

Street Beat Pittsburgh is part of Mayor Ravenstahl's and Chief Harper's initiative to showcase the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and its proactive educational and safety initiatives.

Street Beat Pittsburgh is written, produced, and hosted by Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Public Information Officer, Diane Richard.

Episodes include information on (new episodes are filmed monthly):

Police Academy Recruitment	Burglary Squad
Fire Safety Tips	Chaplain Corps
Rapid Emergency Deployment (RED) Team	Bomb Squad
Abandoned Vehicles	Special Deployment Division Specialty Units
Crossing Guards	River Rescue Unit
MOMS and COPS	K-9 Unit
Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and Pennsylvania State Police Collaborative	Motor Unit
	S.O.A.R.

Street Beat Pittsburgh airs daily at 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Stay tuned to City Channel Pittsburgh for air times on specialty segments (airing times are subject to change).

3. **Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC)**

Under PIRC, the City, County, State and Federal Governments are organized with social services organizations and the community in a new way to use all available laws and resources to stop the killings. It is intended to reduce gang/group related homicides in the City of Pittsburgh and is based on the Ceasefire Model developed by Professor David Kennedy of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Implementation and outcomes research is being provided by the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work.

PIRC works by organizing law enforcement, social service delivery agencies and broad-based community voices to speak directly to the offending population at call-in sessions.

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has identified 37 violent groups with over 1400 members, accounting for only .004 percent of the City's population. These groups, however, contribute to a majority of City homicides which often affect youths.

The message is this:

- Violence is wrong
- Homicides must stop
- We care about you and need you doing good in our community
- There are services available if you need help
- If you cannot control your actions, you and your entire group will be punished
- Take this message back to your gang group members

After the message is delivered, if another homicide occurs, the entire gang or group is removed from the streets and quickly prosecuted. After these actions take place, another call-in session is held.

Any gang group member desiring assistance to transition from street life to an employment based lifestyle can call the PIRC Service Line at 412-255-2374. Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc. is coordinating the delivery of services for PIRC.

First Call-In Session July 13, 2010)

After months of coordination, outreach and research, PIRC implementation team held its first “call-in” sessions at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Federal Courthouse. About 55 offenders from these violent groups attended the first call-in. All are on parole or probation and were ordered by the court to attend.

During the call-in, the collaborative partnership of law enforcement, social services, community figures and grieving mothers delivered PIRC’s non-violence message to group-involved offenders currently on probation or parole. All were given a simple, but serious message to take back to their group: killing is not okay for any reason – and it will not be tolerated. The partnership communicated a credible, moral message against violence; a credible law enforcement message about the consequences of further violence; and a genuine offer of help for those who want it.

The session was called to order by Federal Judge Donetta Ambrose and Judge Anthony Mariani. Then, Police Chief Nathan Harper, Acting U.S. Attorney Robert S. Cessar, Assistant District Attorney Dan Konieczka, and Allegheny County Jail Warden Ramon Rustin delivered the law enforcement message.

Under the PIRC structure, the next time a crime occurs by a member of a group all members will be held accountable. When it comes to a homicide, there will be no plea bargains; the hardest arm of the law will be delivered. Then, group offenders will be brought back in for another call-in to reinforce the PIRC message.

The Acting U.S. Attorney gave a gripping presentation on recent federal prosecutions of groups.

“I explained to these offenders the real life consequences of being prosecuted under the federal racketeering statute and conspiracy laws,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Cessar. “Seeing photos of their former peers, who are now serving life sentences in federal prisons around the country, really seemed to send a message. These offenders seemed surprised to learn that being charged with a federal offense often means pre-trial detention and, if convicted, a mandatory minimum sentence that is served in a federal prison far away from family and friends.”

Next, the social services team, which includes case managers, probation officers and Richard Garland, executive director of One Vision One Life, explained the services available to help offenders out of the cycle of violence. Mothers who have lost their sons to violent crime followed with a pleading message. Former gang-members closed the session with a vision of uplift: change is possible.

After the call-in, law enforcement members left the room and social services intake providers and probation officers stayed behind to provide offenders with the streamlined services available to help them get their lives back on track – if they want to change. The offenders took with them a post-card which reinforces the PIRC message and offers the PIRC help-hotline: 412-255-2374. PIRC contracted with Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc. to offer case management for offenders who need assistance in counseling, job placement and drug rehabilitation.

Second Call-In Session October 18, 2010: On October 18, 2010, PIRC held its second call-in event and first call-in event for juvenile offenders at the Allegheny County Courthouse. Approximately 34 offenders were in attendance.

Saturation Detail November 9, 2011:

In the month following the second call-in, there were shootings in the Northside, Hill District, Larimer, and Oakland, with one homicide occurring in the Upper Hill. On Tuesday, November, 9, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, along with various multi-agency police units, conducted two saturation details. Both details were initiated as part of the PIRC response to homicides and shootings occurring in the Pittsburgh area.

A number of arrests were made that day. The message was made clear: gun and gang violence will not be tolerated. Officers left the PIRC message (a card) with the individuals they encountered on the detail that included contact information for those individuals seeking assistance to better their lives and also provides a message to stop gun violence.

PIRC Status Update: Since July 13, 2010, PIRC has received:

- 27 service calls from the target population
- 19 of those calls were from people that attended the call-in sessions
- 11 have received workforce development assistance, including resume development
- 10 people received assistance with healthcare, food, holiday presents and other family issues
- 4 people are now employed
- 6 people received GED help
- 4 people received emergency financial assistance
- 4 people have dropped out
- 2 people didn't need any assistance

PIRC is always in need of additional job opportunities for the target population. Any business or nonprofit with such a position can contact the PIRC Coordinator. The Chuck Sanders-PIRC Jobs Fund is available to provide a subsidy towards a person's pay.

PIRC services are accessed by calling the PIRC Service Hotline: 412-592-9472.

4. City Tow Pound Privatized:

City towing operations have been privatized. McGann and Chester is the towing contractor for the City for illegally parked vehicles. If your vehicle has been towed, please contact:

McGann and Chester Towing
700 Hargrove Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
412-381-9400

Abandoned Vehicles: To report an abandoned car, call the Mayor's Office at 412-255-2621. Please be prepared to provide the location, description of the vehicle and license plate number. If your abandoned vehicle has been towed, you should contact the police zone in which the vehicle had been abandoned for information.

5. APRS Upgrades:

- Field Contact Data Propagation – This feature will allow the user to optionally propagate like information, such as vehicle and location data between multiple Field Contact Reports within the same CCR.