

Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of Jefferson Avenue TIPS Initiative

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Community Concerns and Desires: Analysis of Dayton Street TIPS Initiative

The TIPS initiative on Jefferson Avenue in Rochester, New York, was implemented to both to show support for a neighborhood that has been taken aback by drugs and youth violence, and to investigate community member's concerns and desires for their neighborhood. This paper is designed to analyze the second part of the initiative. It will discuss the various likes that the community around Jefferson Avenue has for the neighborhood, the various concerns the community around Jefferson Avenue has about their neighborhood, and the initiatives or activities the community around Jefferson Avenue would like implemented within the neighborhood. Finally, this paper will provide multiple anecdotes that the community members near Jefferson Avenue wish to share with law enforcement and community members in the community around Jefferson Avenue.

Methodology

The initiative implemented surveys to obtain this information. These surveys asked people to list their likes, concerns, and desires for things to be done within their neighborhood. The surveys then asked the respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police, and, finally, if they had anything to share with their fellow community members. Groups of three or four volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to pre-selected streets in the neighborhood. Each group had at least one Rochester City Police officer with them. These groups were instructed to travel down one side of the street and then return on the other side, knocking on every door. When residents answered, the volunteers were to read a ready made script to the participant and then conduct the survey. Only those houses where residents responded and agreed to take the survey were included in the sample.

Because of this door-by-door sampling method, the resulting sample is not a random sample of the community surrounding Jefferson Avenue. In spite of this, the resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the various issues within the Jefferson Avenue community. Lastly, surveyors were instructed not to leave sections on the survey blank. This had become a problem in some of the earlier TIPS analyses.

Data Analysis

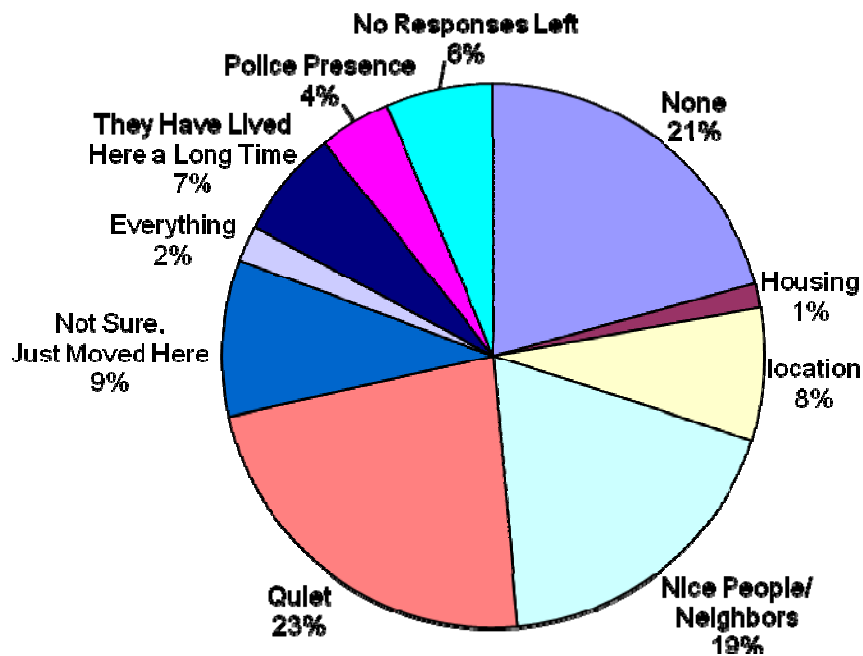
Fifteen street blocks on eleven streets were surveyed for this initiative. Those streets were Cady Street, Frost Avenue, Bartlett Street, Arnett Boulevard, Champlain Street, Iceland Park, Florence Street, Kenmore Street, Hawley Street, Columbia Avenue, and Lenox Street. To begin, those fifteen street blocks will be pooled into one group for analysis. This group will be referred to as 'the community around Jefferson Avenue.'

