

**Trinidad Neighborhood Crime Survey
Final Report**

**Submitted to:
Washington DC Police Foundation**

**Council for Court Excellence
Washington, DC**

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Introduction

In April 2009 the Council for Court Excellence received a small negotiated services contract from the Washington DC Police Foundation to manage the distribution and analysis of a crime perception survey of residents, business owners and frequent visitors to the Trinidad neighborhood of Washington, DC. The survey is part of a larger targeted effort, entitled the Safe City Program and described briefly below, to address crime in the Trinidad neighborhood.

The neighborhood survey process administered two surveys - one *before* and one *after* the implementation of the various components of the Safe City Program. The preliminary report, published in September 2009, provided analysis of the findings of the first survey. This final report summarizes the overall survey findings.

The first survey period was from May 28 – August 31, 2009. The second survey period was from March 31 – May 31, 2010. Each anonymous survey asked four major questions, addressing perceptions about personal safety, concern with specific classes of crime, police services and familiarity with the Safe City Program. Of those familiar with the Safe City Program, the survey asked additional questions about perceptions of the program's effectiveness in reducing the fear of crime and reducing the overall crime rate. Each survey posed optional demographic questions on race, age, gender, recent crime victimization, Trinidad residency status, length of residency in Trinidad, and household size. The only variance between the two surveys was a question in the second survey asking if the respondent had completed the first survey.

The Safe City Program was publicly announced by Mayor Adrian Fenty and Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy Lanier in December 2008 as a response to serious and persistent crime problems in the Trinidad neighborhood. Much of the program's funding was directed towards the deployment of nine closed-circuit TV cameras ("CCTV") – and developing the infrastructure to accommodate a total of up to 20 CCTV cameras in the future - at strategic locations throughout the Trinidad neighborhood to act as a "force multiplier" for the MPD crime prevention approach. The Safe City Program also distributed high-intensity light bulbs ("Light Up the Night"), provided cell phones programmed to call 911 ("Live Link"), and added recreational equipment at the Joseph Cole and Trinidad Recreation Centers.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are due to Anne Cline of MPD, for her significant contributions to the development of the two surveys, and to Fayette Vaughn-Lee of MPD, for her commitment and valuable input about disseminating the Spring 2010 survey. Special thanks are also due to the CCE interns for their important assistance with this project. Kate Civitello did survey coding and analysis for the Spring 2010 survey; Linda Mbassa and Amanda Paloian distributed, collected and analyzed the Summer 2009 survey.

Important Notes

- The analysis presented in the final report is that of the Council for Court Excellence and not of the Washington DC Police Foundation.
- The Council for Court Excellence report is not an evaluation of the Safe City Program.
- The samples described in the final report are not random and should not be considered to be representative of the Trinidad population.
- The survey distribution methodologies yielded responses from different demographic groups, which may not be representative of the Trinidad population.

Summary Findings

Summarized below are the perceptions of Trinidad neighborhood survey respondents to two separate crime surveys addressing four broad themes of personal safety, concern with specific crime categories, satisfaction with police services and awareness of the Safe City Program. For purposes of the summary findings, the figures below are rounded to the nearest fifth percent. Detailed findings follow.

The major findings of the survey are:

- Two-thirds of respondents report being “very concerned” with “buying and selling of drugs” in the Trinidad neighborhood; over 50% of respondents are “very concerned” with five other specific classes of crimes in Trinidad. (Crime in Trinidad)
- Sixty percent of respondents report being “not familiar at all” with the Safe City Program. (The Safe City Program in Trinidad)
- Fifty-five percent of respondents report being “somewhat satisfied” with police services in Trinidad. (Police services in Trinidad)
- Fifty percent of respondents report feeling “somewhat safe” in the Trinidad neighborhood. (Personal safety in Trinidad)

