

Mid-City Community Court



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M.C.C.C. 1st Quarter Report 2/10/03 thru 6/16/03

- 140 Mid-City eligible cases screened for M.C.C.C.
- 13 Mid-City Community Court sessions held
- 41 Offenders sanctioned by Mid-City Community Court
 - 39 male offenders
 - 2 female offenders
- 2 FTA cases [Failures to Appear]
- Misdemeanor Violations sanctioned by M.C.C.C.
 - 24 Disturbing the Peace/Noise cases
 - 10 Possession of Marijuana cases
 - 7 Prostitution cases
- Sanctions
 - 364 Community Work Service hours ordered
 - 26 referrals to S.D.S.U. Prevention Programs
 - 7 referrals to P.I.P. and AIDS Education
 - \$5800 administrative fees ordered



Community-Oriented Criminal Justice: The Mid-City Community Court



The mission of the Mid-City Community Court is to enhance quality of life and improve public access to the justice system. With community involvement, the Court is holding offenders accountable through swift and meaningful intervention. Implemented in February 2003, the Mid-City Community Court focuses on misdemeanor quality-of-life crimes, including prostitution, marijuana possession, disturbing the peace, and graffiti, in the Mid-City area of San Diego. Eligible offenders are sanctioned by a panel that includes community members. Offenders are ordered to perform community work service, attend rehabilitative and educational programs, and pay fines and fees.

Community courts are being implemented across the country as long-term solutions to quality-of-life crime problems. Community courts are decentralized, neighborhood courts that adopt the philosophy of community-oriented criminal justice. This philosophy involves communities and the criminal justice system joining together to improve public safety, neighborhood health and living conditions, and community involvement in restorative justice. Community courts share three common principles:

- Accountability of offenders to the community victimized by quality-of-life crimes;
- Proactive intervention to stop chronic criminal conduct; and
- Direct involvement of the community in the criminal justice process.

Community courts are effective in addressing quality-of-life crime issues because they link the adjudication process with communities, and combine punitive sanctions with rehabilitative sentencing alternatives.

Mid-City was selected as an ideal location for a community court because of the diversity of the population, the active participation of residents and business owners in the community, and the ongoing community revitalization efforts. The Mid-City area's boundaries are Interstate 8 to the north and Highway 94 to the south; Interstate 805 to the west, and the City of La Mesa to the east. The Mid-City area includes the communities of City Heights East, City Heights West, College, Darnall, El Cerrito, Gateway, Kensington, Normal Heights, Oak Park, Rolando, Talmadge, and Webster.

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Project Summary

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