

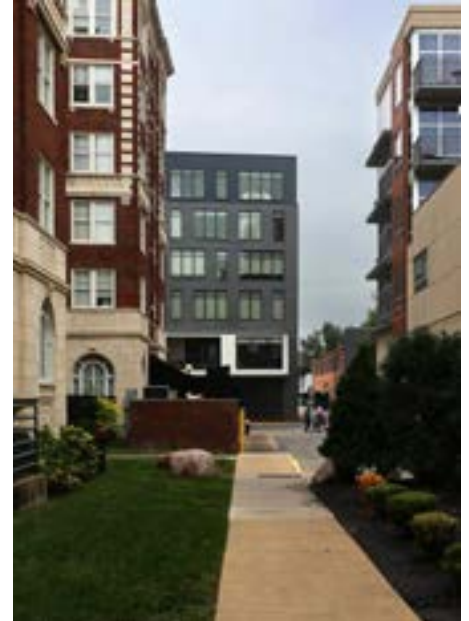


2023
Annual Report

**Central
West End
Neighborhood
Security
Initiative**

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About the Neighborhood Security Initiative

With inspired leadership from the Central West End Association, a group of community stakeholders created the Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative (NSI) in 2008 to develop and manage a comprehensive, coordinated strategy for improving security in the Central West End. The NSI is currently funded through a partnership among five participating Central West End Special Business Districts, DeBaliviere Place Special Business District, participating Community Improvement Districts, and Washington University Medical Center.

The NSI collaborates with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, The City's Finest, and residents and businesses to unify prevention efforts and respond more efficiently to crime as a community. The NSI is led by an executive director, Jim Whyte, who reports to a board made up of representatives from each of the participating entities.

Over the past 15 years, the Neighborhood Security Initiative has coordinated and monitored supplemental police patrols, implemented and managed an extensive security camera network, compiled monthly crime statistics, created a neighborhood outreach program, sponsored regular public forums to educate and inform area residents, and initiated an awards program to recognize officers who serve and protect us.



A message from the Executive Director

Dear residents and stakeholders,

St. Louis City has many challenging safety concerns. Like many large, urban core cities, we continue to struggle with police staffing, recruitment, and retention. Fortunately, the Board of Aldermen and Mayor Jones have improved police officer salaries, making the city more competitive. There is still work to be done, but progress is being made.

Police staffing impacts the ability of taxing districts to hire off-duty officers for neighborhood patrols. The City's Finest has increased their capabilities by hiring officers from surrounding municipalities. TCF has also expanded their Ambassador Program. This is a program employing visible, security minded personnel who serve as eyes and ears for our community. These ambassadors also help build relationships with local businesses and residents.

Finally, the work of Gabriel Gore deserves to be recognized. Mr. Gore was appointed as the Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis in May 2023. Over the past few months, he has fully staffed the Victim Services Unit, put together a robust diversion program, hired many new and seasoned attorneys, and addressed the unprecedented number of criminal cases which were sitting in limbo when he was appointed. These important accomplishments contribute to a safer and more successful city.

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous 2024!

Jim Whyte

Executive Director

Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative

Camera Project

The NSI Camera Project Unit oversees 52 camera sites with nearly 500 camera views that cover portions of the Central West End, Forest Park Southeast, DeBaliviere Place, and East Loop CID neighborhoods. Each camera site has an array of cameras used to capture information for review when a crime has occurred.

In 2023, the Camera Project Unit conducted 176 camera reviews in response to reported crimes. These reviews led to 35 arrests, an increase from 2022.

488
camera views

176
reviews

35
arrests



Camera Projects in 2023

5600–5622 DeBaliviere	Upgraded, replaced, and added cameras
40 North Euclid	Upgraded cameras and replaced network video recorder
26 Maryland Plaza	Total system upgrade
4398–4400 Chouteau	Established two new camera sites
1071 Tower Grove	Federated camera system into NSI Network

Camera Projects Planned for 2024

4321 Chouteau	Establish a new camera site
4502 Laclede	Upgrade and install new cameras
4503 McPherson	Upgrade and install new cameras
4909 Laclede	Upgrade cameras
4949 West Pine	Upgrade cameras
398 North Euclid	Establish a new camera site
4511 West Pine	Upgrade cameras and internet



Camera Reviews: Caught on Video

Central West End—October 29th, 2023: Officers received multiple calls for service for assaults in the area of West Pine and North Euclid. Officers were in the area and observed a person matching the description of the suspect. A foot pursuit was initiated after which the suspect was taken into custody without further incident.

