

# Houston Police Department



## Differential Response Team

Presented by Sgt. Frank Escobedo, HPD

June 14, 2016

# OUR MISSION

## Primary responsibility of the DRT officers:

- Proactively identify & address crime issues
- Increase the quality of life in the communities
- Reduce the need for police services
- Additional authority as a designee of the Department of Neighborhoods to enforce Chapter 10 of the Municipal Code.

# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Multi-Family Rental Buildings (MFRB).

Investigations for violations of the Construction Code, Health Code, and Fire Code in partnership with PWE Habitability Unit .

A safe and sanitary environment for the residents and community is focus of these investigations.





# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Business Licensing

Investigations involving business licensing ensures compliance with City Code requirements in order to maintain a safe environment for local business owners, employees, and consumers.



# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## S.O.B.s / Massage Establishments

Investigations at these locations are often conducted in conjunction with a Vice investigation or after the fact as a follow up.

Recent statistics show Houston to rank No. 1 among U.S. cities thought to have the most victims of human trafficking.

The country's most used trafficking path is the I-10 corridor between El Paso and Houston.

Chapter 125- Civil Practice and Remedies Code is a useful tool in identifying and correcting the illegal actions happening at a particular place.





# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Narcotics Investigations

Investigations involving convenience stores and smoke shops selling narcotics are frequently conducted as the synthetic drug market has spiked and is reportedly four times more profitable.





# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Animal Cruelty & Code Violations

Investigations range from livestock being kept on a leash in the back yard, to crowing roosters disturbing the neighbors, and cruelty to both livestock and domestic animals.





# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Environmental, Illegal Dumping & Heavy Trash

Illegal dumping is an example of the criminological theory named the “Broken Window Theory”. If items have been dumped here successfully in the past, what is to stop someone from dumping items today.

Heavy trash investigations are a result of placing bulk trash adjacent to the roadway on unscheduled days.



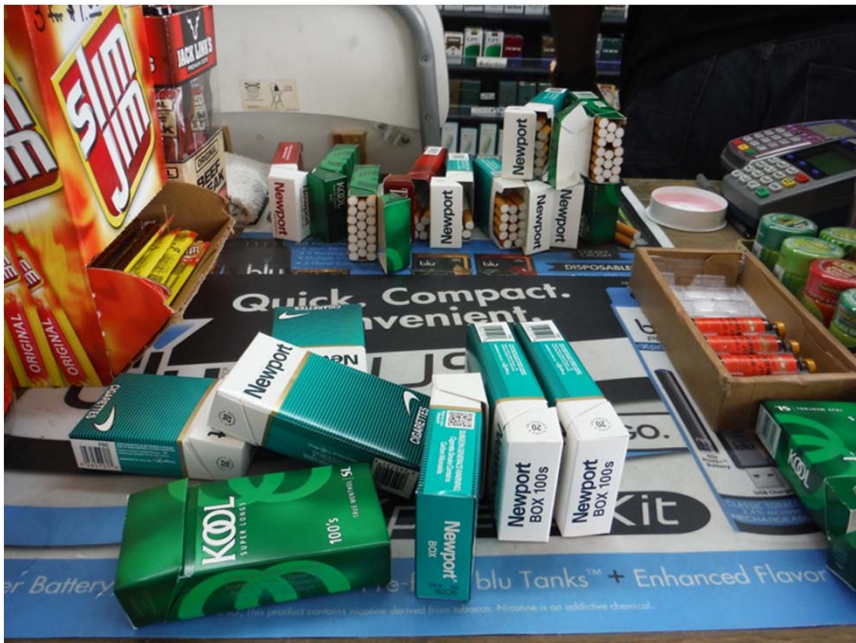


# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Trademark Counterfeiting & TABC Locations

Illegally copied movies, music CDs , and fake name brand merchandise are commonly found being sold in convenience stores, flea markets, and roadside vendors.

The sale of single cigarettes and untaxed or out of state taxed cigarettes are also commonplace in neighborhood stores.



# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Game Room Investigations

Unlicensed game rooms and those proven to be gambling places are frequently targeted by criminals looking for a quick score. It's common knowledge that these locations deal exclusively in cash and rarely have a safe.

Most victims have been elderly senior citizens on a fixed income or social security .



CITY OF HOUSTON  
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSE

Business Name: Lucky 999 Game Room  
Issued To: QUYN NGUYEN  
Address: 6526 TURRETT POINT LN  
HOUSTON, TX 77064 US  
Service Address: 4800 34TH ST W, Suite C9  
Houston, Texas 77092

Issue Date: 1/6/2014  
Permit #: 158777

Permit For: 2013 M-Game Room 5 or More  
Redemption Machines  
Expiration Date: 12/31/2014  
Description:

Total: \$475.77

By: *Ch. Page*





# WHAT WE INVESTIGATE

## Public Communications & Utility Diversion

In most cases the diversion of electricity, natural gas, and water is extremely dangerous to the community. This is also a cost we all pay for in the end.



# In Conclusion

Practicing theories such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) alter the environment to make crime less appealing. Whether a crime is spur of the moment, well planned, or a crime of opportunity, the environment can play a significant part in the criminal's mind. If the environment can be altered to make the crime less appealing, then it is our job to do so.

DRT officers utilize non-traditional policing methods and practice Problem Oriented Policing combined with Community Oriented Policing to improve the quality of community life in the neighborhood where they serve.



# Questions ?