Firstly, we will examine the likes the community around Jefferson Avenue listed. Of the 140 surveys collected, 131 had completed this section. In those 131 surveys, three responses stood out. Of the 131 surveys, 23% reported that they liked the community

around Jefferson Avenue because it was relatively ‘quite’ and uneventful. Another 21% of the respondents explicitly stated that they liked ‘nothing’ about the community around Jefferson Avenue. The next largest group, 19%, reported that they liked some or all of the people in the community around Jefferson Avenue. Interestingly, only 2% of the respondents reported that they liked ‘everything’ about the community around Jefferson Avenue. The remainder of the responses is depicted in the graphic directly below.

**Likes:
Percent of Total Respondents**

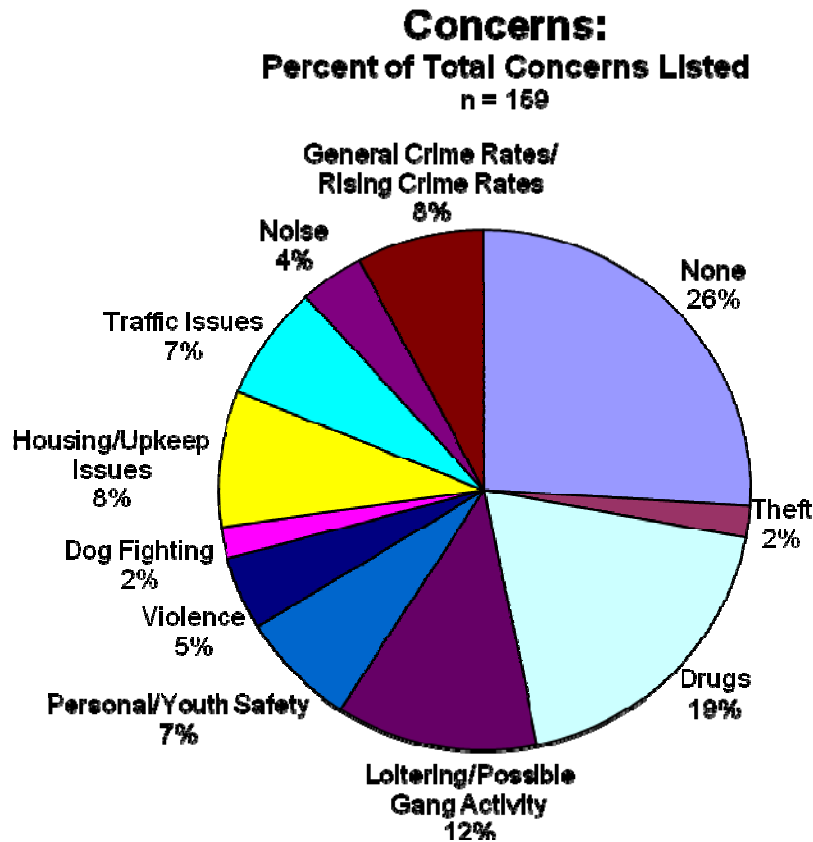
n = 140



Secondly, we will discuss the concerns that the community around Jefferson Avenue reported. Respondents were allowed to report more than one concern for this section. This rendered 159 total concerns listed by. This pool of 159 total concerns includes the response of ‘nothing’ and excludes those people that left this section blank. Only 13 respondents left this section blank.

The response of ‘nothing’ was the most frequently reported answer for this question, comprising 26% of all responses listed. The second most reported concern was ‘drugs’ (19%), followed by ‘loitering/possible gang activity’ (12%). The response of ‘loitering’ was a combination of youth ‘hanging out’, youth ‘standing on street corners’,

or respondents wondering if youth ‘hanging’ belonged to a gang. The remainder of the concerns listed is depicted in the graphic directly below.

