

Jefferson EDGE 2020 **CRIME ABATEMENT** Status Report 4: July 2011

Prepared by JEDCO and GCR & Associates, Inc.

JEDCO
Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission



Crime Abatement

In response to concerns about quality of life in Jefferson Parish and its impact upon the community's economic competitiveness, JEDCO initiated the Jefferson Edge 2020 Quality of Life initiative. This initiative has produced eight "strategic implementation plans" which include a series of action items to address particular quality of life issues. Implementing the action items requires the total cooperation and keen interest of all involved, including JEDCO, the Jefferson Parish government, numerous other entities, and frequently State and Federal agencies. In 2008, JEDCO retained GCR & Associates, Inc. to prepare semiannual reports outlining the status of each of these action items and overall progress toward implementation.

The following table summarizes the progress made toward each of the crime prevention (CP) and anti-blight (AB) action items.

CP = Crime Prevention AB= Anti-Blight

		Progress as of July 2011		
Action ID #	Action Item	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
CP1	Seek additional local resources to support the JPSO, District Attorney's Office, and municipal police departments	No longer applicable and removed from crime abatement action items.		
CP2	Work with the State to design and implement an overhaul of the corrections system			
CP3	Work with the State to provide additional funding for juvenile justice reform, after care programs, and truancy intervention			
CP4	Work with the State to secure additional resources for Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) for non-violent offenders and juveniles			
CP5	Initiate a major public outreach campaign to inform the public about new anti-crime initiatives and crime fighting successes			
AB1	Adopt the International Property Maintenance Code			
AB2	Adopt state legislation to enact more severe penalties for certain code violations			
AB3	Adopt state legislation to direct minor building code violations to administrative adjudication rather than to the court system			
AB4	Adopt stronger local ordinances to limit illegal activities in motels			
AB5	Appoint a conviction verification officer to assist apartment owners in obtaining background information on tenants			
AB6	Work with the Jefferson Parish Housing Authority to conduct more stringent pre-occupancy inspections of Section 8 housing units			
AB7	Secure additional administrative staff for the Parish Attorney's Office			
AB8	Develop a comprehensive redevelopment strategy and secure funding for the revitalization of certain areas			

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						Progress as of July 2011		
Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress	
CP1	Seek additional local resources to support the JPSO, District Attorney's Office, and municipal police departments	Identify surplus resources or submit ballot proposal in 2008	Action item tabled. For more information, refer to October, 2010 Status Update.	No further action at this time. Continue to monitor the personnel needs of local law enforcement agencies and evaluate the need for a revenue measure of this kind in the future.	No longer applicable and removed from crime abatement action items.			
CP2	Work with the State to design and implement an overhaul of the corrections system	Assemble State committee/task force in 2008; pass legislation in 2009	<p>During the 2010 legislative session, the State Senate passed Senate Resolution 90 (SR 90), the purpose of which was to establish a committee to comprehensively evaluate the state's corrections system. While the SR90 framework was disbanded, a number of other actions during the most recent legislative session (2011) support the goal of a reformed corrections system. These include HR 414, HR 415, and HR 416 by Representative Lopinto, all signed into law by Governor Jindal. Respectively, these laws simplify statutes for the diminution of sentences, limit jail time for technical violations of parole or probation, and amend parole eligibility for non-violent, non-sex offender, first-time felons. All of these changes were recommended by the Louisiana Sentencing Commission.</p> <p>Additionally, the State Dept. of Health and Hospitals has created a new initiative to provide a "coordinated system of care" for at risk youth. State and federal Medicaid funds will be used for this program.</p>	<p>Monitor effectiveness of alternative sentencing strategies and coordinated system of care approach for at risk youth.</p> <p>Determine whether there is still a need for a comprehensive evaluation of the corrections system to reduce recidivism and improve prisoner outcomes.</p>				

