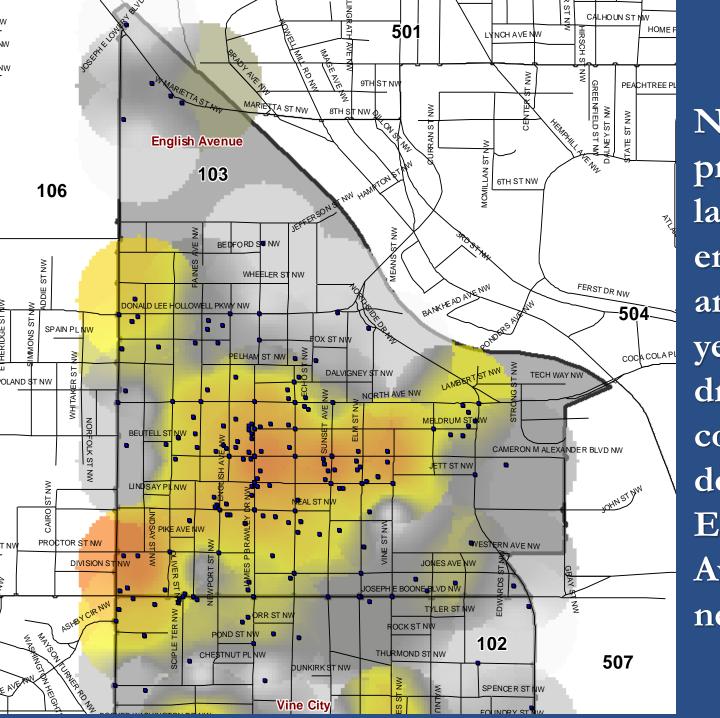
# The English Avenue Drug Market Intervention (DMI):

An Ongoing Police/Community Partnership

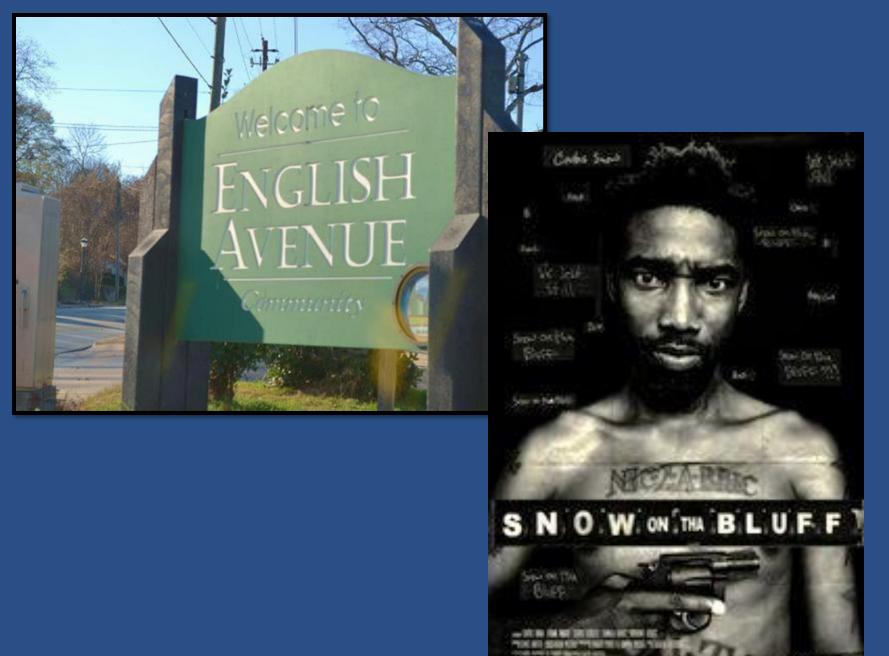
Laurel R. Boatright, Assistant U.S. Attorney, Community Outreach Coordinator, Northern District of Georgia



