

Community Facilities and Public Services

The provision of community facilities and public services are the primary activities of local government and non-profit organizations. This element of the plan analyzes the current community facilities and public services available to Airline residents, identifies inadequacies and delinquencies, and provides recommendations to ensure that the development of facilities and services keep pace with current and future development.

Parks

Airline residents currently only have a fraction of park space per person that is recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The NRPA recommends 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents in urban areas. With a population of approximately 17,000 residents, Airline should have a minimum of 107.62 acres of park space. Currently, Airline has less than 1/20 of the recommended park space per person. To many this might appear to be a large amount of space, yet Airline covers approximately 2,809.60 acres. The necessary park space only accounts for 3.83 percent of the total acreage in Airline. At present, the total park and open space land use in Airline accounts for 0.17 percent of the total land use. Dow Park is the only park/recreational sports field located in the Airline target area. Residents complain the park is closed to area residents most of the year. Pep Mueller Park is not located in the target area, but is the largest neighborhood park in proximity to the Airline community. Due to the increasing population and number of youth living in Airline, more park space is needed.

Parks and open space have a number of social, health, economic and environmental benefits. Studies suggest parks and open space beautify neighborhoods, reduce crime, increase business activity, enhance quality of life, instill community pride, and increase property values. The plants, trees, and other shrubbery in parks soak up rainwater and reduce runoff, drainage and flooding issues. More importantly, parks serve as active and passive recreation for youth, adults, and seniors. Park activities like sports and nature preservation surround youth and adolescents in a nurturing and positive environment, thereby deterring them from participating in gang activity, loitering, and drug use.

The Airline Improvement District is committed to providing more parks and open space for the Airline community. District representatives and concerned citizens must actively discuss options for possible park development with Harris County Precinct One and the Harris County Parks Department. Residents have consistently stated that pocket or mini parks in empty and abandoned parcels in the community would not only enhance the community but would provide a place for families and residents to further enjoy the community and socialize with their neighbors. The Airline Improvement District should investigate the feasibility of this project and purchasing land from land owners that are consistently in violation of County codes and ordinances. Many residents would prefer to situate a community park at the old Carroll Academy location on Raymac St. The property is owned by Aldine ISD. The school district is uncertain of their plans

for the property. The Airline Improvement District should begin discussions with the school district to acquire the land. The Airline Improvement District should also partner with Harris County Precinct One to develop a park plan.

Picture 5.1: Previous Location of Carroll Academy (Raymac St.)



Source: HCCEDD, 2005

Community Centers/Facilities/Programs

Community centers are considered the nucleus or cornerstone of a community. Community centers are designed to provide mental, physical, emotional and social wellness to area residents. They are physical manifestation of a community's vitality and commitment to civic participation. They bridge communication gaps within and between organizations. Most importantly, they reinforce a community's social cohesiveness.

There are two community centers in proximity to the Airline community:

1. **Pep Mueller Community Center: 14750 Henry Road; Houston, 77060**
Pep Mueller Community Center solely offers a meeting facility to host meetings, reunions, showers, and small parties. The Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA Office is located at Pep Mueller Community Center. There are baseball, basketball and soccer fields available. A picnic area and a playground are also available for enjoyment.
2. **Hardy Community Center 11901 West Hardy Road; Houston, 77076**
The Hardy Community Center caters to the seniors in the community. The center has an auditorium, arts and crafts, exercise equipment, gardening classes, bingo, piano lessons, and a host of other activities.

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While Airline residents are aware of the activities conducted at the community centers; Airline residents prefer a single, multipurpose venue that would provide: ESL/GED/Continued Education courses; after-school tutorial and enrichment programs; gymnasiums; fields and courts for sports activities; summer programs; senior programs and activities; picnic tables; playground equipment; a kitchen; classrooms; exercise equipment and aerobics classes; another library; meeting rooms to host civic organizations and cultural events; health screenings for uninsured residents and most importantly, a Harris County Sheriff's Department substation/storefront.

While Pep Mueller Community Center and the Hardy Community Center are in proximity to the Airline community, residents desire a building that is a reflection of their own image and civic pride. Airline residents would like to situate a community center along Airline Drive as it is the hub of the community. The Airline Improvement District should investigate locations along Airline Drive that would be ideal for a multi-purpose venue and house a Sheriff Storefront.

Another option available is the vacant church/school building at 8600 Sweetwater Lane. Located between Smart Street and W. Bertrand Street, the land is 6.7433 acres. The three buildings on the property are approximately 50,000 sq. feet. Built in 1982, the gymnasium has two dressing rooms, a kitchen, two equipment rooms, showers, and restroom facilities. Also built in 1982, the educational building is two stories. It has a cafeteria, a kitchen, restroom facilities, storage space and approximately 25 classrooms/offices. Built in 1973 and enlarged in 1987, the sanctuary building has over 40 classrooms/offices, storage space, restrooms, stages, covered porches, and a reception area.¹

Picture 5.2: Side View of Church



Source: HCCEDD, 2005

Picture 5.3: Front View of Church



Source: HCCEDD, 2005

¹ International Church Realty. (2005). *For Sale: Church/School Building – 8600 Sweetwater Lane, Houston, Texas 77037*. Accessed June 30, 2005 from the International Church Realty Web site (<http://www.internationalchurchrealty.com>): <http://houston.commercialexchange.com/photos/pdf/fs/4677.pdf>

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While the facility is ideal for church or school use, it can be razed or renovated to accommodate the community's needs. There is plenty of undeveloped land for baseball, football, softball, or soccer fields or future expansion. The property is on a well and septic system and is in need of repair.