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CP3	Work with the State to provide additional funding for juvenile justice reform, after care programs, and truancy intervention	Secure supplemental funding for TASC in 2008; secure increased funding and recurring State appropriation in 2009	<p>In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, Senator Alario was instrumental in preserving funding for the TASC program. In the most recent legislative session, Senator Alario and Representative Fannin (Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee) were committed to preserving the TASC program in the face of a challenging fiscal climate. The TASC program was funded in the final approved 2011-2012 budget at the level of \$2.7 million state-wide.</p> <p>In the past, shortfalls in state funding have been offset by contributions from Jefferson Parish Public Schools. For the coming year, JPPS is proposing to reduce funding by \$85,000; in light of restructuring of the program, TASC will be able to absorb this reduction in funding.</p> <p>Unfortunately, in the current fiscal and economic climate, the TASC program does not have any realistic chance of securing a stable, recurring revenue source.</p>	Continue to work with Senator Alario and Representative Fannin to secure annual appropriations for TASC. Work with Jefferson legislative delegation to map out a strategy for a secure, stable revenue source for truancy intervention and other juvenile programs.			
CP4	Work with the State to secure additional resources for Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) for non-violent offenders and juveniles	Secure designation in 2008-2009	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action required.			
CP5	Initiate a major public outreach campaign to inform the public about new anti-crime initiatives and crime fighting successes	Unveil website and issue newsletter in 2008	Action item complete. Refer to October, 2010 Status Update for further detail.	<p>Continue to monitor the effectiveness and the financial self-sufficiency of Jefferson Life magazine.</p> <p>JEDCO should remain vigilant in pursuing additional marketing funds and opportunities to market the Parish.</p>			

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Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
AB1	Adopt the International Property Maintenance Code	Adopt code in 2008-2009 depending on enforcement capacity	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action required			
AB2	Adopt state legislation to enact more severe penalties for certain code violations	Adopt legislation in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to October, 2009 status update.	No further action required.			
AB3	Adopt state legislation to direct minor building code violations to administrative adjudication rather than to the court system	Adopt legislation in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action required			
AB4	Adopt stronger local ordinances to limit illegal activities in motels	Research best practices in 2008; adopt ordinance(s) in 2008-2009	Action complete. For more information, refer to October, 2009 status update.	PNo further action required.			

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Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
AB5	Appoint a conviction verification officer to assist apartment owners in obtaining background information on tenants	Create position and hire officer in 2008	<p>As discussed in the October, 2010 Status Update, the JPSO continues to conduct criminal background checks of prospective Section 8 tenants through its "cop link" program in partnership with the Jefferson Housing Authority.</p> <p>Additionally, Jefferson Parish's Crime Prevention and Quality of Life Coordinator continues to provide some limited criminal background checks of prospective tenants for market rate landlords. To expand this program, greater awareness of the program is needed on the part of market rate landlords. The resumption of the criminal justice coordinating committee meetings in August of 2011 will provide a forum for the Crime Prevention and Quality of Life Coordinator to work more closely with apartment owners and managers.</p>	Monitor success of criminal background check program for Section 8 tenants and ensure strong communication between the Parish, the Housing Authority and the JPSO. Through the criminal justice coordinating committee, reach out to the apartment association to better advertise criminal background checks for prospective tenants.			
AB6	Work with the Jefferson Parish Housing Authority to conduct more stringent pre-occupancy inspections of Section 8 housing units	Improve inspection protocols and formalize relationship with Inspection and Code Enforcement in 2008-2009	Action item complete. For more information, refer to the October, 2010 Status Update.	Continue to monitor this collaboration between Code Enforcement and the Parish Housing Authority to determine its effectiveness in improving the condition of Section 8 units and to ensure open and meaningful lines of communication between the two agencies.			
AB7	Secure additional administrative staff for the Parish Attorney's Office	Hire additional staff in 2008	Action complete. For more information, refer to March, 2009 status update.	No further action required			

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Action ID #	Action Item	Original Timeline	Accomplishments/Benchmarks Met	Next Steps	Action Item Complete	Substantial Progress	Little/No Progress
AB8	Develop a comprehensive redevelopment strategy and secure funding for the revitalization of certain areas	Issue pilot redevelopment plan RFP in 2008-2009; select developer in 2009-2010; initiate implementation in 2010	<p>The principal obstacle to the implementation of this action item is the absence of a significant funding source. However, a newly available funding source is HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI). The CNI competitive grant process awards planning grants for up to \$300,000 for high poverty, "distressed" neighborhoods. The neighborhood that is to be the subject of the planning study must contain some form of HUD-assisted housing (e.g. public housing) that is in need of revitalization.</p> <p>The most recent funding round for the CNI program was recently announced, and the deadline for the CNI grant application is August 8, 2011. Preliminary discussions among Parish stakeholders regarding this grant have begun as of the writing of this update.</p>	Coordinate a working group of key Parish leaders and stakeholders (e.g. Housing Authority, JPSO, Jefferson Parish Planning) to determine whether Jefferson will submit a grant application. If the working group decides to pursue the grant, coordinate the grant submittal process.			

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3445 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 300
Metairie, LA 70002
504 833 1881 fax 504 833 7676



GCR & Associates, Inc.

2021 Lakeshore Drive, Ste. 500
New Orleans, LA 70122
504 304 2500 fax 504 304 2525