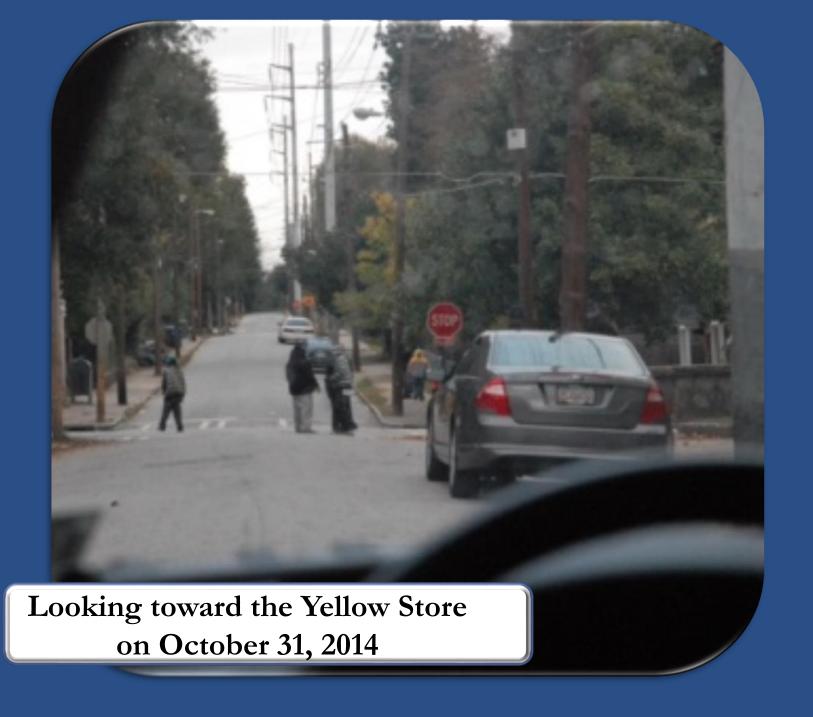


Numerous prior efforts by law enforcement and residents, yet ... open-air drug markets continued to dominate the English Avenue neighborhood.



















#### Google Maps 781 Cameron Madison Alexander Blvd NW



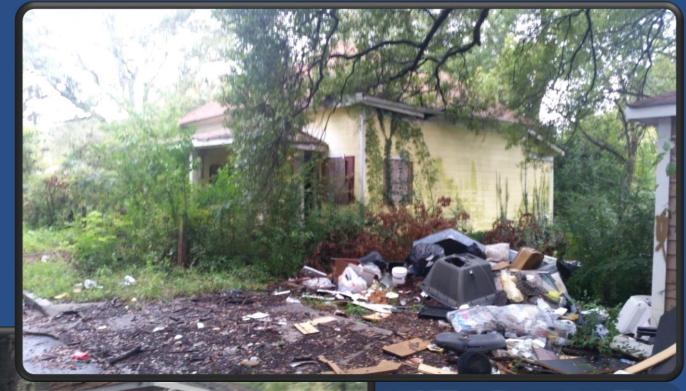
Image capture: Oct 2014 © 2015 Google

Atlanta, Georgia

Street View - Oct 2014











## Why DMI?



#### Goals of DMI:

- Eliminate open-air nature of drug markets (not eradicating drug use)
- 2. Return the neighborhood to residents (improve safety/quality of life)
- 3. Improve police/community trust



#### How a DMI Works:

- Build relationships w/ residents, churches, cops
- Identify/investigate street-level dealers
- arrest offenders w/ history of violence (Tier 1)
- "second chance" for non-violent offenders (Tier 2)
- "call in" Tier 2 and confront with evidence while providing support from family, law enforcement, service providers, clergy, and community leaders



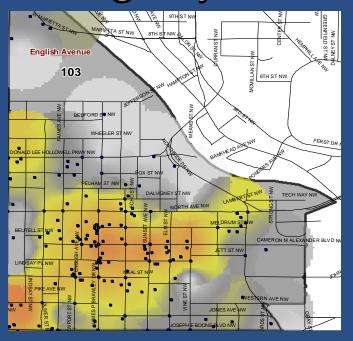
## First Drug Market Initiative (DMI) = High Point, North Carolina in 2004

