Revitalizing Neighborhoods Tools for Local Officials

Broken Windows
by Kelling/Coles

Restoring order and reducing crime in our communities

"...if a window in a building is broken and is left unrepaired, all the rest of the windows will soon be broken.... One unrepaired broken window is signal that no one cares and so breaking more costs nothing."

Wilson, Kelling
Atlantic, 1982

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Disorder

▼

Fear

▼

Crime

▼

Urban Decay

Disorder Defined

What is disorder? In its broadest social sense, disorder is incivility, boorish and threatening behavior that disturbs life, especially urban life.

…**regardless of ethnicity, class, or other characteristics, residents within a community or neighborhood generally agreed about what constituted disorder and how much disorder was present, locally**.

…"social disorder" i.e., public drinking; loitering youths and corner gangs; drug use; noisy neighbors; panhandling and harassment on the streets…

…physical disorder; vandalism, graffiti and damage to public spaces; accumulations of trash and refuse; and dilapidated and abandoned buildings.

Skogan found that disorder played an important role in neighborhood decline. By lowering community morale and giving the neighborhood a bad reputation throughout the city.

"Broken Windows do need to be repaired quickly".

Wesley Skogan, 1990

Disorder and Decline

Perception: Small crimes are not as important as high profile crimes

Bothersome – no real danger to life or property

All forms of non-violent deviance should be tolerated in the interest of liberty

Police are "front-end," arresting and processing offenders; restoring and keeping order may be seen as social work.

Quality of life and disorder continue to be among the most urgent issues local politicians address, regardless of party affiliation.

Fixing Broken Windows

Citizen or neighborhood-based groups are a key element in this paradigm. They are bound by a common purpose - the restoration of order…

Network of Partnerships

- **Citizens**
- **Government**
- **Business and Economic Resources**

…**neighborhood organizations, with support from local and national foundations, have developed a coherent set of tactics for restoring order that are clearly identifiable and can be taught to other neighborhood groups, as well as to criminal justice organizations…**

KAB Mission

To empower individuals to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

US Conference of Mayors

- **Over 100 case studies of communities implementing community based policing and turning their neighborhoods around go to :**
    - **www.usmayors.org/uscm**
- **Search for litter and illegal dumping**

KAB System for Change

- **Get the Facts**
- **Involve the People**
- **Plan Systematically**
- **Focus on Results**
- **Give Positive Reinforcement**

A Place to begin

Litter, Illegal Dumping and Graffiti

What is litter: Litter is misplaced solid waste and in a declining community it is permission for others to add to it.

Littering Behavior:

It's not my job.

   (Someone else will clean up after me.)

 It's not my neighborhood.

   (No sense of ownership.)

 There is already trash here.

   (Litter has already begun to accumulate.)

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Illegal Dumping Occurs

- When people are evicted
- Where property is abandoned
- When police are not present

Factors Affecting Illegal Dumping

- **Local political will**
- **Having and knowing about legal disposal options**
- **Travel time to legal facility**
- **Spiritual and ethical values – "One should live lightly on the land"**
- **Attitudes of cultural groups differ**

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Factors Affecting Illegal Dumping

- **Family training – norm of family "Daddy always did it this way."**

- **Environmental Education**

- **Demographic factors – as economic stake in the community increases, one's interest in keeping it tidy increases.**

- **Civic Pride – cleanliness ethic**

Graffiti

- **Graffiti, like litter and illegal dumping, when not removed gives permission for more to occur.**

- **Get the facts on its sources: Hip Hop, Gangs, Generic, Hate, other.**

- **Form coalitions to address the removal of graffiti.**

KAB Tool for change
www.graffitihurts.org

GRAFFITI HURTS™

Care for your community

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Stages of a Healthy Community

- **Partnerships**

- **Respect and trust**

- **Community Improvement**

- **Higher Expectations**

- **Social Order**

■ **Result: a safe and beautiful community has become established**

Elements of Urban Likeability

- **Naturalness**
- **Upkeep**
- **Openness**
- **Historical Significance**
- **Order**

The Postcard Test

Postcards depict a community's landmarks. Cable cars, the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, the Wrigley Building, instantly identify the beautiful images of a city. Would you put this on a postcard?

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Welcome to our neighborhood

People are seeking more from life. People are seeking a sense of belonging, of community. I believe part of what they are looking for can be found in real neighborhoods, in real cities.

Keep Georgia Beautiful

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