

Community and Law Enforcement Action Network

C.L.E.A.N.

The Community and Law Enforcement Action Network or CLEAN, is a program designed to focus limited criminal justice system resources on obtaining and communicating accurate and timely information about persons who repeatedly engage in criminal conduct that significantly impacts Minneapolis communities. Using both input from residents who have personally observed an individual engaged in repeated criminal conduct that most negatively impacts their community and objective arrest, conviction, bench warrant and probation criteria, a manageable list of chronic offenders is established for each of the identified problem corridors of the third precinct in South Minneapolis. Timely and accurate information regarding these offenders is communicated to the court, to ensure that the judiciary holds these offenders accountable for their behavior and imposes appropriate sanctions or interventions. CLEAN's goal is to dramatically reduce the number of livability offenses committed within specific areas of the third precinct through an improved communication network.

CLEAN is a partnership between residents, community organizations, the MPD third precinct, city and county attorney's offices, probation, and social service organizations and groups. Each stakeholder has a role in the CLEAN program and each is solicited for input into its operation.

How CLEAN works:

1. For each identified CLEAN area within the third precinct, chronic offenders are identified. This is done through community input as to which offenders are the most troublesome. Arrest and conviction records are checked on each offender and a manageable list of chronic offenders is established for each CLEAN area. To be considered chronic, each offender must meet specific objective criteria.
2. Once the list of chronic offenders is established, the third precinct puts together information sheets with offender's photos and other relevant information. This includes name, probation status, conditions of probation/parole, court restrictions, future court dates, warrants, etc. One information sheet with several identified chronic offenders is established for each CLEAN area within the precinct. These information sheets are updated weekly.
3. Once the information is updated the CLEAN information sheets are distributed to officers working these areas as well as residents and businesses in the affected areas. They are distributed both electronically and by hand. Community groups such as the Bloomington Avenue Citizen's Patrol and Phillips Weed have assisted in the distribution of the information sheets. Residents are asked to call police if they spot any of the chronic offenders committing crimes or any violations of restrictions noted on the information sheet.

4. When any of the CLEAN chronic offenders are arrested, an automated email is sent to key city and county personnel. Police notify members of the affected community of the offender's arrest, any pending charges or future court dates, and which prosecutor and judge will be handling the case.
5. Prior to any court date, MPD crime prevention specialists work with residents on impact statements which are then submitted to the courts in writing or in person by residents who actually appear before the court. With the aid of these community impact statements, the city and county attorneys then work to aggressively prosecute CLEAN chronic offender. These efforts have resulted in offenders receiving more appropriate sanctions and interventions.

What does the future of CLEAN hold?

CLEAN has been very successful thus far, however we have been meeting together to work on ways to make it an even more powerful tool to ensure that chronic offenders receive appropriate sanctions and interventions. We have established partnerships with Phillips Weed and Seed, Midtown Restorative Justice, and social service organizations such as MAD DADS, PRIDE and others in order to find effective and more permanent alternatives to incarceration.

How can you help?

Become a part of CLEAN. When you receive the CLEAN information lists, be on the lookout for the identified chronic offenders. Don't hesitate to call police if you personally see any of the offenders engaged in criminal activity or violating their conditions of probation. Write impact statements. These statements have proven to be a powerful tool and the courts need to hear how these chronic offenders have impacted you or your business. Offer input. We want to make sure that CLEAN is a program driven by the community. Therefore, we are always looking for ways to make clean better. Let us know if you have ideas or if you have persons you believe should be placed on our chronic offender lists. Please feel free to contact the CLEAN program coordinator, Lt. Rick Thomas at 612-673-5734 if you have any ideas or input. CLEAN is your program and we need your input.

*Inspector Scott Gerlicher
Commander- MPD Third Precinct.*