

CASE OF PLACES GUIDE

*Note: this guide is to compliment the "Case of Places Form" and "Case of Places Checklist" located at the MDP Website
<http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/the-matrix/matrix-demonstration-project/case-of-places/>*

Case of Places Form Item	Description/Explanation
SECTION A: CRIME HISTORY OF THE PLACE	This is equivalent to the "crime incident" in a traditional investigation. The "problem" is what opens the case folder for a detective and initiates an investigation.
SECTION A1: HOW DID THIS PLACE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime analysis unit information/intelligence • Community concerns • Officers, detectives supervisors who work that area • COMPSTAT and other managerial meetings 	Traditionally, investigations are instigated by a single crime brought to the attention of the police by or for a victim. In the investigation of a place, cases can arise from multiple sources. Also, problems causing the crime may not necessarily be obvious to the police. A community in a high crime neighborhood may see physical and social disorders (trash, health hazards, empty buildings, loitering, noise) as its main problems.
SECTION A2: CRIMINAL HISTORY TRENDS FOR THIS PLACE. Sources of information may include RMS, CAD, crime analysis, and other data sources. Information collected might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term (1-5 yrs) trends of incidents, arrests, calls for service • Recent (past 30 days) trends of incidents, arrests, calls for service • Known problems at this place (gangs, juveniles, probationers) • Determine how long this location has been a problem 	In most investigations, investigators are asked to research the suspect's history, which is often the criminal (or victim) history of a single person, or perhaps a group of people. In that background check, the suspect arrest record and incident/supplemental reports are often included. For the investigation of places, building the "rap sheet" of a place is essential, which includes the collection of information on past calls for service, past incidents, past arrests, and other information that can help establish the problem(s) at that location. Determine whether this is a location that officers, residents, and police command meetings view as a regular problem and how long the problem has persisted.
SECTION A3: EXISTING COMMUNITY AND PLACE-BASED INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLACE. Sources can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisor/Department liaison who attends community group meetings • Officers who regularly work in and patrol the location • Community groups and other sources of existing information 	Often, police may only speak informally to community members about their understanding of places. Community groups, however, may collect information about their communities on a regular basis, providing a valuable historical perspective. Officers working in an area may also possess knowledge about the context and history of the location. More data collection in this area is addressed in section B-D below.

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<p>SECTION A4: KNOWN CITY RECORDS OR COMPLAINTS ABOUT THIS PLACE. Record any city records or complaints about this location from non-police, non-community sources (for example, code and ordinance violations).</p>	<p>In traditional investigations, detectives sometimes reach out to other agencies, like the USPS, electric companies, ICE, the school systems etc. This activity in Section A4 is similar in that detectives of places are accessing additional information about the problems of the place from the city government. For clubs, for example, this might include whether liquor licenses have been revoked or how outside promoters are booking this location for parties.</p>
<p>SECTION A5: INITIAL SURVEILLANCE ABOUT THIS PLACE. A brief initial surveillance of the location to match with crime history incident above.</p>	<p>This activity is similar to either covert or overt surveillance of a suspect. The purpose is to document routines and activities that may not be gleaned from the information sources above. The detective writes a short narrative about the place, which is similar to the initial narrative written in a crime incident report, describing some preliminary information found.</p>

Extra notes about Section A:

1. The detective may consider including a map of the small area that includes recent crimes, hot street segments, schools and other important buildings, and maps that include geographic information (rivers, environmental barriers, etc.).
2. For some sub-sections (A1, A2, A3, ...), the investigator may have a number of supplemental forms and pieces of information to add to the case folder. We encourage place-detectives to utilize their agencies' investigative case management system, supplemental forms, and other relevant forms to build continuity with existing systems within the agency.