Picture 5.4: Panoramic View of Property



Source: HCCEDD, 2005

The June 2005 asking price for the property was \$1.9 million. Yet, as of February 2006, the current asking price is \$995,000. The property is in foreclosure. As of February 16, 2005, approximately \$45,000 in current and delinquent taxes is due on the property. Appraised by the Harris County Appraisal District, the property is valued at \$1.5 million: \$245,304 -- land market value and \$1,254,696-- improvement market value. Table 4.1 illustrates the appraised value history of the property from 2001 – 2005.²

Should the Airline Improvement District be interested in purchasing the property, a reputable realtor with experience in purchasing foreclosed properties would be appropriate. The District should seek assistance/funding in the purchase, razing or rehabilitation of this property, preferably from grants.

Table 5.1: Appraised Value History of 8600 Sweetwater Lane

Year	Appraised Value
2001	\$1,169,650
2002	\$1,169,650
2003	\$961,530
2004	\$1,900,000
2005	\$1,500,000

Source: Harris County Appraisal District, 2005

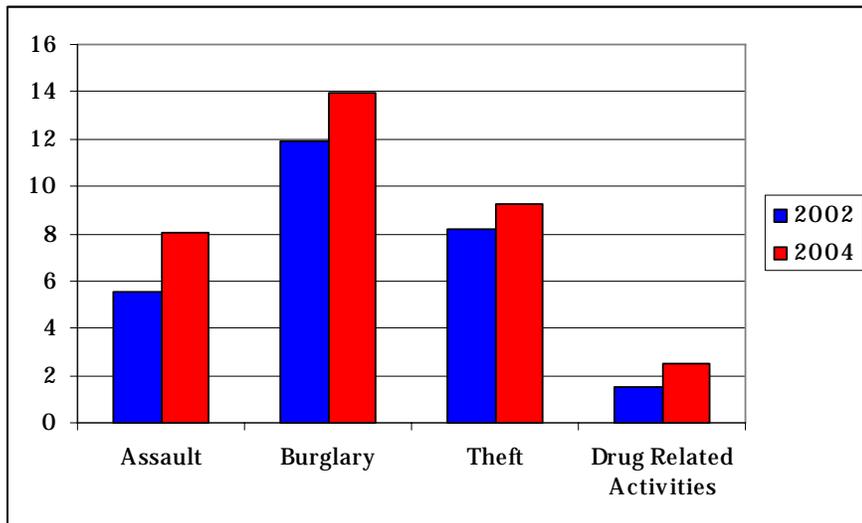
² Harris County Appraisal District. (2005). *2005 Property Tax Statement: Account Number 0750470010001*. Accessed December 12, 2005 from the Harris County Appraisal District Web site <http://www.hctax.net/propertytax/current/2005statement.asp?account=0750470010001>

Crime and Police/Fire Services

Crime weakens community bonds, leading residents to be fearful, isolated, frustrated, and feel powerless. Crime injures the community fabric. Victims, offenders and community members are often caught in a cycle where more crime leads to greater fear and increased isolation and distrust among community members, inevitably leading to more crime and civil unrest. Nevertheless, communities are the central institution for crime prevention. Families, schools, civic organizations, retail establishments and law enforcement must be united to quell criminal mischief and disorder in communities.

Figure 5.1: Crime Rate in Airline, 2002 and 2004
Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2003 and 2005

Figure 5.1 and Table 5.2 illustrate the number of reported crimes and the crime rate in Airline in 2002 and 2004. In 2002, approximately 450 cases of assault, burglary, drug-related activity, and theft were



reported to the Harris County Sheriff's Department. In 2004, approximately 560 crimes of assault, burglary, drug-related activity, and theft were reported. That is a 24.50 percent increase over a two year period! This confirms the sentiments of many Airline residents: Airline is less safe than other communities in the County and a more visible and unified law enforcement presence is greatly needed.

It is important to note the increased percentage of drug-related activity and assault in Airline. There were 42 reported cases of drug related activity in 2004. Between 2002 and 2004, drug related crimes increased 68.00 percent. Drug related activity is commonly associated with gangs, vagrancy, vandalism, and prostitution. The increased drug activity may also be attributed to the unsavory criminal element frequenting the flea markets on the weekends.

More than 130 reported cases of assault were reported to the Harris County Sheriff's Department in 2004. Between 2002 and 2004, assault crimes increased 44.57 percent. Assault is perhaps one of the worst crimes because the threat of violent physical attacks and bodily injury to one breeds fear and isolation among residents and distrust of law enforcement to protect residents.

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Table 5.2: Number of Reported Crimes in Airline, 2002 and 2004

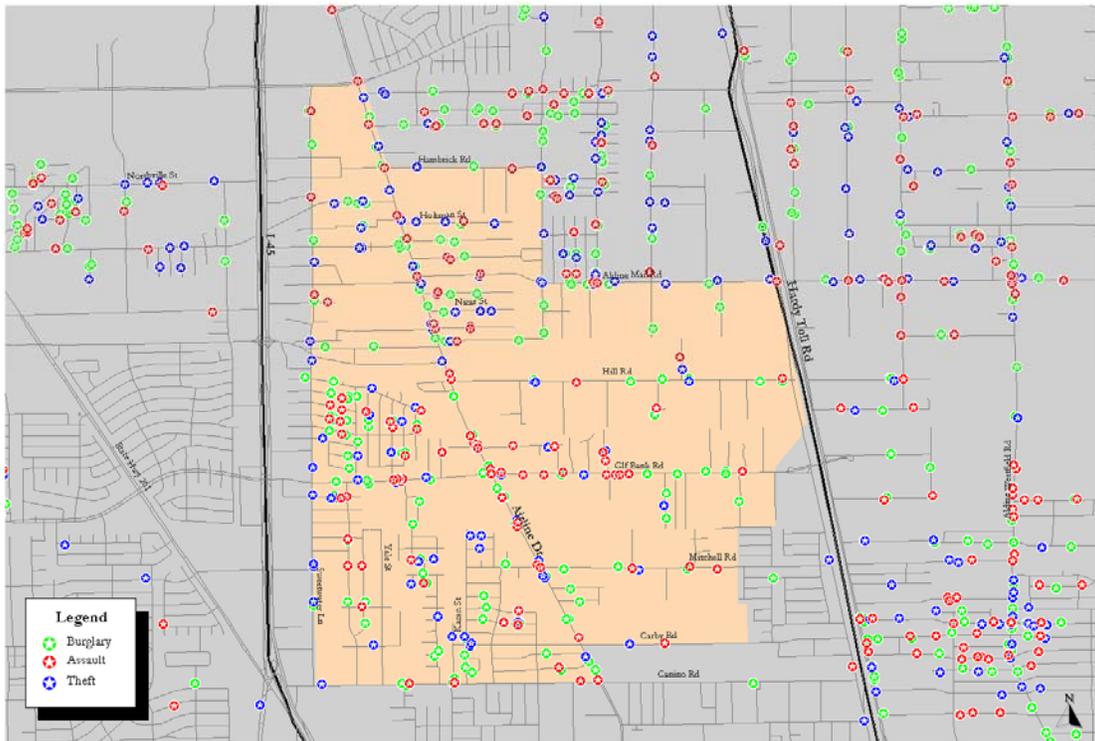
Crime	2002	Rate	2004	Rate	Percent Change
Assault	92	5.55	133	8.03	44.57%
Burglary	197	11.89	231	13.95	17.26%
Drug Related Activity	25	1.50	42	2.53	68.00%
Theft	135	8.15	153	9.24	13.33%

Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2002 and 2004

Note: Crime Rate = Number of Reported Crimes/1,000 persons

Residents, school administrators, civic associations, and local businesses have approached the Harris County Sheriff's Department about increasing police patrols in Airline. Community residents feel that increased directed patrols in hot spots in the community, particularly along Airline Drive on the weekends to better manage the traffic congestion and increased incidences of crimes will reduce the incidences of crime and mischief. The high population density and multiple homes on a single lot make constant vigilance difficult.

Map 5.1: Reported Minor Crimes in Airline, 2004



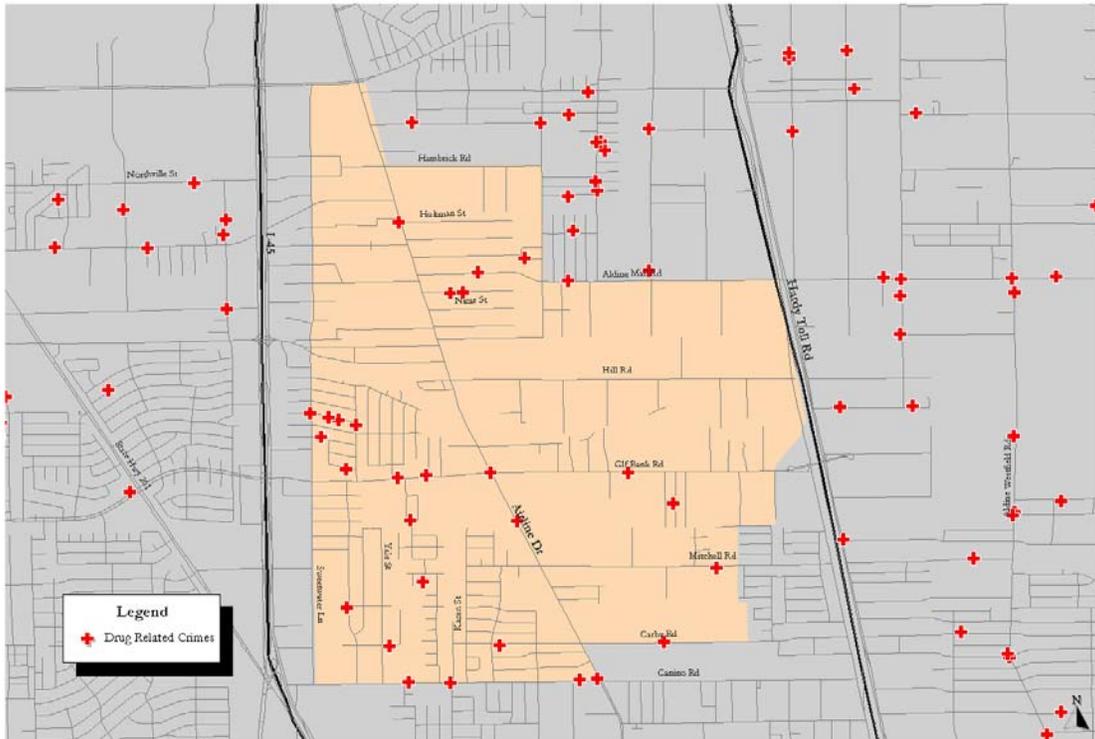
Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department

Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2004

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Crime inhibits economic development in communities. Distressed communities plagued by gang activity, prostitution, theft, vandalism, and illegal dumping repel economic investment and growth. Business owners will not situate businesses in communities with pronounced gang activity and prostitution conducting their illegal activities on their front steps. Crime may lead to a decline in revenue in business districts as customers discontinue patronizing their establishments. Yet, police cannot solve crime alone, direct participation by community members and civic organizations is a necessity.

Map 5.2: Reported Drug Related Crimes in Airline, 2004



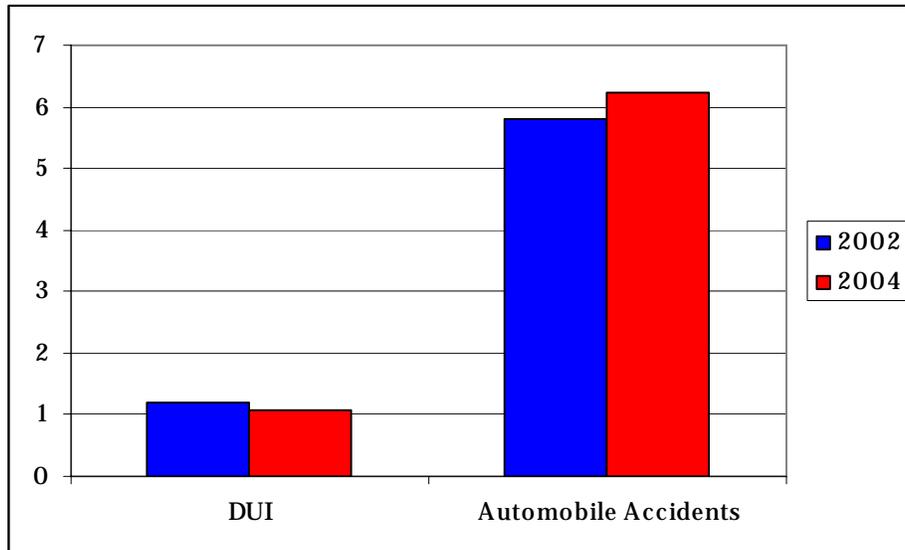
Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department

Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2004

Traffic Accidents

Road traffic accidents affect users of all ages—not just drivers and motorcyclists—but passengers, cyclists and pedestrians. Traffic accidents are one of the biggest causes of fatalities among pedestrians and children. Traffic accidents are thought by many as a public health crisis because of the large social and economic costs. From 2002 to 2004, driving under the influence (DUI) traffic offenses have decreased in Airline 10 percent. The 2004 rate of DUI accident is only 1.08 DUIs per 1,000 persons, a rate lower than unincorporated Harris County. Map 5.3 illustrates the location of traffic offenses in 2004. Note that many of the DUI collisions occurred on Airline Drive and W. Gulf Bank Road. Although the number of DUIs is nominal, DUI accidents might be reduced with an improved road structure, sidewalks for pedestrians, and improved visibility (installation of streetlights).

Figure 5.2: Traffic Offense Rate in Airline, 2002 and 2004



Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2002 and 2004

Automobile accidents in Airline have increased 7.29 percent in Airline. The 2004 rate of automobile accidents is only 6.22 accidents per 1,000 persons. This rate is slightly higher than unincorporated Harris County. Many of the automobile accidents occur along the major thoroughfares in Airline: Airline Drive, W. Gulf Bank Road, and Aldine Mail Road.

Table 5.3: Number of Reported Traffic Offenses in Airline, 2002 and 2004

Crime	2002	Rate	2004	Rate	Percent Change
Driving Under Influence	20	1.20	18	1.08	-10.00%
Automobile Accidents	96	5.79	103	6.22	7.29%

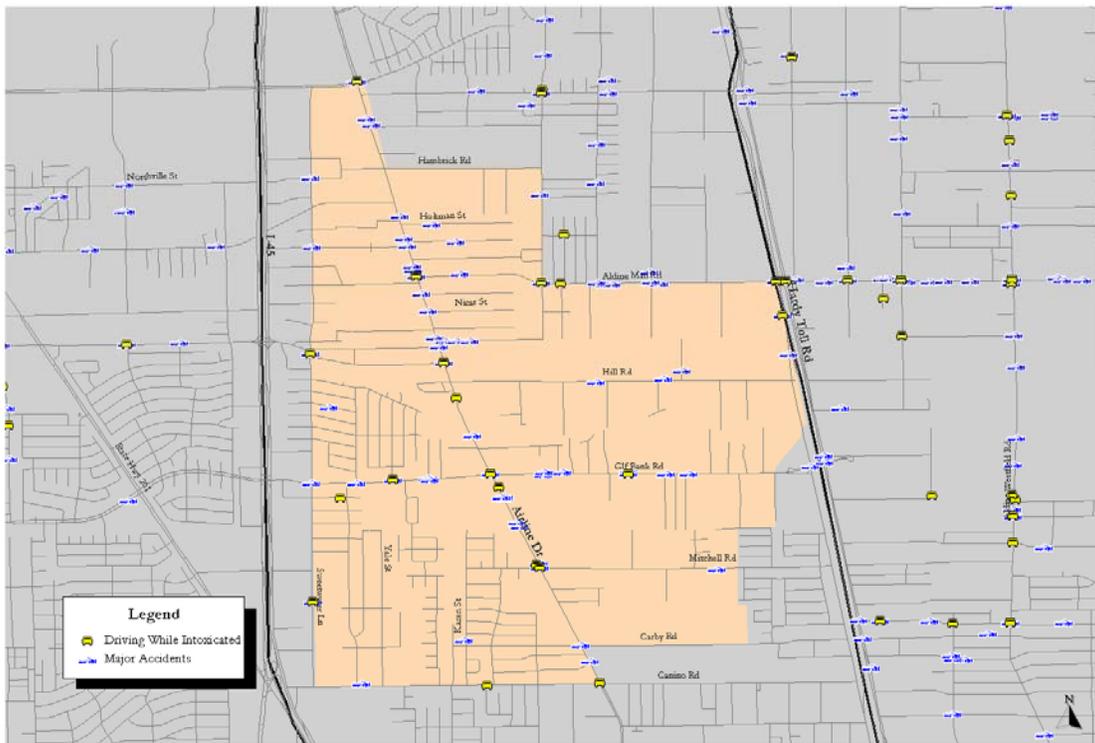
Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2002 and 2004

Note: Crime Rate = Number of Reported Crimes/1,000 persons

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Minor traffic accidents are a common occurrence, particularly during morning commute hours and upon school dismissal. The lack of sidewalks; traffic lights at certain intersections; parent or police patrol of traffic at schools; narrow streets; wide ditches and high population density make pedestrian and automobile accidents inevitable. This situation is not only dangerous for children but causes much anxiety for parents who allow their children to walk to school or wait for school busses. Residents feel that greater police control at the flea markets on the weekends would aid in eliminating the increasing amount automobile accidents along W. Gulf Bank Road and Airline Drive.

Map 5.3: Reported Traffic Offenses in Airline, 2004



Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department

Source: Harris County Sheriff's Department, 2004

Police Services

The Harris County Sheriff's Department – District II serves the Airline community. District II includes approximately 290 square miles of unincorporated Harris County. District II is bound to the north by the Montgomery County line from Interstate 45 to Liberty County; to the south by the City of Houston limits from Interstate 45 to Lake Houston; to the east by the Liberty County line to Stoker Road across to Lake Houston; and to the west by the City of Houston limits to Montgomery County.

