



Loring Park Summary January-June 2009

43 Referred Participants attended a conference this year in the Downtown area to handle their cases in a restorative manner. 25 First Precinct community members participated in conferences in 2009. Loring Park residents include: Jeannie Kogl, Mary Jane Mohring, Herb Mohring, Bee Fairbanks, Dick Sandberg, Jan Sandberg, Joe Sheeran.

Various offenses from this area were conferenced this year, including: Public Urination (61%), Consume Alcohol in Public/Open Bottle (11%), Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (11%), Dog Leashing (6%), Loud Music (6%), and Disorderly Conduct (6%). The majority of these offenses occurred in the Downtown neighborhood, 1 occurred in North Loop, and 2 occurred in Loring Park.

Past conference participants completed their agreements this quarter, which resulted in 40 hours of service performed in the area. Service this year was done at: Project Solo, People Serving People, Salvation Army, and Agape House.

Since 1997, RJCA has conferenced 821 cases from the Downtown area.

For over nearly 12 years, RJCA has been holding community conferences to address livability offenses that occur in Minneapolis neighborhoods. We recently expanded from having 18 to 50 participating Minneapolis neighborhoods and have addressed over 2,235 cases since our program began in 1997. The overall satisfaction rate for both referred participants and community members is 96% and 95% of those that participate in a conference leave feeling more connected to their community.

Quotes

- “Community involvement gives sense of ownership” (Community Member- North Loop resident)
- “The community members are wonderful” (Offender)
- “It brings all involved together- offender, community members, justice system, to discuss and get clear on issues and affects- a positive outcome for everyone” (Community Member- works Downtown)
- “It’s a meaningful way to ‘pay back’ society” (Offender)
- “It helps offenders see who and how they affected the community” (Community Participant-North Loop resident)
- “Great experience- thank you” (Offender)

Anecdote

- Recently, a man who was charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in the Downtown area met with concerned citizens to handle his offense in a restorative manner. One of the community members involved is a security officer at Block E and the two others both work and live in the area. During the conference, the community members showed interest in the man’s skills and abilities and, as a result, came to find out that this man is an artist. In an effort to utilize his skills while paying back the community, it was decided as a group that this man would complete his eight hours of service by helping out at the Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. To complete his agreement, he also wrote apology letters to Councilmember Lisa Goodman and to the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association.

Notes: The number of referrals are picking up again due to the nice weather and our new pre-court diversion program! We have had a significant increase in enrollments this year and have many people on the schedule for 1st Precinct conferences this summer.