	Percentage of respondents		
	<u>Summer 2009</u>	<u>Spring 2010</u>	<u>Total</u>
Personal safety in Trinidad			
Percent that feel “somewhat safe”	50%	50%	50%
Crime in Trinidad			
Percent “very concerned” about:			
• Buying and selling of drugs:	75%	60%	65%
• Violent crimes:	65%	55%	60%
• Delinquent behavior:	65%	55%	55%
• Trespassing and loitering:	60%	50%	50%
• Gang activity:	60%	45%	50%
• Property crimes:	55%	45%	50%
Police services in Trinidad			
Percent that are:			
• “very satisfied”	10%	30%	25%
• “somewhat satisfied”	60%	50%	55%
The Safe City Program in Trinidad			
Percent that are “not familiar at all”	55%	65%	60%
Percent that are “very familiar”	10%	5%	5%

Detailed survey findings

The four major questions in the Trinidad neighborhood crime survey inquire about perspectives on personal safety, concern with specific crime categories, satisfaction with police services and awareness of the Safe City Program. The following graphs and tables show the response rates, respectively by percentage and number, to each of the four major questions.

A total of 501 responses were received from both surveys. Not all respondents answered all questions, particularly in response to optional survey demographics, at page 12. Five percent of respondents to the Spring 2010 survey indicated that they also responded to the Summer 2009 survey. This sub-group is discussed in the methodology section on page 11. CCE did not find any remarkable variances in response based on a cross-tabulation analysis with demographic groups based on age, race, gender, and prior victim status.

Question 1: “How safe do you feel in the Trinidad neighborhood?”

Graph 1: Perceptions of personal safety in Trinidad, percentages of respondents

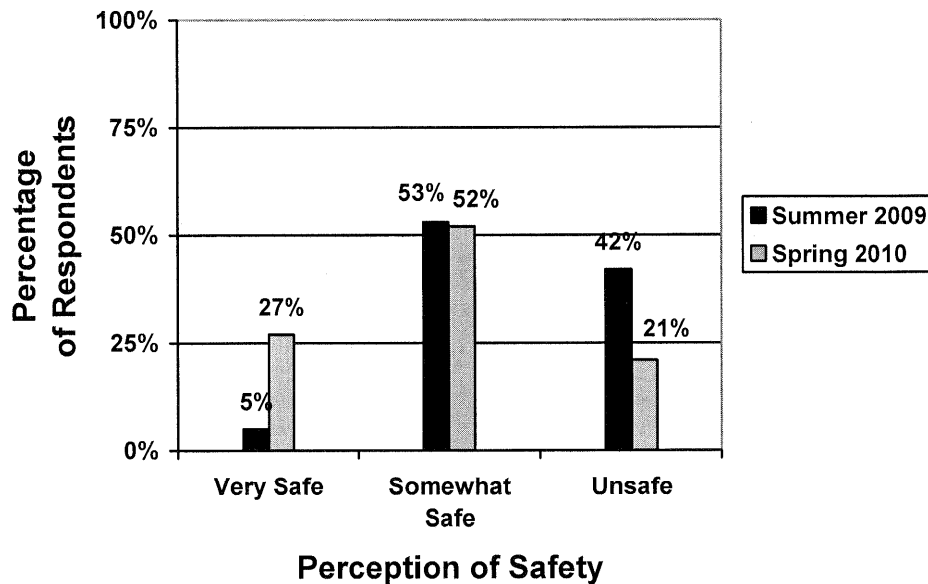


Table 1: Perceptions of personal safety in Trinidad, numbers of respondents

	Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Unsafe	Total
Summer 2009	7	68	54	129
Spring 2010	99	190	75	364
Total	106	258	129	493

Question 1 note: Over 40% of the Summer 2009 cohort reported feeling “unsafe,” while responses in the Spring 2010 cohort were more evenly distributed between the “very safe” and “unsafe” categories. The total response rate of both cohorts is almost evenly divided between the “very safe” and “unsafe” categories.

Question 2: “In the Trinidad neighborhood, how concerned are you with the following issues?”