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District II provides a host of services to area residents: free inspection of window and door locks; child safety seat inspections; vacation watch; neighborhood watch program; motorist assistance program; DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education); KOPS (Kids Orientation to Police Services); and RAD (Rape Aggression Defense).

The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) provides training in law enforcement functions and responsibilities to citizens. Participants work with deputies on other civic activities in their communities. The Airline Improvement District and its residents should investigate the availability of this program and become members of the CPA.

The Sheriff's Interaction Group (SIG) conducts meetings regularly in each patrol district. These meetings allow citizens to meet Sheriff's Department management to voice concerns and complaints, as well as ask questions. The SIG informs the Department of the concerns and provides an opportunity to address them before they become large problem.

This is a proactive approach to quelling community disorder. The Airline Improvement District and its residents must avail themselves of the meeting opportunities and voice their concerns regarding traffic management and crime in the community. Crime prevention requires a united approach with law enforcement and residents.

District II is home to three substations/storefronts:

1. Humble Substation – 7900 Will Clayton Parkway; Humble, 77338
2. Aldine Community Storefront – 5202 Aldine Mail Route; Houston, 77039
The Harris County Sheriff's Department, in partnership with the Aldine Improvement District has a storefront. The facility includes a conference/classroom, offices for the storefront and work areas for the Weed & Seed Program.
3. Greenspoint Public Safety Center – Greenspoint Mall
In partnership with the Greenspoint Management District, District II officers patrol the Greenspoint area, thus assisting in turning the area into one of the fastest growing business districts in metropolitan Houston.

Airline residents desire a Sheriff's Department storefront in the community, preferably on Airline Drive. Yet, at the business owner's meeting in August 2005, it was discovered that the Harris County Sheriff's Department was offered office space at the Little York Fire Department several years ago (located at Mading Lane and Airline Drive) but declined use of the facility. Many Airline residents were unaware of the offer and feel that the Department's constant and permanent presence in the community will reduce crime and make residents feel safer. The Airline Improvement District should work with the Harris County Sheriff's Department to discuss crime prevention programs and the prospect of having the Sheriff's Department locate a storefront in the Airline community in the future.

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Weed & Seed Program

The Weed & Seed Program is a nationwide strategy initiated by President George H. W. Bush. The goal is to help economically depressed areas assist themselves in reducing crime and increasing accessibility to social services.

In July 1999, the Harris County Sheriff's Department entered into partnership with the Harris County Community & Economic Development Department (HCCEDD) and the Aldine Improvement District and established a Weed & Seed Site in the Aldine community.

As of May 2005, the Weed & Seed Program is credited with arresting 2,662 felony suspects and 4,153 misdemeanor suspects; clearing 7,126 warrants; seizing \$782,186 in cash; taking 221 firearms from the hands of criminals and removing over \$20 million drugs and narcotics from the Aldine community.³

This program is highly effective in promoting community and economic revitalization. There is often a stigma associated with a community's designation as a Weed & Seed community as being unsafe, dangerous, an improper place to raise families; and a bad place to start a business. Yet, the negative connotations far outweigh the benefits a community receives – economic reinvestment; a greater police presence; and a renewed interest in community involvement. The Airline Improvement District should investigate the possibilities of having the community designated as a Weed & Seed target area.

Fire Services

The Little York Volunteer Fire Department – Station 81 serves the Airline community. Built in 1996 to protect the southern territory of the 23 square mile Little York Fire District, this station protects the areas of Bellmar, Colonial Hills, West Point Estates, Fallbrook, Northline Terrace, Ridge Point, Bluebell Village, and portions of Interstate 45. Located at the intersection of Mading Lane and Airline Drive (10410 Airline Drive), Station 81 has sixteen full-time and part-time fire/EMS personnel and support staff. Station 81 provides fire protection/prevention services, hazardous materials responses, search and rescue operations, and extrication services to residents within its territory.

³ Harris County Sheriff's Department. (2005). *Weed & Seed Receive Humble Area Chamber of Commerce Award*. Accessed December 14, 2005 from Harris County Sheriff Department Web site: <http://www.hsco.hctx.net/recognition.asp?dist=2>

Picture 5.5: Little York Volunteer Fire Department



Source: Little York Fire Department Website, 2005 ⁴

The Little York Volunteer Fire Department currently has an Insurance Services Office, Public Protection Classification System (ISO) rating of 6. The ISO rating determines what residents will pay for the fire protection portion of their homeowner's insurance. The best rating is 1 (exemplary fire protection) and the worst is 10 (an area's fire-suppression system does not meet ISO's minimum criteria). Areas with mixed urban and rural land use, such as the Little York Fire District, receive two ratings. Little York is rated 6/9, urban and rural, respectively. This rating measures the major elements of the fire district's suppression system. The classification/rating is divided into three major categories: (50 percent) fire department organization in the area; (40 percent) water supply system in the area; and (10 percent) receiving and handling fire alarms.

Clearly, this rating indicates that Airline homeowners are paying substantially higher property insurance premiums than communities that have achieved higher ISO ratings. The Airline community can benefit economically if the Little York Fire District improves its ISO rating. Homeowners and businesses in the community often save money on their insurance premiums if a fire district improves its rating. If property owners spend their discretionary income in the community, the extra cash can improve the local economy. Additionally, communities with improved fire protection may find it easier to attract new businesses, thus increasing employment opportunities and further improving the economy.

⁴ Little York Volunteer Fire Department. (2005). Accessed August 3, 2005 from the Little York Volunteer Fire Department Web site: <http://www.littleyorkvfd.com/apparatus.htm>

Education

The Airline community is home to twelve early childhood/pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high schools. Of the twelve schools, only five are directly situated in the Airline community. The balance of schools is not located in the target area, but children from the target area attend their campuses.

