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Contact Us

	WHO WE ARE	WHAT WE DO	BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	OUR PARTNERS	NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS	
	RESOURCES					

Home > News & Achievements > Local News Stories > Community Leaders and Municipal Staff Learn New Crime Prevention Techniques

# News & Achievements



## Local News Stories

**Community Leaders and Municipal Staff Learn New Crime Prevention Techniques**

Leadership Development in Newark

Neighborhood News

New Jersey Neighborhood Achievement Awards

## Community Leaders and Municipal Staff Learn New Crime Prevention Techniques

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Greater Newark LISC partnered with Together North Jersey, Rutgers University and the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey to produce Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Training (CPTED) workshops for community-based organizations and municipal staff.

The rigorous program includes a two-day workshop, neighborhood observation walkabouts and ongoing field assignments. Participants included community leaders from: Fairmount (Urban League of Essex County), East Ferry/Ironbound (Ironbound Community Corporation), Lower Broadway (La Casa de Don Pedro), Belmont (New Community Corporation), Bergen Hill (Women Rising) and Vailsburg (Unified Vailsburg Services Organization). Code enforcement officers, law

enforcement, city planners and others represented various municipal departments.

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*City of Newark Code Enforcement Officer Marcia Harris attends CPTED training.*

**CPTED**

CPTED is a set of organized principals and tactics that link crime prevention with environment in urban settings. CPTED methodology includes team building and community safety initiatives through a hands-on approach, discussions and fieldwork. The ultimate goal is to provide a safe, environment that stems crime and promotes positive human behavior. Rahman Karriem, Chief Operating Officer of Urban League of Essex County, was one of the initial proponents of CPTED training for Newark. Karriem says, “As we were thinking about how we can promote crime prevention in Newark, the

Rutgers organization provided some input in terms of opportunities that might help us. We looked at a lot of different areas and thought that CPTED training could be a vehicle that we could use across the city.”



Gregory Saville, from Alternation LLC, a former police officer and now an adjunct professor in the National Security Program at the University of New Haven, led the CPTED team and its workshops. The first day gave the group a chance to orient themselves, determine their individual missions and learn basic CPTED theories. Rosemary Nwabueze from Women Rising: “Crime is an issue in our neighborhood. We’ve started a neighborhood revitalization initiative that’s made up of residents in various organizations and we have to plan for the neighborhood for the next five years. Environment is very important to us so we thought this would be a good opportunity to walk the neighborhood to see how we could get a different perspective.” LISC is particularly interested in CPTED because it helps communities solve problems today and form strategies/plans with long-term goals.

The “Primer Workshop” featured presentations by Saville and his team. The participants interacted and exchanged experiences as they learned and internalized fundamental CPTED terminology and techniques including: Territoriality—reinventing a space into a safe/positive-use public, semi-private or private place; Access Control—cul de sacs, gates, guards, courtyards; Natural Surveillance—people watching people from sidewalk cafes, windows, clear sight lines; and Image—making a neighborhood aesthetically attractive (murals, gardens, clean streets) to increase positive behavior.

### **Day and Night Safety Audit Walkabouts**

Using their newly acquired CPTED training skills, the group walked around Newark’s Fairmount neighborhood during the day, observing, listening and inquiring how the neighborhood had evolved to its present state. Fairmount Neighborhood Association President Dorian Johnson relayed his thoughts as the group explored. “This workshop is important to us because we want to have an idea of how we can make our neighborhood look better and be safer. I was brought up to be aware of everything going on around the neighborhood. Now when people ask questions, ‘Why is that house empty? Why was it foreclosed?’ I can give the answers.”



*CPTED daytime safety audit.*

The group returned to Fairmount at night to continue their observations. Many were digesting the theories on Territoriality, Access Control, Natural Surveillance and Image. Members of the group had done neighborhood observations walking tours previously, but the CPTED method was an eye-opener. As the group walked down a dark street, it began to recognize elements that made the streets feel safe (lighting, open stores, people) or menacing (subdued street lights, darkened buildings, empty sidewalks). Daniel Wiley, of the Ironbound Community Corporation, gained new insights, “We might be extremely comfortable walking in the dark in our own neighborhood. But when other people come to our neighborhood, will they fear our streets? There are ways to change others’ perspective of our surroundings. Like lighting.”



*CPTED nighttime safety audit.*

### **The Mapper Computer System Charts and Analyzes Crime Prevention Data**

Residents can use smart phones or tablets to report community concerns (vacant buildings, broken fire hydrants), crime and other data into “Mapper,” which is a customized Geographic Information System (GIS). This system integrates, stores, edits, analyzes, shares, and displays information on a closed circuit website that police, code enforcement officers, city planners and others can see quickly so they can act accordingly. This new technology piqued the interest of Police Officer Michael Beasley, Detective in Consumer Affairs: “Mapper is interesting because it offers different technology. You can actually download data in real-time.” This localized GIS technology allows residents and law enforcement to work hand in hand, a

very important SafeGrowth goal for Newark and LISC.

### **Bringing It Back to the Community**

Day two of the initial workshop reassessed the lessons learned before, added new tactics (subjects like “Community Cohesion”), featured another safety audit walkabout and generated field assignments. Each participant picked a neighborhood they will develop safety plans for, using problem-solving CPTED tools over the next six to eight weeks. Including: teambuilding (working “with” and not “for” residents); environmental tactics (e.g. Natural Surveillance); and technology (e.g. Mapper tracking). The fieldwork also encompasses weekly SafeGrowth website assignments and daytime and evening walkabouts. Then in June there will be a one-day follow-up workshop so the participants can share their experiences and compare results.

Rosemary Nwabueze of Women Rising is excited about the prospects, “I’m really looking forward to going back to the rest of the community group and teaching them what I’ve learned. Walking through the neighborhood with them and seeing what things they pick up that’ll be useful to all of us as we create a plan.”

LISC and its partners are eager to see how SafeGrowth/CPTED training specifically helps Newark’s neighborhood activists, enforcement officers and municipal representatives make fundamental changes in their communities when it comes to crime prevention and revitalization.



*New Community Corporation's Richard Cammarieri attends the CPTED training.*