

The Georgia King Village Intervention

Newark, New Jersey | 2009-2010

Terrence E. Gilchrist, MPA '08 | Former Policy Analyst, Office of Mayor Cory A. Booker

While opening in 1976 as a place for middle class families escaping the public housing developments post-1967 Newark riots, mismanagement and the introduction of crack cocaine initiated a quarter-century of mayhem at this private apartment complex named after the founder's Mother and Rev. Dr. King, Jr. In the early morning hours of July 1, 2009, three new guests arrived at this notorious housing development of 1,000 people and soon after commenced a door-to-door survey. Six weeks later, all shootings stopped and four months later the narcotics market moved completely off-site with mentored addicts voluntarily asking for transportation to detoxification centers. In five subsequent months, children were playing outside again due to the change in perception among Mothers about safety thus reducing the risk of obesity, particularly for Black girls. Incidentally, LGBTIQ adolescents were no longer harassed by gang affiliated peers.

In an era of mass incarceration, this feat was accomplished with hardly any arrests and very few evictions. Of the top quartile of violent blocks in that town, a regression discontinuity reveals how this neighborhood experienced the most statistically significant decrease in crime. Over eight months the change was 87 percent, or 15 incidents per month in August 2009 to 2 per month in March 2010. The attractor state of social determinants shifted as a result of interventions in interpersonal networks.

Figure 1. Monthly Incident Crime at Georgia King Village, January 2008 to March 2010

| Month | Agg Assault | Auto Theft | Burglary | Murder | Poss. Weapon | Rape | Robbery | Shooting | Theft | Theft FA | Violent C. | Property C. | VC Q. | PC Q. | Σ Crime | Calls-Service |
|-------------|-------------|------------|----------|--------|--------------|------|---------|----------|-------|----------|------------|-------------|-------|-------|---------|---------------|
| 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | 4 | | | 1 | 6 | 4 | | | | |
| February | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 0 | 2 | | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| March | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| April | | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 7 | | | | |
| May | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 4 | 16 | 20 |
| June | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| July | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| August | 2 | 4 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| September | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| October | | 2 | | | | | 3 | | | | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| November | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | | 11 | 15 | 26 |
| December | | 1 | | 0 | | | 4 | | 1 | 4 | 4 | 6 | | | | |
| 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | | | 2 | 0 | 1 | | | | 4 | | 0 | 7 | | | | |
| February | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 4 | | 5 | 16 | 21 |
| March | | 1 | | 0 | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | | | | |
| April | | 2 | 1 | 0 | | | 4 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 4 | | | | |
| May | 1 | | 5 | 0 | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 | 7 | | 10 | 12 | 22 |
| June | | | | 0 | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| July | | 3 | 4 | 0 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | | | | |
| August | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | | 9 | 19 | 28 |
| September | | | | 0 | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| October | 1 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | | | | |
| November | | 1 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | 3 | 12 | 15 |
| December | | 1 | 2 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | | | |
| 2010 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 1 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| February | 1 | 1 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| March | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | N/A |

Figure 2. Discontinuity in Crime after Resident and Security Re-Training