- Since 2004, DMIs in over 35 U.S. cities (i.e. Baltimore, Nashville, New Orleans)
- Overall = reduction 40-80% in violent crime and drugrelated crime
- Expect about half of "call in" group reoffend



### How English Avenue DMI Worked ...

- 1. Community Engagement/Partnership
- 2. Investigation (controlled drug buys)
- 3. Intervention
  - Federal arrests (May 2015)
  - Call-in program (June 2015)
- 4. Maintenance
  - Ongoing enforcement
  - Ongoing "second chances"





### Phase 1: Community Partnership

- English AvenueNeighborhood Ass'n
- Community input
- Training
- Residents/clergy part of "call-in"
- Building relationships of trust





## Phase 2: Investigation





Atlanta Police, Fulton Co. DA

## Law Enforcement Partnerships

ATF GBI HIDTA



U.S. Attorney's Office and GaNG

Code Enforcement/ Atlanta Solicitor's Office





**Atlanta Fire Rescue** 

### Phase 3: Intervention

<u>Tier 1</u> - 27 Federally Charged

Tier 2 – "call in"

18 Invited / 15 Attended

= 45 Drug Traffickers





June 22, 2015

Tamecca Lynette Beasley 4015 Covington Hwy Apt C3 Decatur, GA 30032-2614

Dear Ms. Beasley:

As Chief of Police of the Atlanta Police Department and Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, we are writing to let you know that your activities have come to our attention. Specifically, we know that you are selling heroin on the street in the English Avenue neighborhood (sometimes known as "The Bluff"). You have been identified as a heroin dealer after an extensive undercover investigation that the Atlanta Police Department (APD), Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have been conducting over the past few months.

We are inviting you to a meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. at Lindsay Street Baptist Church. The address is 550 Lindsay Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30314. You will **not** be arrested at this meeting. This is **not** a trick. You may bring someone with you who is important to you, such as a friend or a relative, and we encourage you to do so. We want you to see the evidence we have of your involvement in criminal activity, and we will give you an option to stop this activity before officers and agents are forced to take action. Let us say again: **you will not be arrested at this meeting**.

If you choose not to attend this meeting we, along with members of the community, will be in contact with you. Street-level drug sales and violence have to stop in the English Avenue neighborhood. We are giving you one chance to hear our message before we are forced to take action against you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE N. TURNER

Chief of Police, Atlanta Police Department

Acting United States Attorney Northern District of Georgia





#### Social Services Partners



- EANA/EAVC Ministerial Alliance
- Urban League Greater Atlanta
- St. Jude's
- GRAN Recovery/VP Health
- Integrity, CDC
- Atlanta Mission
- Georgia Justice Project

- Salvation Army-Metro Atlanta
- Families First, Inc.
- City of Refuge
- ITC
- Center for Working Families
- Georgia Works
- Georgia Department of Labor
- Fulton County Health Services



## "Call-In" Tier 2 Participants

- > 4 participated in treatment/counseling/job skills programs
- > 1 returned to college
- **2** left town
- > 4 not dealing in EA



➤ 4 charged federally (2 later received services)

(12 of the 18 "Tier 2" dealers were offered services after call-in)



### Phase 4: Maintenance

- Encouraged resident calls, immediate response
- Increased police patrols; APF installed surveillance cameras
- Secured funding for officer OT
- 1 cop only for EA
- 2 Reversals = 13 arrests









## Maintenance: Properties

Forfeiture complaints filed on 7 properties

(incl. singlefamily homes and apartment buildings)





## (Properties, cont.)

- 2 Properties Owners sold to investors who plan to renovate
- 3 Properties Stipulated to settlement with owners, who must abide by strong terms to keep properties drug-free
- 2 Properties Owners pleaded guilty (one to be forfeited; one donated to Atlanta Police Foundation)
- Still sending notice letters to owners ...



## 690 Cameron Alexander



As of August 1, 2017...

Before....