The Airline community is home to two school districts: Aldine Independent School District and Houston Independent School District. The Aldine Independent School District (AISD) covers 111 square miles of Harris County. The AISD campuses serving the Airline community include: Bussey Elementary, Carroll Academy, Keeble Early Childhood/Pre-Kindergarten School, Odom Elementary, Stovall Middle School, Aldine 9th Grade School and Aldine High School. With a student population steadily increasing and an enrollment of more than 58,000 students; it is one of the twelve largest school districts in Texas. The district serves a diverse population: 56.5 percent Hispanic/Latino; 33.4 percent African-American/Black; 7.3 percent White; 2.6 percent Asian/Pacific Islander; and 0.8 percent Native American. Aldine Independent School District ranks among the state's highest performing school district. It earned a *Recognized* accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency for the 2004 – 2005 school year, an honor it has maintained since the late 1990s. During the 2003 – 2004 and 2004 – 2005 school years, AISD was named one of five finalists for the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The Broad Prize is awarded to an urban school district making the greatest overall improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps across all ethnic and income groups.

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) is the largest public school system in Texas and the seventh largest school system in the United States. HISD operates 302 campuses and educational programs within a 301 square mile area. The HISD campuses serving the Airline community include: Barrick Elementary, Moreno Elementary, Fonville Middle School, Patrick Henry Middle School, and Sam Houston High School. HISD educates over 210,000 students within the greater Houston metropolitan area. The district serves a diverse population: 58 percent Hispanic/Latino; 30 percent African-American/Black; 9 percent White; and 3 percent Asian/Pacific Islander. HISD also serves more than 60,000 students whose first language is not English. HISD is rated *Acceptable* by the Texas Education Agency. In 2002, the Broad Foundation declared HISD to be the top-performing urban school district in the nation and the winner of the inaugural Broad Prize for Urban Education.

Table 4.4 provides an assessment of the Airline schools. It is important to note the passing percentages for all tests of the TAKS Assessment. The TAKS Tests measures the connection between curriculum and application of core subject areas. The high percentage of low-income students enrolled in the schools is indicative of both school districts' commitment to greater academic achievement for economically disadvantaged students and developing strategies to assist more students in completing high school.

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Several junior and community colleges are located in proximity to the Airline community: San Jacinto Community College, Houston Community College (HCC) – Northeast Campus, HCC – Northline Mall Campus, HCC – Automotive Technology Training Center, North Harris College, and North Harris College – Carver Center. These institutions offer Associate's degrees and certifications in architecture, education, social sciences, business management and administration, accounting, computer science, automotive technology, and a host of other fields.

Several campuses offer Adult Education programs in English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education, and General Educational Development. Workforce Education Programs are also offered to individuals interested in developing and enhancing their job skills; training for a new career; or starting a business.

School administrators from AISD and HISD at the August 2005 Educator's Meeting discussed the need for greater police traffic control during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up of students and patrols along major thoroughfares in the community. An administrator from Keeble EC/PK (AISD) addressed the need for larger and more visible signage of school zones along W. Gulf Bank Road. An administrator from Bussey Elementary (AISD) commented on the lack of pedestrian crossings for students and parents. Administrators from Sam Houston High School (HISD) commented about the lack of streetlights, police patrol and the use of the railroad during school hours that disrupts classroom instruction and poses as a safety hazard for students that must cross the railroad to attend school.

Administrators also conferred about the lack of active and passive park space for students. Middle school and high school administrators frequently discussed the dearth of social activities and community centers for adolescents and teenagers. Administrators suggested pregnancy education for adolescents and teenagers, gang violence and prevention programs, health education for students and parents, and more interaction between senior citizens and adolescents and teenagers.

Transportation and stormwater drainage issues were also discussed among school administrators. Administrators from Carroll Academy and Keeble EC/PK discussed the TXDOT expansion of W. Gulf Bank Road and its effects on morning and afternoon commutes for teachers, parents, students, and residents. Administrators also discussed the flooding issues on W. Gulf Bank and Interstate 45. The flooding in this area stops traffic along this major thoroughfare and prevents traffic from flowing freely. Administrators also questioned the stormwater drainage plans that TXDOT and the Harris County Flood Control District have for the Airline community as Interstate 45 and other major thoroughfares will be expanding in the coming years.

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Table 5 .4: Schools in Airline Target Area & Airline Improvement District

School	District	Grades	2004 Enrollment	2004 TAKS: Passing Percentage (All Tests)	2003 TAKS: Passing Percentage (All Tests)	2004 TEA Rating	Low Income
Barrick Elementary	HISD	PK-5	908	78%	63%	A	94.60%
Bussey Elementary	AISD	K-4	883	74%	N/A	R	88.70%
Carroll Academy	AISD	K-5	968	74%	65%	R	81.60%
Keeble EC/PK	AISD	EE-PK	699	N/A	N/A	N/A	92.10%
*Moreno Elementary	HISD	K-5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Odom Elementary	AISD	K-4	786	80%	66%	R	82.30%
Fonville Middle School	HISD	6-8	1,237	41%	34%	A	84.90%
Patrick Henry Middle School	HISD	6-8	1,196	49%	34%	A	97.60%
Stovall Middle School	AISD	7-8	1,130	63%	63%	A	81.40%
Aldine 9th Grade School	AISD	9	901	66%	63%	A	73.60%
Aldine High School	AISD	9-12	2,203	48%	34%	A	68.70%
Sam Houston High School	HISD	9-12	2,897	29%	19%	U	88.00%

**School did not open until August 2005*

A- Acceptable; R - Recognized; U - Unsatisfactory

N/A – Not Applicable

Source: Texas Education Agency, 2005

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been suggested to ensure that community facilities and public services meet current and future residents' needs and contribute to an enhanced quality of life.

