



Presentation to the Hartford Court of Common Council  
Quality of Life Committee

by

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and

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# HOYS Developmental Overview

The mission of the Hartford Office for Youth Services is to build and strengthen youth service systems that prepare Hartford youth to be productive, self-sufficient adults.

Focus is to improve youth outcomes in the City of Hartford through:

- coordination and integration of services
- agency and youth professional capacity building
- program quality improvement and results monitoring
- Hartford Connects II technology as a tool for tracking & results

# What are we doing?

- Hartford's Office for Youth Services (HOYS)– has developed an infrastructure to support:
    - Disengaged and disconnected youth at-risk
    - Services for youth to succeed in school and community
    - Coordination and capacity building to strengthen the youth service system.
    - Focus for the first operational years has been on strategies to address youth violence and implementation of community schools.
  
  - Implementation has focused on:
    - Actively using national best practice in violence intervention and prevention
    - Engaging in cross-system level collaboration, coordination, and planning
    - Identifying gaps in the developmental progression of services available
    - Increasing investments (grant and leveraged) targeted at serving youth
    - Implementing Systemic-Change strategies not just programs
- Peacebuilders November 2007
  - Community Schools Launched July 2008

# Who are the Partners?

- Hartford Police Department (HPD) –interdepartmental partner working with HOYS on multi-strategy approaches to address youth violence, truancy and divert youth from the Juvenile Justice System. Programs include the HPD’s Truancy Reduction Program, Youth Sports Mentoring Program, Peacebuilders, and NAFI.
- Capital Workforce Partners (CWP) – Through statewide advocacy, the workforce investment board has leveraged the municipal investment to secure state funding that resulted in \$1.2 million in and \$1.6 million of State funding for the north central region of Connecticut. HOYS invest over \$1.1 million annually in workforce programs.
- Hartford Public Schools (HPS) – is reorganizing and reforming to create a system of choice comprised of small thematic schools. HOYS has supported the development of five community schools and funds extended day and summer recreation and enrichment aligned with summer school program.
- State Departments, funders, and community providers
  - Department of Children and Families
  - Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Department
  - Office of Policy and Management
  - Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

# What are the results?

- Increased supports and services to over 6,468 youth
- Increased grant and leveraged resources by 54%
- Established more than 86 contracts with community-based organizations for services
- Implemented the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) training over 20 youth and police officers to work together and reach common ground
- Continuation of the Hartford Peacebuilders Initiative to combat youth violence
- Established Juvenile Review Board Panel and Advisory Council
- Management of the Hartford Connects II data enterprise, (HCII is powered by Efforts to Outcomes technology developed by Social Solutions), with more than 10 youth serving agencies on the system, 170 daily users and over 20,000 youth in the enterprise
- Lead partner in program implementation for five Hartford Community Schools
- Development and implementation of the Middle Management Training Institute

# New Youth ALIVE! Strategy

- Youth ALIVE! (Youth & Adult Leaders Improving a Vision for Excellence!)
- \$500,000 over 3 years
- Target Population: “baby wana-bes” youth 10-15 years old
- Mentoring for 300 youth over three years
- One of two CT municipalities to be funded
- Important new “tool” in services for youth significantly at-risk

# Youth ALIVE! Target Population

- Youth 10-15 years old--- “baby wana-bes”
- committed a first time offense
- identified gang involved, and/or at high risk of involvement
- identified as committing physical violence or violence with weapons (includes youth who have a history of weapon assaults, are known to carry a weapon, or have been assaulted with a weapon)
- referred by various sources including the Juvenile Review Board (JRB), HPD Truancy, Peacebuilders Initiative, Hartford Public Schools, and the community at large.

