow the process is, and that it often seems to yield incremental amounts of change.” The CWE-NSI is excited Janet is a part of the team and look forward to her continued support.

# FINANCIALS

The NSI staff consists of 3 full-time personnel and is funded by six participating Special Business Districts (SBD), three Community Improvement Districts (CID), and Washington University Medical Center (WUMC), for a total of \$338,000 in 2016.



**SBD/CID CONTRIBUTIONS**

**WUMC CONTRIBUTION**

# GLOSSARY AND MAP OF PARTICIPATING SBDs

**CID** - Community Improvement District

**SBD** - Special Business District

**SLMPD** - St. Louis Police Department

**TCF** - The City's Finest

**WUMC** - Washington University Medical Center





## CWE NSI Board of Directors

Les Wright	President	Westminster Lake SBD
Kate Haher	Vice President	North CID
Jim Dwyer	Vice President of Finance	North SBD
Yusef Scoggin	Secretary	Southeast SBD
Bill Latz	Board Member	Washington Place SBD
Henry Edmonds	Board Member	North SBD
Nick Georges	Board Member	South SBD
Richard Weiss	Board Member	Waterman Lake SBD
Brian Phillips	Board Member	WUMC
Matt Green	Board Member	Euclid South CID

## Staff

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Lyndon Cornell	Camera Project Manager	<a href="mailto:lcornell@cwensi.com">lcornell@cwensi.com</a>

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