



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and the City of Mesquite are entering into a research-practitioner partnership to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Mesquite Police Department's (MPD) deployment of personnel and strategic assets to address crime in the City of Mesquite.

BACKGROUND

This research partnership aims to maximize the benefits of applying robust academic research methods with the practical applications of police resource deployment. The partnership will evaluate and measure the effectiveness and efficiency of various crime fighting tools and techniques utilized by the MPD.

Doctoral academic researchers will coordinate the scientific methodology of the research in partnership with the Crime Analysis Unit at the MPD, which will provide data, information, and practical guidance for the research.

GOAL

A goal of this partnership is to provide empirical evaluations that may help MPD improve the effectiveness of future deployments and its ability to impact crime. The academic partners will publish any empirical evaluation results in a peer-reviewed academic journal(s) to contribute to the knowledge in the criminology field and the criminal justice system.

OBJECTIVES

Studies

Studies by UTD researchers in partnership with the Crime Analyst Unit of the MPD will explore the effective deterrence radius of various static deployment resources including, but not limited to, decoy vehicles, SkyWatch apparatuses, and/or sign board(s). These studies may also explore the amount of time a resource is effective at deterring crime and at what point any decay in effectiveness might occur.

Another potential study will attempt to replicate, and build upon, a Cambridge study that experimented with focused and timed deployments of patrol officers in an attempt to measure any effects on criminal activity in areas identified as having increased rates of crime. The study will also evaluate the duration of any crime deterrence after the application of focused deployments.

Additional studies using the data provided may also evaluate, and provide recommendations to improve, the effectiveness and efficiency of resource deployments, police operations, and criminal investigations.

Reporting/Responsibilities/Guidelines

Data will be provided to UTD researchers by the MPD under the supervision of the Crime Analyst Unit supervisor.

Information provided by the police department for the purposes of research will consist of data that is publicly available including:

Calls for service data:

- Service number
- Block number and street name
- Reporting district and beat
- Call type
- Dates and times of calls received
- Dates and times for responses (i.e. dispatch time, arrival time, clearance time)
- How the call was received (dispatched or officer-initiated)
- Call clearances (i.e. arrest, citation, no report taken, etc.)

Reported offense data:

- Service number
- Block number and street name
- Reporting district and beat
- Call type
- Dates and times
- Offense reported
- Case Status
- Type of enforcement action taken (i.e. arrest, citation, etc.)

Resources deployed data:

- Type of resource deployed (i.e. SkyWatch, sign board, saturation patrols, etc.)
- Dates and times resources were applied and removed
- Locations of deployed resources:
 - Block number and street name, and/or
 - GPS coordinates which may be delivered in text form or in a mapped form stemming from call data or officer automated vehicle locator (AVL) records

Requests for any information beyond what is outlined in this understanding must be submitted to the supervisor of the Crime Analyst Unit. Upon receiving a request for additional information, the Crime Analyst Unit supervisor will determine whether the information may be provided in accordance to current laws and policies concerning the release of records, or if additional approval for release will be required. If additional approval may be required, the supervisor of the Crime Analyst Unit will facilitate the delivery of the request to the appropriate person or department for review.

Personal identifying information of victims and/or perpetrators (names, addresses, birth dates, phone numbers, etc.) will not be disclosed by the City of Mesquite under any circumstance and shall not be requested. Information and data that is not publicly available based on current laws and policies governing the release of records will not be disclosed by the City of Mesquite.

Incident information provided to UTD by the MPD will be coded using publicly available service numbers. These numbers are unique identifiers for the information to be studied and are stored within the records management system controlled by the City of Mesquite.

All research findings will be presented to the MPD Chief of Police for a 60-day review and comment period before any academic dissemination or publication.

The identity of the city or the police agency will not be disclosed without the explicit written approval from the Chief of Police and the City Manager.

Any application(s) for funding through grants or similar programs on behalf of the agency or project shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate personnel at the City of Mesquite and UTD before submission to the Bureau of Justice Assistance or any other funding entity.

Examples of grants for which this partnership may qualify include:

- Project Safe Neighborhoods Program offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Innovation in Community-Based Crime Reduction offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Strategies for Policing Innovation Program offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance
- The Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center Integration Initiative offered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance

AGREEMENT

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into on this 15th day of July, 2019 (Effective Date) by and between the City of Mesquite, a Texas municipality located at 1515 N. Galloway Ave, Mesquite, TX 75149 and The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), an institution of higher education established by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas as a component institution of The University of Texas System, located at 800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080.

This memorandum of understanding is effective as of the Effective Date above and shall remain in effect until the completion of the project(s). The memorandum of understanding may be terminated at any time by either party with or without notice being provided by the other party.

Charles Cato, Chief of Police
Mesquite Police Department

Emily Lacy

Digitally signed by Emily
Lacy
Date: 2019.07.15
09:54:51 -05'00'

Emily Lacy, Associate Director
Office of Sponsored Projects
University of Texas at Dallas

Cliff Keheley, City Manager
City of Mesquite, Texas

ATTEST:

By: _____
Sonja Land, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Assistant City Attorney