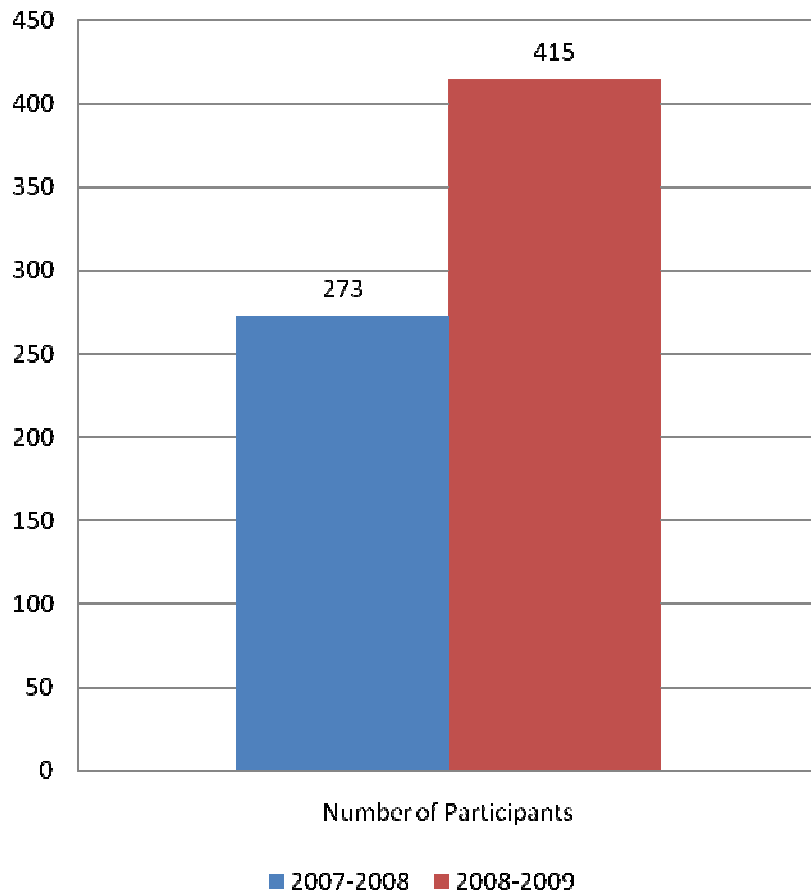
# Program Components

- Implementation of Youth and Police Initiative (YPI): focused on improving the relationship between urban police departments and local at-risk youth, this training brings inner city youth and police officers from high crime neighborhoods together to examine reality-based scenarios that help officers to become more “youth culturally competent” and help youth to engage with officers on a different level.
- Makin’ It: The Hip-Hop Guide to True Survival: Created by Ed DeJesus, this curricula focuses on workforce preparation/life skills program for youth.
- Balanced and Restorative Justice training: This philosophical framework allows for a different way of responding to crime. It is a community-building process in which the parties with a stake in a particular offense come together to collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offense, repair the harm, and its implications for the future.
- Implementation of the Search Institute Developmental Assets: Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive.