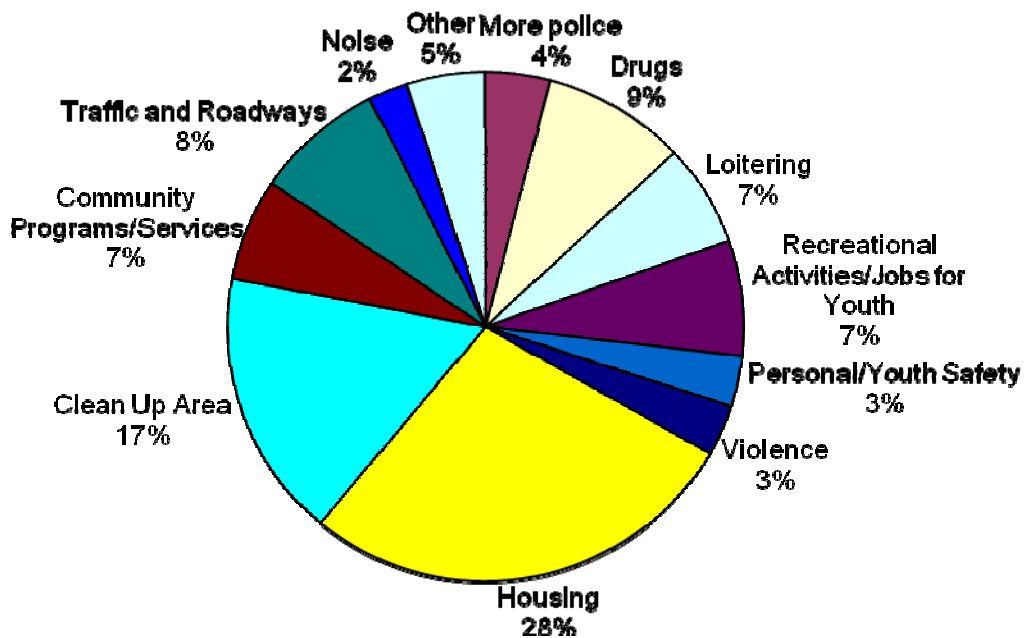


The next question asked respondents to list specific things that they wanted to see done in the community around Jefferson Avenue. For this question respondents were allowed to report more than one request, though no one listed more than two. In the end, 76 respondents reported one request, and 22 respondents reported two requests, resulting in a total of 120 requests for the analysis. This pool excludes persons who left the section blank or stated ‘none’.

Only two responses for section were listed more so than the others. Of the sample, 28% reported that they wanted ‘housing’ issues dealt with. This encompassed a wide range of desires from a few persons wanting harsher restrictions on ‘slumlords’ to a large portion wanting abandoned buildings being removed or rebuilt. This also includes those who wanted community members to keep their properties clean.

The next most frequent request listed by respondents was the desire to ‘clean up the area’. This was a rather difficult response to code from the surveys. When a respondent listed that they wanted someone to ‘clean up the area’, I was unable to tell if they wanted garbage removed and streets cleaned, buildings torn down or fixed up, crime and deviant behavior in general reduced, or a combination of few different things. Qualitative studies and focus group research with residents in the community around Jefferson Avenue would determine what some of these surveys implied. The remainder of the requests is depicted in the graphic directly below.

**Specific Things Requested be Done in the Area:
Percent of Total Requests Listed
n = 120**



The fourth question asked respondents if they had anything specific to tell the police. Of the 140 surveys collected, 75 (56.3%) had completed this section. Of those 75, 2 (2.7%) reported specific crimes in the survey. It should be noted that there was evidence in the surveys that the officer in the four person groups took information on crimes from respondents. That being said, it is impossible with the information on hand to determine the exact number of crimes that were reported on scene, or that will be reported in the future because of the information given to residents in the community around Jefferson Avenue.

Most responses to this section, 24 (32%), reported that the police are doing well and to keep up the good work. Contrary to this, 11 (14.6%) respondents reported some form of criticism of the police, be it that police attitudes are too negative or that some officers harass people for no reason. The remainder of these responses was general statements about crime or deviance in the area. These consisted of statements like ‘there are drugs in the area’ and ‘there are kids hanging out at night.’