1. Weed and Seed Program

The Weed & Seed Program is a strategy designed to couple law enforcement and community revitalization to weed out violent crime, gang activity, and drug use and seed the area with economic and social revitalization. To receive designation as a Weed & Seed community:

- The Airline Improvement District must research, apply, and receive official designation from the Department of Justice
- Contact Aldine Weed & Seed Program to identify successes and challenges of the program
- Contact Precinct One Community Liaison, Harris County Sheriff's Department, LISC, local businesses, civic associations, schools, and churches to build consensus for the designation and subsequent projects
- Identify and research types of activities to include in revitalization strategy: neighborhood cleanup, increased safety activities, community storefront, drug rehabilitation program, after school programs; neighborhood beautification, leadership development, gang prevention
- (Year 2) Upon receiving official designation, identify programs that will be implemented and submit application to the Department of Justice for funding
- (Year 3) Upon award notification, set-up:
 1. Youth Program
 2. Drug Treatment Program
 3. Local Health Organization
 4. Gang Task Force
 5. Anger Management Programs
 6. Teen Violence Initiatives

2. National Night Out

National Night Out must be a yearly event for the Airline community. This event illustrates the trust and faith the community has in community policing, patrolling of the officers in the District and the community's effort to make the neighborhood and schools safer. This event must be advertised to include ALL of the Airline Improvement District so that all residents feel they have equity in the success or failure of the community. To implement a successful annual National Night Out:

- Organize a community event that enables business, residents and law enforcement to interact with each other
 1. Block Party
 2. Cookout
 3. Visit from local law enforcement

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4. Parades, exhibits
 5. Contests
 6. Youth events
 7. Flashlight walks
- Register with the National Night Out Organization (National Association of Town Watch) to receive promotional materials, tips, guidelines, etc.

3. Nuisance Abatement Officers

In enforcement of the Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Act and in collaboration Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services, the Nuisance Abatement Officers will work in tandem with the residents to promote public safety. The officers will:

- Patrol the Airline Improvement District regularly (daily, weekly, biweekly or monthly) and file complaints on behalf of residents with the Consumer Health Section of the Harris County Health Department.
- Work with residents, property owners, health inspectors to abate nuisances (possibly before filing a complaint)
- Assist in criminal prosecution (if necessary)

4. Hiring Contract Deputies to Patrol the District

Crime prevention is an issue in Airline. Simply increasing the number of police officers does not prevent crime. Increases in police presence must be coordinated with an effort whereby residents come to legitimately trust police officers. Therefore, to reduce crime in the Airline community:

- Increased direct patrols in Airline Improvement District hot-spots of crime (Airline Drive on weekends to control criminal element and mischief with the flea markets)
- Proactive arrests of serious repeat offenders
- Proactive drunk driving arrests
- Zero tolerance strategies, whereby nonviolent crime such as vandalism and loitering are enforced and punished
- Increasing the range of crimes for which police may issue citations rather than making an arrest (which takes police off the street)

5. Deputies patrolling school traffic

To combat traffic violations (speeding, pedestrian right of way) and ease traffic flow (particularly along Gulf Bank Rd. with all of the impending construction and the September 2005 death of the student at Bussey Elementary) in school zones, police patrol of school traffic is needed. School zone patrolling must include:

- Zero tolerance for speeding in schools zones, pedestrian right of way, and school bus violators
- Working in collaboration with parents volunteering as crossing guards
- Discuss where deputies should be targeted (should they be at all schools in the Airline Improvement District, only at intersections without traffic signals or four way stops)

6. Locate new parks in Airline

Parks and greenspace beautify communities, reduce drainage and flooding problems, improve residential pride and provide children with recreational opportunities. The National Recreation and Park Association recommend 6.25 to 10.5 acres of park space per 1,000 persons. The Airline community does not have the recommended acreage of park space. To locate new parks in Airline:

- Meet with Precinct One to discuss the process for a park development
- Investigate locations for new parks in the Airline Improvement District
- Seek funds from local, state, and federal agencies, businesses, donations or have fundraiser to fund park construction
- Partner with STOA/Golemon/Bolullo Architects or another regional architecture firm to design park

7. Locate squirt parks in community

A squirt park provides community children with the amenities of a water park without the liability of a pool. To set up a squirt park:

- Discuss the possibility of developing a water/squirt park in Airline with local leaders
- Decide on a location for the squirt park
- Locate funds from local, state, and federal agencies; local businesses; have fundraisers to fund park construction
- Partner with STOA/Golemon/Bolullo Architects or another regional architecture firm to design park

8. Locate SPARK parks in community

Designed to increase park space in the greater Houston area, a spark park is a neighborhood park developed on public school grounds. Many have a public art component that is reflective of the neighborhood, a specific theme, the school mascot, or school motto. To set up a spark park:

- Meet with local school district leaders, PTO/PTAs, the Airline Improvement District and interested residents to discuss the development of a SPARK Park
- Contact City of Houston Mayor's Office – SPARK Park Coordinator, Kathleen Ownby, to discuss application process of siting SPARK park(s) in Airline community
- Have school principal send letter of interest to SPARK Park program
- Discuss the construction process and funding opportunities available and create a finance plan
- Coordinate community support and partnerships for parks with AISD, HISD, civic groups, concerned citizens and PTA/PTO groups
- Decide on a location for the spark park
- Locate funds from local, state, and federal agencies; local businesses; have fundraisers to fund park construction
- Partner with STOA/Golemon/Bolullo Architects or another regional architecture firm to design park

9. Purchase land from locally unwanted land users (LULUs)

Locating salvage yards in close proximity to residential homes in Airline increased over the years. Area planning efforts and development agreements with property owners will aid in preventing the development of more salvage yards. Property rights are paramount in Harris County and the state of Texas. To purchase land from locally unwanted land users:

- Investigate other communities that have worked initiated programs to purchase land from LULUS
- Work closely with the Harris County PID, Permits Department to report property violations