Investigation revealed the suspect struck the first victim in the head with a glass alcohol bottle. A Good Samaritan intervened and the victim and her boyfriend were able to seek help inside a location nearby. The suspect then attempted to take a child from her mother's arms; however, the child's father intervened, at which time the offender fled east on West Pine. While on West Pine east of Taylor, the suspect then attacked and choked an elderly victim from behind and assaulted her for more than one minute, ultimately breaking the victim's arms. The suspect got up from the ground about the same time officers arrived and fled on foot.

The suspect was apprehended and charged based on video evidence provided to the police. Charges were Assault 1st Special Victim, Assault 2nd, ACA Assault 3rd, Assault 4th (two counts), Kidnapping 1st (Attempt), Endangering the welfare of a child 1st, and Resisting. All charges were issued.

Central West End—October 21st, 2023: The NSI was contacted relative to a Robbery 1st which occurred at 28 Maryland Plaza (Eye Roc). The suspect entered the store with a gun and made the victim and witnesses lay down on the floor. The suspect stole several pairs of eye glasses and \$200 in cash, then fled on foot in an unknown direction. A description of the suspect was obtained.

A review of the NSI cameras in the area revealed the suspect responsible for the robbery. Based on the video evidence provided to the police, the suspect was identified and placed wanted for this robbery. Later that evening the suspect was linked to an armed robbery and a violent carjacking in Arnold, MO. Investigators say the suspect first entered an Ace Hardware store armed with a firearm on Sunday and stole money from the cash register. After that, he allegedly forced a woman from her vehicle at gunpoint and took off in her car.

A brief pursuit followed the carjacking, leading to the suspect's arrest near Interstate 55 and Butler Hill Road. Police say he initially fled from officers after the carjacking. The suspect was charged with first-degree robbery, vehicle hijacking and resisting arrest and is currently jailed in Jefferson County without bond.

Forest Park Southeast—November 5th, 2023: An officer was awaiting city tow at Chouteau and South Kingshighway when he heard and reported 5 shots fired within close vicinity. An additional officer responded to assist and located the victims at 4105 Chouteau. Victims stated as they were returning to their vehicle, they observed an unknown white sedan parked next to their vehicle, with 4 or 5 unknown subjects breaking into it. Victim set off the panic alarm on his vehicle in an effort to scare the suspects away. As the suspects fled, one fired five shots at the victims, who took cover behind a nearby by vehicle, and were not struck. The passenger rear window of the suspect's vehicle was also discovered to be broken out. Shell casings were recovered at the scene.

A review of the cameras in the area revealed the incident and captured the license plate of the vehicle. The video

evidence was provided to the police and the vehicle was placed wanted.

DeBaliviere Place—February 12th, 2023: At approximately 6:50 a.m., officers received a radio assignment for a robbery at 527 Clara. The victim stated she was at the location when the suspect arrived in a vehicle, exited the vehicle and approached her. The suspect produced a handgun and announced a robbery. The suspect took the victim's car keys from her, entered her vehicle, and was last seen fleeing northbound on Clara. A review of the cameras in the area was conducted.

The suspect was observed exiting a white Hyundai and running towards the victim with his arm extended brandishing a firearm. The suspect demanded the victim hand over the keys to her vehicle. The suspect stole the victim's vehicle. Both of the vehicles traveled north on Clara crossing Delmar and then turning east on an intersecting street out of sight. The video evidence of this incident was provided to the police and a description was broadcasted. Approximately an hour later, the stolen vehicle was later chased by the police and two suspects were located and taken into custody. A .380 pistol and an air soft pistol were recovered from the abandoned vehicle.



NSI Street Outreach

In 2023, the NSI Street Outreach team provided nearly 700 in-person engagements for over 225 unduplicated individuals experiencing homelessness. The Outreach Team comprises two part-time seasoned workers and covers the streets of ten taxing districts and some surrounding areas. The workers provide water, food, hygiene items, coats, winter gear, and resources to the population they serve. Often, NSI Outreach works as a community liaison for unhoused individuals by reconnecting individuals with previous social service organizations they worked with or helping them to access new services.



NSI Outreach Success Stories

Back on the road: In Spring 2023, a man experiencing homelessness was living and sleeping out of his broken-down vehicle in the North SBD area. The NSI Outreach Team had several ongoing engaging conversations with the man. After some planning, the NSI paid to have his vehicle towed and repaired. The gentleman appreciated this service and even offered to “work off” the repair expenses. He is now working with a case manager and taking the steps to make permanent positive changes in his life.

