

Q & A ABOUT CAPS INFO:

Q: What is C.A.P.S. and what does it stand for?

A: C.A.P.S. stands for the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy. CAPS is an innovative crime fighting strategy that brings the police, the community, and other City agencies together to identify and solve neighborhood crime problems. Problem solving at the neighborhood level is supported by a variety of strategies, including neighborhood-based beat officers; regular Beat Community Meetings involving police and residents; extensive training for both police and community; more efficient use of City services that impact crime; and new technology to help police and residents target crime hot spots. With CAPS, police officers continue to enforce the law and respond rapidly to serious crimes and life-threatening emergencies but CAPS recognizes that the police alone cannot solve the City's crime problems. It takes a combined effort of police, community, and City government working together. Together, we are working to identify and solve neighborhood crime problems, block by block, and to improve the quality of life in Chicago's neighborhoods. Call the 23rd district CAPS office for further info (pg 3).

Q: How can I participate in beat meetings and when is my beat meeting?

A: Find your beat meeting on pg. 6 or call 311 and tell them where you live and come to your next beat meeting.

Q: What is the purpose of a beat meeting?

A: The primary purpose of the beat community meeting is to allow beat residents, other community stakeholders and the police an opportunity to discuss chronic problems on the beat and engage in problem solving using the CAPS five-step problem-solving process. Beat community meetings provide an opportunity for police and community residents to exchange information about conditions in the neighborhood, to identify crime and disorder problems, and to develop strategies to combat those problems. The meeting also provides an opportunity for the police and community to get to know one another. Go to your CAPS meetings (pg. 6) and become part of CAPS sub-committees (pg. 3).

Q: What is the process for problem solving in CAPS meetings?

A: The Chicago Police Department uses the five step problem-solving process: 1) Identify and Prioritize the Problem, 2) Analyze the problem, 3) Design strategies to solve the problem, 4) Implement strategies, and 5) Evaluate and acknowledge success. During CAPS meetings, community members determine what problems they need to focus on. A problem would consist of a group of related incidents that will not go away on its own. Next, the community examines the crime triangle to help assess the problem. The crime triangle identifies who the victims are, who the offenders are and at what location(s) crimes are being committed. After this determination, community members are involved in the development of strategies to combat the problem utilizing community, police and city services. Once a strategy is agreed upon, the community implements their plan of action. Next, the community evaluates their plan of action, acknowledging successes and re-evaluating other steps to combat crime in their neighborhood.

Q: How do I find out about crime information where I live?

A: Go to www.cityofchicago.org and click on ICAM. You will be able to see maps, graphs, and tables of reported crime. The database contains the last 90 days of information which you can access in blocks of up to 14 days.

Q: How do I find out if a sex offender is living in my neighborhood?

A: Go to www.cityofchicago.org and click on Sex Offenders.