### Maintenance: City Trash Pick-Up

## Proctor Street- between James P. Brawley Drive and Andrew Hairston Pl

Complaint: Piles of trash















#### 581 Griffin Street - dead body found (heroin overdose)



#### Maintenance: Demolition



The Georgia National
Guard's Counterdrug
Task Force demolished 15
persistent problem
properties, leaving clean
lots with fresh grass





#### Where We Are...

- Since 2015, almost 40% decrease in violent and drug crimes
- Market is confined to 3-4 hot spots, changed techniques, moved indoors
- Enforcement continues more than 30 criminally charged since 2015
- Residents actively partnering w/ law enforcement

• Shooting death of 81-yr-old Mildred Martin solved in 3 days

 DMI notes left on cars parked by heroin dealers



#### (Where We Are...)

- Sending letters to property owners invite to meet and discuss criminal activity on their property
- Angel nonprofits acting
- Ongoing referral of residents "in need" to DMI partners for a "second chance"



#### Ongoing "Second Chance" DMI Program

with the

United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia

Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation (ITCDC)

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the DMI "Second Chance" Program is for you. The following services are being offered to English Avenue Residents:

- Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Job Readiness Training
- Family Support
- ➤ Life Skills
- Character Development
- Educational and Reading Support Services
- > Critical Thinking and Cognitive Skills Training
- Career and Employment Placement Assistance

"Call-In" Referral and Intake occurs at ITCDC:

Monday's 10:00am-2:00pm and Tuesday's 4:00pm-6:00pm

Contact: Tony Dunlap tdunlap@integritycdc.org

or 404-853-1780 Ext. 208

FOR EXTRA SUPPORT CALL: Stand By Us, Inc.

(678-851-4243 or 770-572-7367)

**English Avenue Neighborhood Association** (404-438-7382)







Have your ever committed or are currently involved in illegal activities?

Do your family members and loved ones constantly encourage you to change your lifestyle?

Are you willing to take a different path that can change your life?

Do you need drug rehabilitation (rehab)?

Would you like to accomplish earning your high school diploma or GED?

Would you like to learn more about different career opportunities available to you?

Would you like to receive training for those opportunities?

> INTEGRITY TRANSFORMATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 692 Lindsay Street, NW Atlanta, GA 30318

www.integritycdc.org



## Restoration – Giving Law Enforcement a "Second Chance"

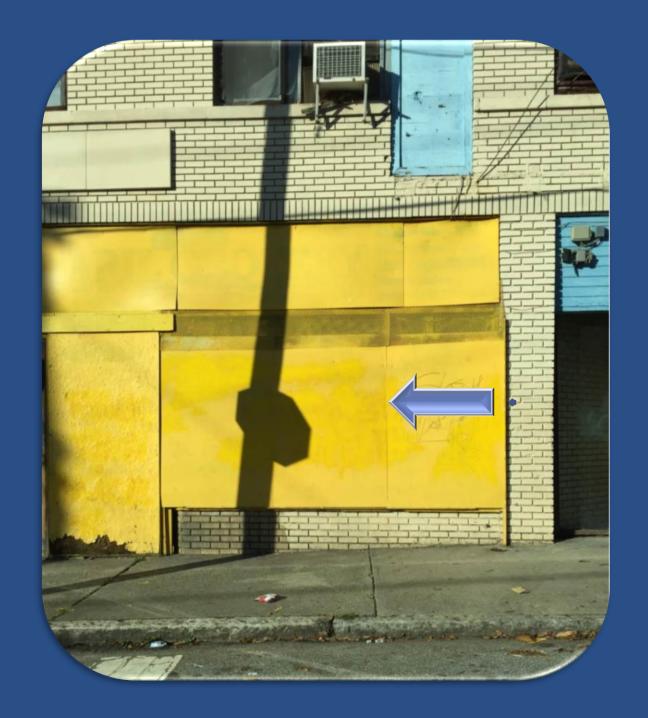




#### Revitalization of English Avenue ...









# @Promise Center









## Our English Avenue DMI ...