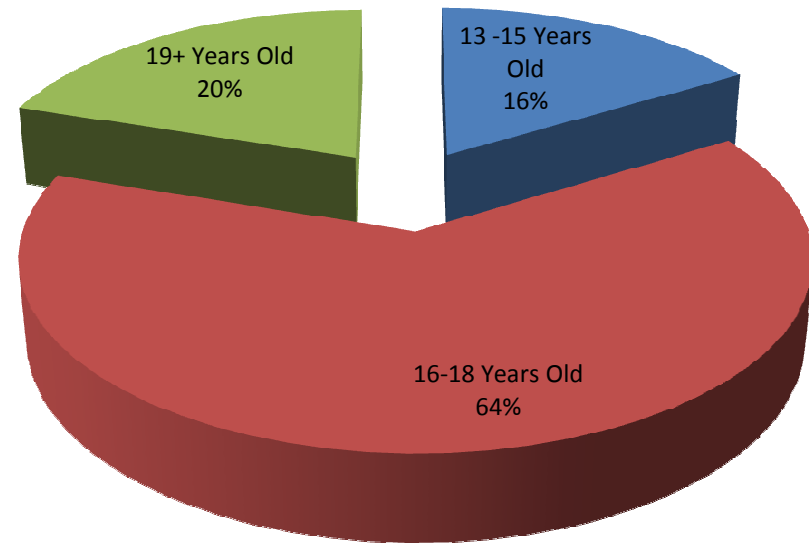


# Peacebuilders Participants

## Number of Peacebuilder Participants



## Peacebuilders Project 2008-2009 Participants *Real Time Age*



Hartford Police Chief  
Daryl K. Roberts

Hartford Police Youth  
Partnerships  
and  
Prevention Programs

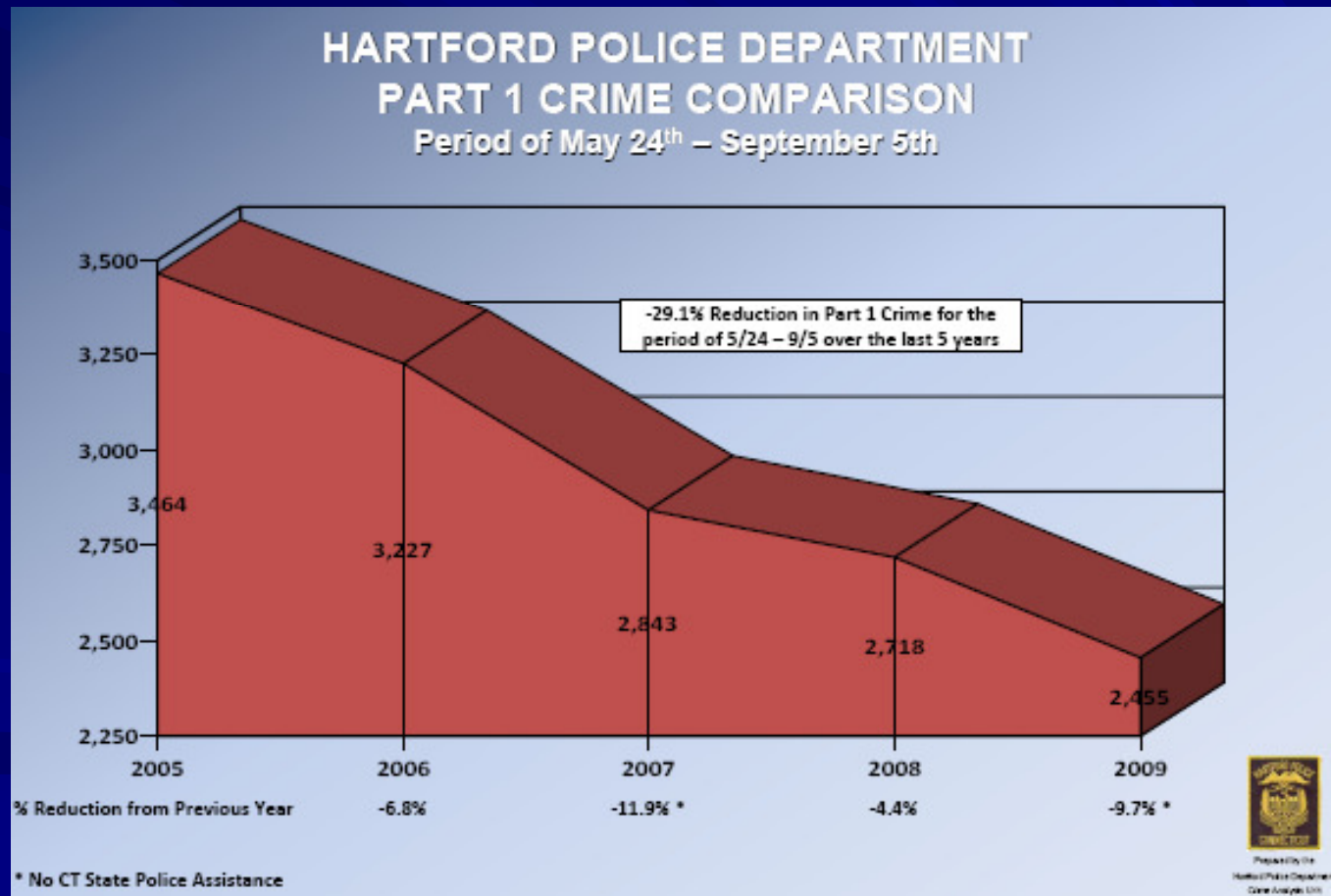
# 2009 Safe City Initiative

- Information contained in a June 2009 HPD intelligence memorandum was compiled during the same time as planning was underway for implementation of the HPD's 2009 Safe City Initiative and for the purpose of the HOYS grant application

## 2009 Safe City cont...

- The 2009 Safe City Initiative resulted in a 9.7 percent reduction in all part one crime during the summer months from May 24 through September 5, 2009
- Due to our suppression efforts we have experienced a more than 29 percent reduction in part one crime during the past five summers

# Five Year Comparison of Summer Crime Rates



# Partnerships

- In partnership with the Hartford Office of Youth Services (HOYS) we sought funding to support gang prevention strategy through Youth Alive! Program
- Other partnerships include the HPD's Truancy Reduction Program (a partnership with The Travelers and the Hartford Board of Education), the HPD Youth Sports Mentoring Program (HOYS and Juvenile Justice Education Center), and the Peacebuilders Program

## Partnerships cont....

- Continue to foster new partnerships with other law enforcement jurisdictions that include local, state and federal agencies such as the State's Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives, and the Hartford Community Court to name a few

# Prevention

- HPD Youth Police Initiative training through the North American Family Institute
- Knock and Talk Details wherein officers personally visit families of individuals believed involved in gang related activity
- Deployment of School Resource Officers
- Citywide Truancy Sweeps



# Prevention, cont...

- Continue to seek out long term prevention strategies, such as the HOYS Youth Alive! Program
- Continue to seek partnerships to assist the HPD and the community we serve in fighting the growth of street gangs in our city
- Will continue an all out effort to provide our youth with opportunities that lead to a productive and prosperous future. A future filled with hope.