Out of the cold: An unhoused man in the CWE was sleeping nightly in the north elevator of the St. Louis Public Library Schlafly Branch. The NSI Outreach Team first encountered the man on January 9, 2022. Temperatures the night before dropped into the teens. The man appeared disheveled and stated he was waiting for the rain to stop before heading out for the day. A series of over 40 outreach engagements by the Team throughout 2022 and 2023 eventually led to him getting housed by another organization in September of 2023. The Team remains in communication with him, and while he still needs community resource support, he is maintaining housing and employment.

Headed home: In October 2023, the NSI Outreach Team met an unhoused woman at a DeBaliviere Place Metro bus stop. She told the Team her story of visiting from Amarillo, Texas, and becoming stranded in St. Louis through a series of unfortunate events. She requested clothing from the Team, which they provided for her. Within a few short days, the Outreach Team coordinated with her and purchased a Greyhound bus ticket back to Texas. She is back home and doing well.

700
in-person
engagements

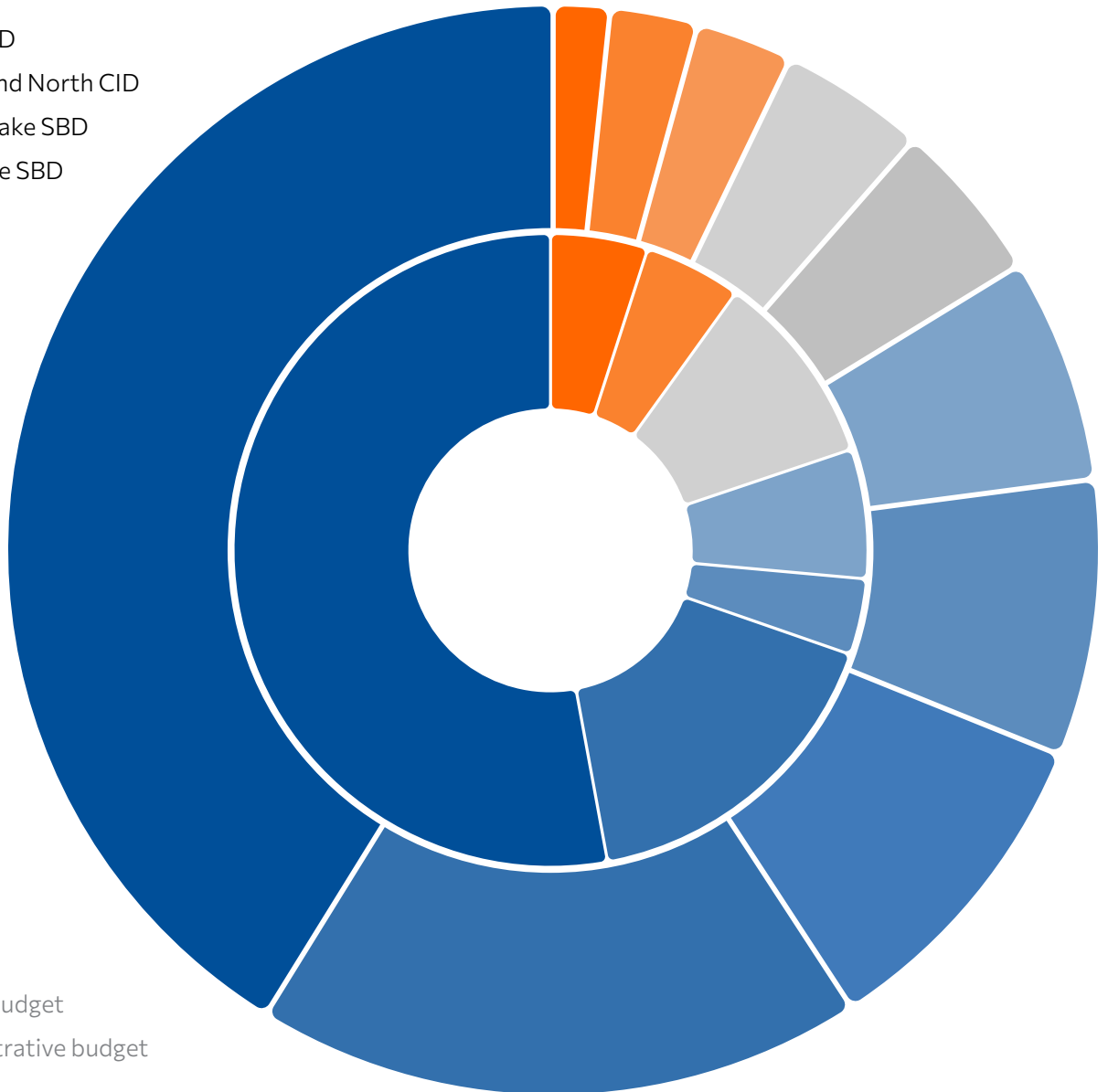
225
individuals
served

Financial Overview

The Neighborhood Security Initiative managed an operating budget of approximately \$675,000 funded by ten participating entities. Expenses include general office operations, staff salaries, various insurance policies, vehicle maintenance, accounting services, and a reserve fund for emergency secondary patrol service. This also includes the camera maintenance budget for the Central West End and Forest Park Southeast camera systems.

2023 Funding Source	Administrative	Cameras	Total Funding	% of Budget
Waterman-Lake SBD	\$5,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$8,750.00	1.3%
Westminster-Lake SBD	\$9,800.00	\$3,750.00	\$13,550.00	2.0%
Central West End North CID	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	2.2%
Euclid South CID	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$22,500.00	3.3%
East Loop CID	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	3.7%
Central West End South SBD	\$29,800.00	\$5,000.00	\$34,800.00	5.2%
DeBaliviere Place SBD	\$39,900.00	\$2,940.00	\$42,840.00	6.3%
Reserve Funds	\$50,560.00		\$50,560.00	7.5%
Central West End Southeast SBD	\$81,300.00	\$12,700.00	\$94,000.00	13.9%
Central West End North SBD	\$112,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$153,200.00	22.7%
Washington University Medical Center	\$175,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$215,000.00	31.8%
2023 Total Budget	\$557,560.00	\$77,640.00	\$675,200.00	