Graph 2: Perceptions of crime in Trinidad, percentages of respondents who indicated “very concerned” for six crime categories

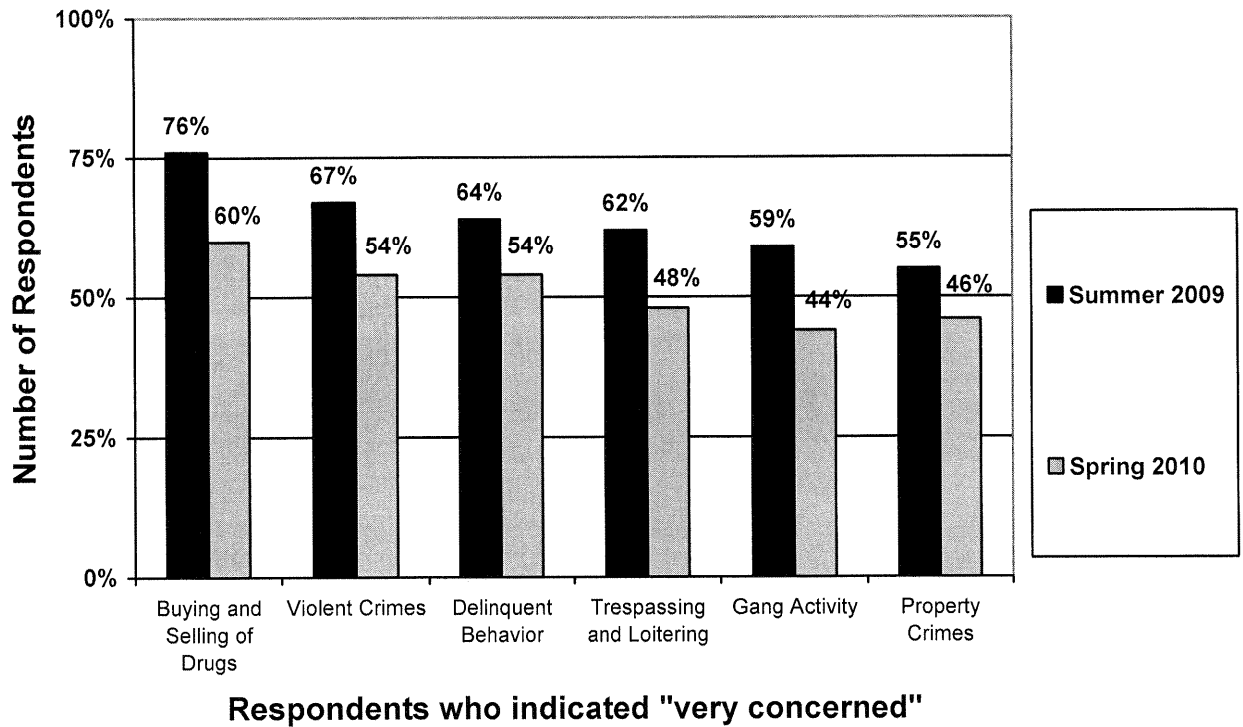


Table 2: Perceptions of crime in Trinidad, numbers of respondents who indicated “very concerned” for six crime categories

	Buying and Selling of Drugs	Violent Crimes	Delinquent Behavior	Trespassing and Loitering	Gang Activity	Property Crimes
Summer 2009	99	86	83	80	76	71
Spring 2010	220	198	196	177	160	168
Total	319	284	279	257	236	239

Question 3: “Overall, how satisfied are you with the police services in Trinidad?”

