

Operation Safe Zone

The Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) funded “Operation Safe Zone”, an integrated strategy to positively impact specific commercial corridors threatened by destructive, criminal activity. This initiative was an extension of current efforts to attract, retain, and support retail development in the Quad Communities.

The initiative required partnerships with business owners, local elected officials, schools, arts organizations, the Chicago Police Department (002nd District), and community stakeholders to improve safety along commercial corridors by employing a multi-pronged strategy that sought to: address troubled locations; show businesses how to access city resources (including graffiti removal, building safety, CLEARpath) and; create walkable streets that increase foot traffic and deter crime by engaging youth in creative exercises to beautify the targeted areas.

The results:

- Engaged ten (15) business owners to identify and address safety issues
- Collaborated with 3rd Ward Alderman Pat Dowell and the 002nd District, Chicago Police Department, to establish increased presence and foot patrol
- Collaborated with the 002nd District to create an [Incident Report](#) Form that is now used by local businesses throughout the 47th Street corridor
- Engaged approximately 75 community stakeholders who use the 47th Street Green Line
- Collaborated with Alderman Dowell and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) to move bus stops away from train station entrances to alleviate loitering
- With help of [One Heart One Soul](#), engaged thirty (30) youth who were paired with local artists, Candace Hunter, Paul Branton, and Arthur Wright to create artwork (that can be seen before and after business hours) for thirteen (1) roll-downs along the corridor
- Secured agreement with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to participate in its “Adopt a Station” Program for the 47th Street Station
- Installed a garden underneath the Green Line “L” tracks on 47th Street, an area historically known for illegal activity
- Secured contract with local organization, The Renaissance Collaborative (TRC)-Bronzeville Green to build planters and maintain the landscape
- Created a [Business Resource Tool Kit](#) for local area businesses that includes tips on safety as well as access to a variety of resources

The corridor is beginning to have the look and feel of a destination where residents, stakeholders, and visitors can experience images of historic Bronzeville.



Alderman Dowell with (from left) Jimmy Guzman from QCDC, Diane Howard (SSA 56 Commissioner), Phil Beckham (SSA 56 Commissioner), and Walter Bush (from Bronzeville Green).