The fifth question asked respondents if there were any specific recommendations they had for the community around Jefferson Avenue to solve some of the problems they

listed. This was the first time that this question was asked in a TIPS survey. Of the 140 surveys collected, 52 (37.1%) completed this section. Of those 52, 25 (48.1%) communicated in some way that the community has to “stick together” and “communicate” to “work to solve the problems” because “...you can’t do it on your own.” Others stated that community watch programs and Pac-Tac would help. A few stated that the community has to do a better job of reaching out to and calling the police.

Street by Street Analysis

As stated above, fifteen street blocks on eleven streets were surveyed for this initiative. It was one of the goals of this analysis to compare the results of the survey between different street blocks. However, the average number of completed surveys per street block was 9.3. This small number of surveys makes street by street comparisons very difficult to accomplish and decreases the validity of any such analysis. However, for the benefit of the police department and community organizations in the community around Jefferson Avenue, the concerns and desires reported by individuals on the different street blocks will be listed. This list will provide a reference point for the concerns and desires of those on the street blocks surveyed and should aid in the support of those individual street blocks. These lists are found in appendix 1 and appendix 2 at the end of this paper.

Appendix 1

		Concerns (Number of Respondents)													Total	
		No Concerns	Theft	Gangs	Drugs	Loitering	Garbage on streets	Personal safety	Youth safety	Violence	Dog fighting	Housing	Traffic	Noise		Crime Rates
Street Block (Refer to Master Map)	1 (Frost Ave. between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	9
	2 (Frost Ave. between Jefferson & Epworth)	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12
	3 (Iceland Park off Jefferson)	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
	4 (Bartlett St. between Jefferson & Reynolds)	2	0	0	6	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	16
	5 (Bartlett St. between Jefferson & Epworth)	6	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	2	2	1	19
	6 (Columbia Ave. between Jefferson & Reynolds)	3	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	11
	7 (Columbia Ave. between Jefferson & Epworth)	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	2	0	16
	8 (Florence & Kenmore Streets)	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	9
	9 (Champlain Street between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	12
	10 (Champlain Street between Jefferson & Epworth)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	9
	11 (Cady Street between Jefferson & Reynolds)	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	12 (Cady Street between Jefferson & Epworth)	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	8
	13 (Hawley Street between Jefferson & Reynolds)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
	14 (Lenox Street between Genesee and Epworth)	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	15 (Arnett Blvd between Genesee and Epworth)	1	0	1	3	1	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	14
Total	40	3	1	29	18	3	3	8	12	3	10	11	6	12	159	

Appendix 2

		Requests to be Done (Number of Respondents)																Total	
		Theft	More Police	Drugs	Loitering	Recreational Activities/Jobs for Youth	Faster Police Response	Faster safety	Personal safety	Violence	Tuancy	Housing	Clean up area	Drug Rehab	Community Programs/ Services	Traffic/ Roadways	Noise		Increasing crime
Street Block (Refer to Master Map)	1 (Frost Ave. between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	6
	2 (Frost Ave. between Jefferson & Epworth)	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	14
	3 (Iceland Park)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7
	4 (Bartlett St. between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
	5 (Bartlett St. between Jefferson & Epworth)	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	14
	6 (Columbia Ave. between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	10
	7 (Columbia Ave. between Jefferson & Epworth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	5
	8 (Florence & Kenmore Streets)	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	9
	9 (Champlain Street between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
	10 (Champlain Street between Jefferson & Epworth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
	11 (Cady Street between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	12 (Cady Street between Jefferson & Epworth)	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
	13 (Hawley Street between Jefferson & Reynolds)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	14 (Lenox Street between Genesee and Epworth)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
	15 (Arnett Blvd between Genesee and Epworth)	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
Total	1	5	11	8	9	1	3	4	1	34	19	1	7	10	3	2	1	120	