Graph 3: Perceptions of police services in Trinidad, percentages of respondents

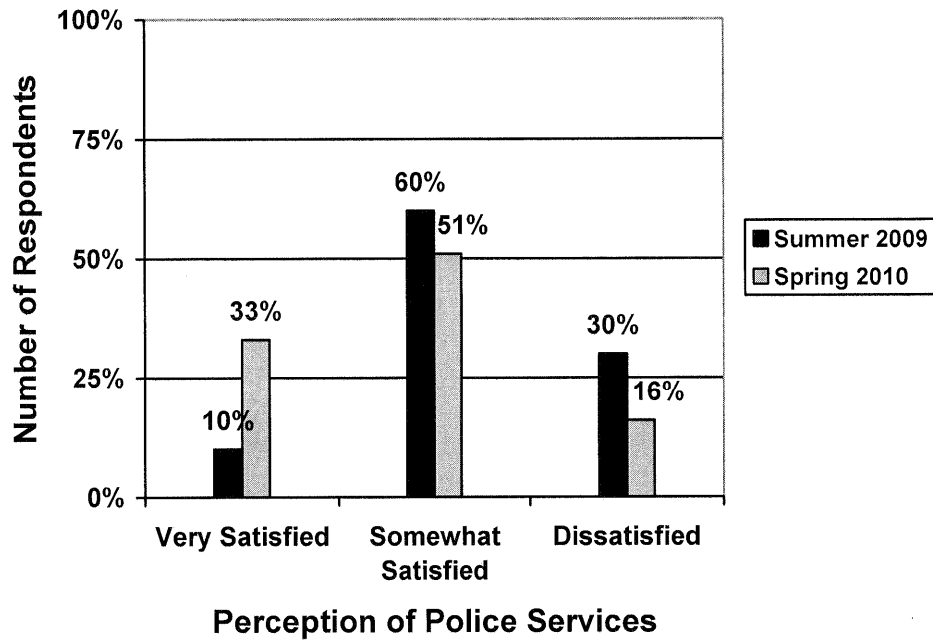


Table 3: Perceptions of personal safety in Trinidad, number of respondents

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Total
Summer 2009	13	77	38	128
Spring 2010	117	183	58	358
Total	130	260	96	486

Question 3 note: With the Summer 2009 cohort skewing to “dissatisfied” and the Spring 2010 cohort skewing to “very satisfied,” the two cohorts are in approximate inverse proportion regarding these categories of responses. The total response rate shows a pattern similar to question 1, where the responses are more evenly distributed across the “very satisfied” and “dissatisfied” categories.

Question 4: “How familiar are you with the objectives and goals of the MPD Safe City Program?”

Graph 4: Familiarity with the Safe City program, percentages of respondents

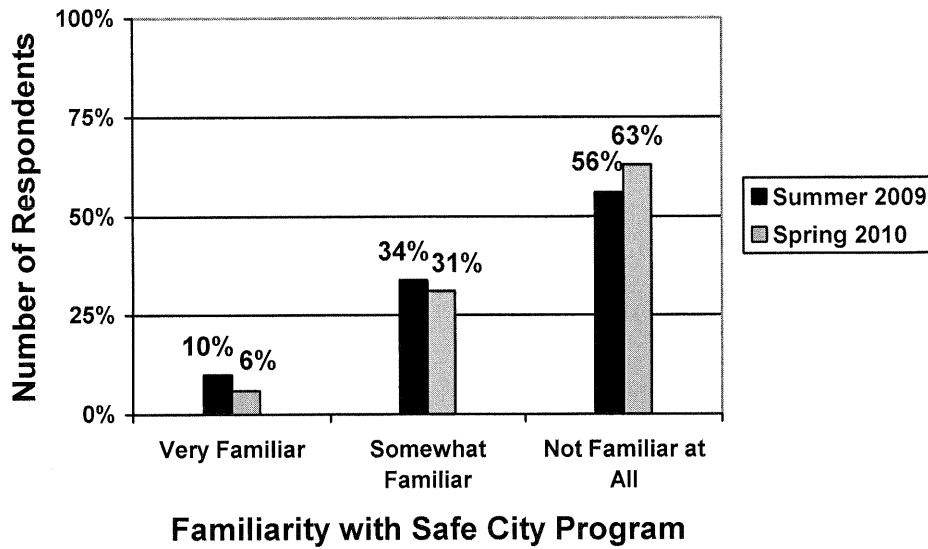


Table 4: Perceptions of personal safety in Trinidad, number of respondents

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Familiar at All	Total
Summer 2009	13	43	72	128
Spring 2010	22	107	220	349
Total	35	150	292	477

Methodology

Survey distribution period

The distribution period for the Trinidad neighborhood crime survey was from May 28 through August 31, 2009. The second survey was distributed from March 31 through May 31, 2010. The major Safe City Program activity – the installation and activation of CCTV cameras – occurred in the period between the two surveys.