10. Locate a community center in Airline

Community centers are designed to provide mental, physical, emotional and social wellness to area residents. An ideal community center in Airline would be home to intergenerational activities for the youth and seniors, a gymnasium, a pool, space for after-school opportunities, a daycare center, a teen center, aerobics classes, and a community health component. To locate a community center in Airline:

- Meet with local County and regional leaders to discuss development of a community center
- Investigate locations for a community center in the Airline Improvement District
- Seek funds from local, state, and federal agencies, businesses, donations or have fundraiser to fund community center construction
- Partner with STOA/Golemon/Bolullo Architects to design community center at little or no cost

11. Newsletter/website

In an effort to establish the identity/character and unite all of the Airline community, a community newsletter and website should be created. The newsletter and website will be published in addition to the newsletters for Northline Terrace and Bellmar Civic Associations. A newsletter and website will visibly identify the community to itself and other neighborhoods, provide information on upcoming community events (school events, civic association meetings, etc.), recognition of residents; successes, challenges, and improvements in the Improvement District. This newsletter can serve as an advertising mechanism for local businesses in the Improvement District. To develop a newsletter:

- Create a list of available resources that can assist in the development, financing, and distribution of the newsletter
- Establish resources to assist with layout, writing/editing, design, production, cost, and distribution, style, format, and how to distribute and method of distribution (website, mail), and frequency of distribution
- Seek funding from local agencies, non-profit groups, businesses, donations or conduct a fundraiser to subsidize newsletter operations

12. Community Beautification/Identity Project

A Community Beautification Program will strengthen the social fabric and enhance the aesthetic appearance of the Airline community. Community enhancements include: landscaping of medians with trees and flowers, community identifying signage that is inclusive of all residents, murals, gardens, heavy trash/debris pick-up. To implement a community beautification project:

- Decide on scope of project (will the beautification project be target in certain areas or will it be a large event for the entire Improvement District)
- Determine type of beautification (trash clean-up, planting trees, painting homes, gardening work, school/park clean-up)
- Identify partnerships and volunteers (residents, churches, social clubs, youth organizations, Precinct One, HC Sheriff and Constable Departments, business, fraternities and sororities, schools)
- Determine publicity for the event (flyers, school marquees, water bills, community newsletter)
- Determine funding/donations needed for projects
- Frequency of project (quarterly, annually, semi-annually, monthly, seasonal)
- Identify location of beautification project (local park, schools, major thoroughfares)

13. Community Watch/Policing Program (Community Safety Initiative)

Communities are the central institution for fighting crime. The Airline Improvement District must develop and implement a community policing program that focuses on improving police trust and legitimacy to residents for this program to succeed. The Community Safety Initiative (CSI) will build formal long-term relationships between law enforcement, the Airline Improvement District, community /civic associations, and other stakeholders in distressed neighborhoods to reduce persistent crime, disorder, fear, and to revitalize the community. To become a LISC designated CSI site:

1. Degree of opportunity and/or need identified
2. Assess ability of local stakeholders (law enforcement, civic associations, schools, businesses) to devote adequate time and energy to the effort
3. Availability of resources to fund the program
4. Evidence of other local institutional partners (Weed & Seed Program, Harris County Sheriff's Department, civic associations, businesses, etc.)

14. After-school programs, summer and youth mentoring programs

After school and summer programs are designed to help children, adolescents, and teenagers by deterring delinquency and improving self-esteem and academic performance. The activities/programs should:

1. Prevent delinquency by having 3 to 4 hours of adult supervision on afternoons and evenings
2. Structured homework assistance for school children
3. Community based sites or programs that provide regular transportation
4. Target enrollment of students (at risk, African-American or Latino students, boys, girls, etc.) and volunteers

After-school programs to investigate are:

- YMCA
- Aldine ISD
- Houston ISD
- Community centers in the target area and greater community
- Boys Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America
- Possibly develop own after-school programs and/or create partnerships with schools and churches
- Local colleges
- Local churches

Summer Programs to investigate:

- YMCA
- Girl Scouts of America
- Boys Scouts of America
- Harris County Precinct One Street Olympics (Summer Games, Aquatics Programs, 3 on 3 Basketball, Discovery Camp, Environmental Education Program, Northeast Adolescent Program)
- Local colleges
- Local churches
- Local businesses (work study or trade program)
- Local fraternities, sororities, and social clubs

Mentoring programs are designed to address the needs of children, adolescents, and teenagers, including self-esteem, academic performance, truancy, pregnancy, drug abuse/prevention, etc. Programs to investigate include:

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Local fraternities and sororities and other social clubs (Elks, Kiwanis, Masons, local VFW)
- YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club
- Programs at schools
- Developing Airline Improvement District Mentoring Program
- Local colleges
- Local churches
- Local businesses

15. ESL/GED/Employment Training classes

Educational attainment is an important determinant of the earning potential of individuals. Further, a community with highly skilled, specialized employees is a critical factor influencing opportunities for retaining and attracting business development. To implement a GED and job training program in Airline:

- Create partnerships and alliances with organizations and schools that are currently providing ESL, GED, and employee training programs, namely Keeble EC/PK and Cathedral of St. Matthew's Church at Airline Drive and W. Gulf Bank Road)
- Identify a location and instructors to conduct trainings
- Determine time and dates for trainings

16. Senior Citizen Programs

Programs for seniors are designed to maintain their health and independence but provide avenues for social interaction to share hobbies, crafts and talents with their peers and youth. To develop programs for seniors in Airline:

- Identify/create partnerships with organizations that currently have senior programs in the community
- Work with Precinct One to coordinate additional programs or ask for financial assistance to further develop current programs

17. Harris County Sheriff Storefront/Substation

Law enforcement visibility is an integral component to crime deterrence and community trust. It is important to realize that police provide visibility not only when they are working on the streets but also when they are assigned to communities and neighborhoods to perform other tasks besides patrol. To get a sheriff storefront in the Airline community:

- Discuss with Harris County Sheriff's Department and Harris County Precinct One available options/ solutions to acquiring a storefront
- Investigate locations for a Harris County storefront/substation in the community