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Recommendations to Improve Public Safety

- 1) Implementation of the Eyes in the Sky program utilizing the Jersey City model: funding for this program can come from the Camden Urban Enterprise Zone per Council Directive;

Pros	Cons	Steps to be Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide information for various city departments, i.e., code enforcement, public works, police, etc. • Will provide evidence for prosecution of crimes, i.e., crimes to persons, illegal dumping, etc. • Will improve the perception and reality of safety in the eyes of the residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must continuously provide information and respond to citizens with concerns about privacy. • Initial and on-going costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must identify which streets will get cameras and set criteria to determine priorities. • Must determine what types of policies will need to be developed regarding camera utilization.

- 2) Expansion of the community-oriented policing program and utilization of the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) problem-solving method;

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide a new method of problem-solving, which is supported by the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing (www.popcenter.org). • Utilizing the model could result in long term benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While long-term benefits are necessary and desirable, the City needs a combination of long-term solutions and short-term remedies to address the current crime rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify more information detailing what the SARA model actually prescribes.

3) Greater enforcement of curfew ordinance;

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will result in increased community confidence in the Camden Police Department. • Will result in decreased crime committed by juveniles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement may raise concerns about infringement on individual's Constitutional Rights. • City will have to look into improved recreation programs for alternatives which will have a budgetary impact. Not offering an alternative could make city more vulnerable to criticism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing police data to determine utilization of existing curfew ordinance. • Review ordinance for possible amendments.

4) Formal support for development of Town Watch/Neighborhood Watch and community watchdog groups, i.e., the Guardian Angels. This group, in conjunction with the Public Safety Council, would provide Community Safety Seminars;

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will improve public perception about police activity. • Will buttress the COP program. • Will result in curtailed open-air criminal activity, i.e., loitering and drug sales. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will require police personnel to be available which could be used an excuse for continued poor response time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether training would be necessary and potential costs.

5) Greater enforcement of anti-dumping ordinances and formal support of improved code enforcement;

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will improve the appearance of the City which serves to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will take work to improve morale of police and Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to determine how many code enforcement officers

<p>reinforce certain behaviors from residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will make City more attractive to potential residents and investors. 	<p>of Public Works (DPW) staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPW & Code Enforcement staff will need security when working which could affect police availability. 	<p>are needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine need for more DPW staff. • Review anti-dumping ordinances for possible amendments. • Any staff increase will have immediate budgetary impact.
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6) Establish relationship with the Camden Public Housing Authority;

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will improve awareness of crime issued faced by Camden Housing Authority residents. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the specific issues that Camden Housing Authority residents face, and partner with them to identify solutions. The consensus is that a significant amount of crime takes place in the Housing Authority complexes.

7) Actively emphasize the creation and development of activities for youth and young adults; and

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will create alternatives to criminal behavior and reinforce various social norms, controls, and expectations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate budgetary impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current programs to determine utilization, strengths, and weaknesses. • Identify age groups which would benefit most and determine programming priorities.

- 8) Develop a roundtable/council of community groups to increase awareness among community groups of the various services provided in the community.

Pros	Cons	Steps to Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will improve City Council's relationship with community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing this type of group would probably be assigned to City Council staff and could be tremendously time consuming. • May not reduce duplicated efforts and programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether there are any existing programs or group that attempt to provide this service. • Determine what type of role this type of groups should fulfill, i.e., an advisory committee, etc.

- 9) Place more police officers on the street.

Pros	Cons	Steps to Be Take
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will improve ability to demonstrate that the City is working to resolve its issues with existing resources. • Will observe a decrease in crime and an increase in arrests. • Will increase ability to more effectively implement the Community Oriented Policing Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be resistance from current police personnel. • The police personnel remaining in administrative functions will see an increase in workload. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review whether the police department is top-heavy and thereby reducible by attrition which will increase available funds for patrol cops. This recommendation requires more effective negotiations with the police department, which negotiates with the City jointly with the Fire Department. Moreover, the existing contracts expire December 31, 2004.

- 10) More effective implementation of CompStat. Per conversations with the Chief and representations made in the press, the County Prosecutor also believes that this recommendation will result.

Pros	Cons	Steps to Be Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City will be able to better target its Police Resources. Initial costs have been paid for with funds that do not impact the current budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be some delay in realizing the benefits of the program due to training. There will be on-going operating costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual implementation of the system. Determining whether there are steps that City Council can take to expedite the benefits of the system.

- 11) Revisit Figueroa's 2003 proposal, a copy of which is available. We must balance our support for Chief Figueroa with accountability. Therefore, it is prudent that a review of the proposal that he submitted in 2003 be undertaken to determine progress and existing impediments to continued success.

Pros	Cons	Steps to Be Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City will be able to demonstrate that it has made significant efforts and strides to improve public safety, and that it has a handle what remains to be done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited resources to implement some changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A review of the proposal that Chief Figueroa submitted in 2003 should be undertaken to determine progress and existing impediments to continued success.

- 12) Have the Police Chief take a more active role with the Public Safety Council. More specifically, the Chief would be asked to attend their meetings on a regular basis (i.e., quarterly) and to provide guidance and assistance as the Public Safety Council works to fulfill its mission. Further, the Chief would be asked to communicate the progress and challenges of this task with the Camden City Council Committee on Public Safety.

Pros	Cons	Steps to Be Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will result in increased community visibility for the Police Chief and his senior staff through their support of the Public Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chief may not agree that it is appropriate for him to support a City Council committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of this idea with the Police Chief.

<p>Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will result in improved communication between the Camden Police Department and grassroots leaders in the community. • Will increase Camden City Officials' awareness of residents' concerns and will improve collaboration on addressing problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council must be careful in making this recommendation because it may imply that Council thinks the Chief is less active in the community than he should be. 	
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13) Approach the New Jersey Legislature for the purpose of discussing and drafting legislation that requires PSE&E and other such utilities to be better community partners.

Pros	Cons	Steps to be Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will assist in the elimination of quality of life issues that are created by persistent poor lighting, i.e., open-air drug sales, increased likelihood of property damage, crimes committed by one individual against another individual, etc. • Will create an opportunity for municipalities to have dialogue with utility companies to collectively solve lighting problems. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify other South Jersey communities who face the same challenges in order to advocate for legislation that serves multiple communities.

- 14) Approach the New Jersey Legislature for the purpose of revisiting legislation that would aid the City of Camden and other New Jersey communities in creating communities that are more livable. Assembly Bill 3688, which was proposed in 2001 and Assembly Bill 499, which is currently in committee, would provide additional tools to improve the quality of life in Camden and reduce crime.

Pros	Cons	Steps to be Taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will provide multiple New Jersey communities with additional tools to improve quality of life issues. • Sufficient time exists in the current legislative session to identify the challenges of both bills and negotiate satisfactory language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with sponsors of both Assembly Bills.