Survey design and distribution method

CCE received comments from both the DC Metropolitan Police Department and Trinidad Advisory Neighborhood Commissions about survey design, which were reflected in the final survey, including the importance of ensuring respondent anonymity. There was considerable variance between the distribution method of each survey; in 2009 almost all responses came via the internet, in 2010 all responses were collected through MPD police officer dissemination.

2009 survey

CCE staff met separately with the staff of the DC Metropolitan Police Department (May 5, 2009) and Trinidad Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (May 22, 2009) to discuss possible survey questions and a survey distribution strategy. The final survey questions reflected MPD's prior experience with community surveys and incorporated comments from the ANC Commissioners. An electronic survey utilizing Survey Monkey was also developed as a result of the meetings with MPD and the ANC Commissioners. The survey distribution method, based on input from MPD and the ANC Commissioners, is provided in bullet form below:

- Joseph Cole Recreation Center (200 paper surveys), along with Safe City Program brochure print-outs, delivered by CCE staff on May 28, 2009.
- Trinidad Recreation Center (200 paper surveys), along with Safe City Program brochure print-outs, delivered by CCE staff on May 28, 2009.
- ANC 5B Commissioners office, Salvation Army Harbor Light Center (600 paper surveys), for distribution of 150 paper surveys each to the four ANC Commissioners, by courier on June 1, 2009.
- Trinidad Neighborhood Association website (<http://www.trinidad-dc.org>), posted on June 16, 2009.
- MPD 5D listserv (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MPD-5D/ANC>), posted on June 17, 2009.

The electronic survey link was posted on June 23, 2009 on "Susie's Budget and Policy Corner," a blog discussing DC budget and policy matters.

<http://susiecambria.blogspot.com>.

CCE staff contacted on a weekly basis in June and July the Directors of the two recreation centers regarding the status of survey completion. It is unknown whether the ANC Commissioners received their allotment of the surveys delivered by CCE staff to the ANC 5B headquarters.

2010 Survey

CCE staff met with the DC Metropolitan Police Department's Fifth District to discuss survey distribution (March 11, 2010). Trinidad ANC commissioners and persons representing the Trinidad Neighborhood Association website did not respond to efforts to

contact them about survey distribution. However, as noted by MPD in the below description, an unidentified ANC Commissioner did support the MPD survey distribution effort.

The 2010 survey distribution methodology, as described by MPD, is provided below. In summary, MPD officers and staff spent 19 hours on seven days in April and May personally distributing the surveys at seven different locations in the Trinidad neighborhood.

Distribution of the Trinidad survey

Date	Time	Number of MPD Staff/ Officers	Distribution Mechanism	Location
April 10, 2010	10am-1pm	4	The giveaway of hotdogs & popcorn and drinks brought in good participation. (we encouraged the residents to do the survey <i>Before</i> they received the refreshments)	Montello & Mt Olivet
April 17, 2010	10am-12noon	3	Safety pamphlets and community meeting announcements were distributed after taking survey. Giveaways (McGruff bags, pencils, and coloring books for children was given out <i>after</i> parent completed survey)	Trinidad Ave & Raum
April 24, 2010	9am-1pm	5	The giveaway of hotdogs & popcorn and drinks brought in good participation. (We encouraged the residents to do the survey <i>Before</i> they received the refreshments)	Levis & Holbrook
May 1, 2010	9am-12noon	3	Safety pamphlets and community meeting announcements were distributed after taking survey. Giveaways (safety arm bands and Domestic Violence information was distributed after the survey)	Neal Street & Trinidad Ave
May 6, 2010	12noon-2pm	2	Safety pamphlets and community meeting announcements were distributed after taking survey	Florida Ave – between Montello and Holbrook St (walking)
May 7, 2010	12noon-2pm	2	Safety pamphlets and community meeting announcements were distributed after taking survey (McGruff bags, pencils, and coloring books for children was given out <i>after</i> parent completed survey)	Morse St to Staples St
May 8, 2010	9am-12noon	3	Safety pamphlets and community meeting announcements were distributed after taking survey	Trinidad Ave Neal to Childress (walking)

Overall the residents welcomed the chance to “tell” how they feel about living in Trinidad. We received support from one of the ANC Commissioner in the area to help with the distribution and collection of the surveys. Residents were not shy at all to tell an Officer how they feel about their individual safety or the quality of work they receive from a MPD Officer. (Note: only one resident felt that Officers should not be participating with the survey process-they should be on the street attending to calls for service.)