- Washington University Medical Center
- Central West End Southeast SBD
- Reserve Funds
- DeBaliviere Place SBD
- Central West End South SBD
- East Loop CID
- Euclid South CID
- Central West End North CID
- Westminster-Lake SBD
- Waterman-Lake SBD



Supplemental Patrols

Acting on behalf or participating Special Business Districts and Community Improvement Districts, the Neighborhood Security Initiative oversees a budget of more than \$1,000,000 and approximately 3,000 security patrols annually within the NSI footprint, including the Central West End North, South, and Southeast Special Business Districts, the Waterman-Lake and Westminster-Lake Special Business Districts, the DeBaliviere Place Special Business District, and the Central West End North, Euclid South, and East Loop Community Improvement Districts.

The City's Finest LLC is the primary provider of supplemental police patrols for the Neighborhood Security Initiative and its participating districts. The City's Finest employs officers from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

The supplemental patrols are funded by participating SBDs and CIDs, each with a varying annual security budget. The officers patrol on foot, bicycle, ATV, and marked patrol vehicles. These supplemental patrols provide a highly visible and effective police presence in our neighborhood.

The East Loop CID and North CID have added the safety ambassador program to their existing supplemental police patrols. CWE Safety Ambassadors serve as a welcoming presence to visitors, residents, and employees, while monitoring in an observe-and-report fashion. They work closely with The City's Finest's supplemental patrols and the CWENSI Outreach Team.



Board of Directors

Bobbie Butterly <i>President</i>	DeBaliviere Place SBD
Yusef Scoggin <i>Vice President of Finance</i>	CWE Southeast SBD
Jim Dwyer <i>Secretary</i>	CWE North SBD
Henry Edmonds <i>Board Member</i>	CWE North SBD
Christina Bennett <i>Board Member</i>	Wesminster-Lake SBD
Pete Rothschild <i>Board Member</i>	CWE South SBD
Abdul Abdullah <i>Board Member</i>	Euclid South CID
Brian Phillips <i>Board Member</i>	WUMC
Lily Seymour <i>Board Member</i>	Waterman-Lake SBD
Kate Hafer <i>Board Member</i>	CWE North CID

Staff


- Jim Whyte *Executive Director*
- Sarah Wickenhauser *Deputy Director*
- Lyndon Cornell *Camera Project Manager*
- Alvin Ferguson *Outreach*
- Melissa Brown *Outreach*

Meetings

The Central West End Neighborhood Security Initiative Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of each month at 4pm via Zoom, with quarterly in-person meetings at our Euclid Avenue office.

Contact Us

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