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<p>SECTION B: PLACE-BASED SUSPECTS Who, or what, is causing or committing the crimes at these places? Could be persons, things, specific aspects of places (environmental or otherwise), community dynamics, groups of people, etc.</p>	<p>In traditional investigations of persons, information is collected on a specific individual or individuals suspected of committing the crime. But in a case of a place, multiple individuals might be the cause of this hot spot of crime, OR suspects may not even be persons - a business or abandoned property may be the "suspect". For example, at a high-accident intersection - the "suspect" might be a bunch of bushes that blocks visibility of on-coming cars in the cross street.</p>
<p>SECTION B1: SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE AT THIS PLACE. This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active/known offenders or arrestees • Probationers/parolees, pretrial supervisees • Individuals recorded by field interviews (past and present) • Gangs, groups, or co-offenders • Vagrants, homeless, mentally ill, drunk in public • Truants, juvenile delinquents 	<p>In traditional investigations, detectives often interview all suspected persons in the case to try to determine their involvement in the investigated crime. For places, the "suspect" may be specific people identified through crime analysis and data systems, or, it might be groups or categories of people identified through surveillance or community interviews above. These also can include people buying/selling drugs on the street, groups of teenagers hanging out, people drunk and in the street/in public, people smoking marijuana in public, loud or unruly residents, vagrants/homeless people, truant juveniles, or gangs.</p>
<p>SECTION B2: SPECIFIC PROBLEM LOCATIONS WITHIN THIS PLACE. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat problem houses or addresses • Businesses with repeat issues • Transit locations: bus stop, metro station, bus terminal • Other locations that are suspect, such as parks, corners, alleys, lots, school 	<p>Again, the term "suspect" in a case of place is broad and extends beyond traditional definitions of a suspect. In a case of place, the suspect, or reason behind the problems at a place, can be a non-person such as a specific location, address or area. These types of locations are often referred to as crime attractors or crime generators; they are physical elements in the environment that attract or generate crime, or places that provide opportunities for crime to thrive.</p>
<p>SECTION B3: ENVIRONMENTAL "SUSPECT" - PROBLEM CONDITIONS AT THIS PLACE. These may include: poor lighting, graffiti, trash, abandonment, overgrown lots, abandon cars, other social and physical disorders, or vulnerable spots.</p>	<p>In addition to suspect buildings, addresses, and locations, other suspects could be environmental, and may include poor lighting, graffiti, trash, abandonment, overgrown lots, abandoned cars, other social and physical disorders, and vulnerable spots where an offender could surprise and trap a victim.</p>

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SECTION C: VICTIMS AND PLACE-BASED TARGETS OF CRIME	In a traditional investigation, a victim can be an individual person, a piece of property, or, no victim may be implicated (drug crimes, for example). Similarly, in a case of a place, the victim can be people, property, or an intangible victim (like the "quality of life" or "social cohesion and efficacy").
SECTION C1: VICTIMS (PEOPLE) Includes general profile of victims. Are specific victims identified? Any repeat victims of crimes at this place?	A person-based victim in a case of place can include a single person, groups of persons, or the entire community. Detectives may need to access data sources to obtain a list of victims of recent crimes at this location, or repeat victims. Further, there may be a more general "type" of victims at this place, which may include schoolchildren, the elderly, visitors at a mall, the homeless, people who park their cars here, tourists, people coming out of the bar, etc.
SECTION C2: VICTIMS (PROPERTY) Identify and document (including pictures) all property based victims at this place.	This is akin to property that might be victimized in traditional investigations, but in a case of place, this property is not necessarily attributed to an individual victim. Rather, "property" is established as a victim in and of itself. For example, a property victim might include a wall that continues to be written upon (graffiti), a park in which drug dealing is pervasive, or a building that is damaged by delinquents.
SECTION C3. SUMMARIZE THE BROADER HARM OR IMPACT OF THE PROBLEM ON THE COMMUNITY. Be specific in how you came to this conclusion (perhaps through your discussions above with victims, suspects, or community members).	For this item, the place-detective should identify additional harms from the problem on both the residents at that location and the community at large. For example, how has crime impacted this community? Does crime cause fear? Deterioration of the neighborhood's quality of life? Housing abandonment or residential flight? Lack of investment or involvement? More crime?