Survey distribution results

2009 Survey

There were a total of 132 survey respondents. Response to the electronic survey greatly outweighed the paper survey response (only 19, or 14%, of the surveys were received in paper form). The website source – whether from the MPD listserv or the Trinidad Neighborhood Association website – for the electronic survey is unknown.

2010 Survey

There were a total of 369 survey respondents, all via paper survey.

Survey interpretation

As mentioned in the Introduction, both surveys are drawn from non-random samples and using different distribution methods. The results of either survey should not be considered a representative sample of the Trinidad neighborhood. Nor can the two populations be compared.

Respondents who completed both the 2009 and 2010 survey

Almost five percent of the 2010 survey respondents completed the 2009 survey. The 2010 survey responses from this sub-population follow. This sub-population does not appear to vary from the total population by any of the major demographic variables, such as race, gender, age or prior crime victimization. It is worth noting that the sub-population varies from the total population with respect to its familiarity with the Safe City Program – 95% are either “somewhat” or “very” familiar with Safe City.

Percent who feel “somewhat safe” = 60%

Percent that are “very concerned” about:

- Buying and selling of drugs = 5%
- Violent crimes = 10%
- Delinquent behavior = 5%
- Trespassing and loitering = 25%
- Gang activity = 15%
- Property crimes = 5%

Percent that are “somewhat satisfied” with police services = 40%

Percent that are “very satisfied” with police services = 45%

Percent “not familiar at all” with the Safe City program = 5%

Percent “somewhat familiar with the Safe City program = 65%

Percent “very familiar” with the Safe City program = 30%

Survey Respondent Demographics

Age	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
18 – 29	32 (26%)	50 (14%)
30 – 39	58 (46%)	115 (32%)
40 – 49	22 (18%)	105 (29%)
50 – 59	8 (6%)	47 (13%)
60 and up	5 (4%)	44 (12%)
Total	125 (100%)	361 (100%)

Race	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
African-Am	50 (41%)	312 (88%)
Caucasian	55 (45%)	20 (6%)
Hispanic	5 (4%)	5 (1%)
Asian	2 (1%)	13 (4%)
Other	11 (9%)	6 (1%)
Total	123 (100%)	356 (100%)

Gender	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
Female	66 (53%)	157 (44%)
Male	58 (47%)	200 (56%)
Total	124 (100%)	357 (100%)

Crime victim?	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
Yes	33 (26%)	81 (23%)
No	92 (74%)	272 (77%)
Total	125 (100%)	353 (100%)

Trinidad connection	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
Resident	91 (73%)	266 (75%)
Business person	4 (3%)	44 (12%)
Frequent visitor	29 (24%)	48 (13%)
Total	124 (100%)	358 (100%)

Years of residency	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
0-10	71 (74%)	142 (50%)
11-20	13 (14%)	87 (30%)
21-30	4 (4%)	30 (11%)
31 or over	8 (8%)	27 (9%)
Total	96 (100%)	286 (100%)

Household size	Number (%)	
	2009	2010
1	29 (25%)	48 (16%)
2-4	79 (67%)	198 (67%)
5-7	6 (5%)	41 (14%)
8 or over	4 (3%)	9 (3%)
Total	118 (100%)	296 (100%)

Attachment A - Summer 2009 Survey

Trinidad Neighborhood Crime Survey

Please tell us about your views of crime in the Trinidad neighborhood!

Mayor Adrian Fenty and the DC Metropolitan Police Department announced in December 2008 the Safe City Program to improve public safety and the quality of life in the Trinidad neighborhood.

This community perception survey is anonymous and will be collected by the Council for Court Excellence, a DC-based non-profit organization. Their contact information can be found at the end of the survey. This survey should take 2-3 minutes to complete.

1. How safe do you feel in the Trinidad neighborhood?

- Very Safe, Somewhat Safe, Unsafe

2. In the Trinidad neighborhood, how concerned are you with the following issues?

Table with 4 columns: Issue, Very Concerned, Somewhat concerned, Not concerned at all. Rows include Property crimes, Delinquent behavior, Gang activity, Buying and selling of drugs, Violent crimes, and Trespassing and loitering.

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the police services in Trinidad?

- Very Satisfied, Somewhat Satisfied, Dissatisfied

4. How familiar are you with the objectives and goals of the MPD Safe City Program? (If not familiar with Safe City, skip to the Optional Questions on the back.)

- Very Familiar, Somewhat Familiar, Not Familiar at All

5. If you are familiar with the MPD Safe City Program, how effective do you feel the Safe City Program will be in reducing your fear or concern of crime?

- Very Effective, Somewhat Effective, Not Effective at All

6. If you are familiar with the MPD Safe City Program, how effective do you feel the Safe City Program will be in reducing the overall crime rate?

- Very Effective Somewhat Effective Not Effective at All

Optional questions

7. What is your age?

- 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 and up

8. What is your race?

- African-American Caucasian Hispanic Asian Other

9. What is your gender?

- Female Male

10. Have you been the victim of a crime in the Trinidad neighborhood in the past two years?

- Yes No

11. What is your connection to the Trinidad neighborhood?

- Resident Business person Frequent visitor

12. If a resident, how long have you lived in the Trinidad neighborhood?

- 0-10 years 11-20 years 21-30 years 31 years or over

13. How many people are in your household?

- 1 2-4 5-7 8 or over

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May 2009

Attachment B - Spring 2010 Survey

Trinidad Neighborhood Crime Survey

Please tell us about your views of crime in the Trinidad neighborhood!

Mayor Adrian Fenty and the DC Metropolitan Police Department announced in December 2008 the Safe City Program to improve public safety and the quality of life in the Trinidad neighborhood.

In 2009, the Safe City Program installed nine closed-circuit television cameras at key locations in Trinidad. In addition, the Safe City Program distributed high-intensity light bulbs (“Light Up the Night”), provided cell phones programmed to call 911 (“Live Link”), added recreational equipment at the Joseph Cole and Trinidad Recreation Centers, among others.

This survey is anonymous and will be collected by the Council for Court Excellence, a DC-based non-profit organization. Their contact information can be found at the end of the survey. **This survey should take 2-3 minutes to complete.**

1. How safe do you feel in the Trinidad neighborhood?

- Very Safe Somewhat Safe Unsafe

2. In the Trinidad neighborhood, how concerned are you with the following issues?

	Very Concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned at all
Property crimes, like theft, burglary and vandalism	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delinquent behavior, curfew violations and truancy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gang activity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buying and selling of drugs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Violent crimes, like murder and assault	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trespassing and loitering	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the police services in Trinidad?

- Very Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Dissatisfied

4. How familiar are you with the objectives and goals of the MPD Safe City Program? (If not familiar with Safe City, please skip to the Optional Questions on the back.)

- Very Familiar Somewhat Familiar Not Familiar at All

5. If you are familiar with the MPD Safe City Program, how effective do you feel the Safe City Program has been in reducing your fear or concern of crime?

- Very Effective Somewhat Effective Not Effective at All



6. If you are familiar with the MPD Safe City Program, how effective do you feel the Safe City Program has been in reducing the overall crime rate?

- Very Effective Somewhat Effective Not Effective at All

7. Did you respond to a Trinidad neighborhood crime survey during Summer 2009, either on-line or on a paper copy?

- Yes No

Optional questions

8. What is your age?

- 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60 and up

9. What is your race?

- African-American Caucasian Hispanic Asian Other

10. What is your gender?

- Female Male

11. Have you been the victim of a crime in the Trinidad neighborhood in the past two years?

- Yes No

12. What is your connection to the Trinidad neighborhood?

- Resident Business person Frequent visitor

13. If a resident, how long have you lived in the Trinidad neighborhood?

- 0-10 years 11-20 years 21-30 years 31 years or over

14. How many people are in your household?

- 1 2-4 5-7 8 or over

For questions about this survey, please contact:

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