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<p>SECTION D: GUARDIANS AND POTENTIAL FOR PREVENTION AND DETERRENCE</p>	<p>There is little equivalent to guardianship in traditional investigations. Guardians refer to individuals, groups, or physical features that have the potential to deter or handle the problem(s) at the place. This step also helps to identify people that could be involved in the intervention for the problem at the place.</p>
<p>SECTION D1: NON-POLICE AND INFORMAL GUARDIANS. Given information collected above (you may need to canvas again), describe place managers, community guardians, business and civic leaders, and other guardians for this place. Focus on identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who the guardians are (neighbors, parents, clergy, etc.?) • When they are there (amount of presence) • When they are not there (amount of absence at the place). 	<p>In traditional case investigations, detectives often rely on informants, police contacts, and witnesses to help with the investigation. This action is a modified version of that approach for the case of place investigation. One way to identify non-police guardians is by identifying repeat callers (keeping information sensitive) about problems at that place. This can include residents or business owners, community watch members, etc. Another way to identify guardians is to determine who might be around during peak crime hours or days of the week. Guardians may also include people who can exercise informal control over problem people at the location.</p>
<p>SECTION D2: FORMAL POLICE/GOVERNMENT GUARDIANS. Given information collected above, identify and speak to police and other formal guardians at this place. Examples include: Police officers; Private security officers; City managers; Council people; Code enforcers, Probation officers, Principals and teachers, Clergy, Social workers, Housing managers.</p>	<p>This is preparing for the formal intervention below. These are NOT business owners, but those with some formalized role in social control to determine levels of guardianship at the location. Focus on the extent to which formal guardianship is present. Identify the weaknesses in the time/type of guardianship. Agencies might examine how many officers are actually assigned to that specific place, and how often officers are present at that location (using historic AVL data, for example).</p>
<p>SECTION D3: TECHNOLOGY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES TO PREVENT CRIME. These include CCTV, fences, locks, signage, gates, etc.</p>	<p>Photograph and document these to determine the extent of these non-person guardians at this place.</p>

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<p>SECTION E: THE INTERVENTION <i>Interventions should be derived by a working group consisting of key stakeholders in the case of place, including the place-detective, crime analysis, supervisors, and members of the community.</i></p>	<p>In a traditional investigation, this would be considered the arrest of a suspect or perhaps the implementation of a search and seizure warrant. However, the "arrest" of a place might be a more comprehensive approach to tackling the wider problems as described in Sections A-D and can include a variety of actions.</p>
<p>SECTION E1. PAST SIGNIFICANT POLICE OF COMMUNITY EFFORTS/ INTERVENTIONS AT THIS PLACE. Identify all past interventions at the place, conducted by the police AND the community. Try to be as specific as possible. Identify their impacts if known.</p>	<p>This step is necessary so that officers can identify what the police and others have done in the past at that location, and what has worked and not worked. This is useful in that it can help recycle useful interventions or bypass those that were not as successful. This will also help generate discussions in COMPSTAT meetings about the potential of past interventions, and bring the agency together to assess whether past interventions have been useful.</p>
<p>SECTION E2: REVIEW EVIDENCE ABOUT WHAT MAY WORK FOR THIS PROBLEM. An evidence-based approach to problem places means that the department has to look outside its immediate experience and resources to learn about potentially effective interventions for the problem they have. Possible resources include:</p> <p>The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix</p> <p>POP CENTER guides</p> <p>COPS OFFICE</p> <p>Office of Justice Programs CRIMESOLUTIONS.GOV</p> <p>Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Coordinating Group</p> <p>Subject matter experts on the eConsortium by area of expertise</p> <p>Projects at the Smart Policing Initiative (BJA) website</p>	<p>The Matrix contains information on effective, evidence-based approaches for policing. Place-based approaches are located in the "Micro-Place" and "Neighborhood" slabs. www.policingmatrix.org</p> <p>The POP guides contain information on different policing strategies for very specific problems. http://www.popcenter.org/guides/</p> <p>The COPS Office provides information on different community-oriented policing approaches. http://www.cops.usdoj.gov</p> <p>The Office of Justice Programs CrimeSolutions.gov is geared to inform policy makers and practitioners on what works in different areas of the criminal justice system. http://crimesolutions.gov</p> <p>The Campbell Crime and Justice Group provides reviews of different criminal justice strategies, interventions, and programs. http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/reviews_crime_justice/index.php</p> <p>eConsortium of subject matter experts at universities: http://gmuconsortium.org/</p> <p>Smart Policing Initiative http://www.smartpolicinginitiative.com/</p>

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<p>SECTION E3: DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED INTERVENTION(S). Describe the outcome measures sought for the intervention for this place and the plan for assessing the effectiveness of the intervention.</p>	<p>Investigators should think of this as planning for the arrest of a serious violent offender. A proper plan of action must be in place in order for things to go smoothly. Or, this can be similar to a search and seizure warrant, which essentially is a documentation of what will be taken, how and why. This step is necessary so that the intervention can be properly documented, evaluated and repeated if effective.</p> <p>Detectives should identify what might be considered a successful "arrest" of the problem of the place. This should not simply be the carrying out of the intervention (the "arrest") but another meaningful outcome (like crime reduction).</p>
<p>SECTION E4. Document the intervention, results, and plans for follow-up and maintenance.</p>	<p>Here, the unit may also document whether the intervention was replicated in another case of place, so that institutional knowledge can be developed on this type of place-based tactic.</p>