City Council of New Orleans Criminal Justice Committee Meeting
July 12, 2007
JUSTICE REINVESTMENT CENTRAL CITY

Rebuilding Community in Post-Katrina New Orleans
A CITY IS NOT SIMPLY A COLLECTION OF PEOPLE OR BUILDINGS BUT RATHER A NETWORK OF RELATIONSHIPS
INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELEMENTS OF THESE NETWORKS IS CONSTANTLY EXCHANGED AND PRODUCED WITHIN AND BETWEEN THEM.
INFRASTRUCTURE: “THE BASIC FACILITIES, SERVICES AND INSTALLATIONS NEEDED FOR THE FUNCTIONING OF A COMMUNITY OR A SOCIETY, SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, WATER AND POWER LINES, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING SCHOOLS, POST OFFICES AND PRISONS.”

American Heritage Dictionary
PRISONS ARE PART OF INFRASTRUCTURE, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT IN THE CITY, WE FORGET THEM.

PRISONS AND THE PEOPLE THEY HOUSE ARE PART OF OUR URBAN COMMUNITIES.
PRISON POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES ROSE FROM 200,000 IN 1970 TO UPWARDS OF 2 MILLION PEOPLE IN 2000.
Top: Crime rates form a relatively self-consistent wave of activity.  
Bottom: Incarceration rates remain relatively constant until 1970, when a radical upward trend is driven by policy.
WHO IS INCARCERATED AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

SPECIFIC DATA ABOUT INDIVIDUALS (PRIVACY PROTECTED)

SET IN GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT
WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF INCARCERATION?

NEW ORLEANS 2003-2006
BEFORE AND AFTER KATRINA

TWO KEY CONCEPTS:
MILLION DOLLAR BLOCKS
JUSTICE REINVESTMENT
2003
DATA IN GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT SHOWS PEOPLE IN PRISON ARE HIGHLY CONCENTRATED IN SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS.
PRISON GEOGRAPHIES INTERSECT WITH GEOGRAPHIES OF POVERTY AND RACE.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANNING DISTRICTS</th>
<th>% POPULATION</th>
<th>% POVERTY</th>
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Comparisons expressed as percent of city total
Population and poverty statistics, 2000 Census
Prison admissions, 2003
OVERALL, IT COST $42 MILLION DOLLARS TO IMPRISON PEOPLE FROM NEW ORLEANS IN 2003.
BUT THOSE COSTS ARE NOT DISTRIBUTED EVENLY ACROSS THE CITY. PRISON EXPENDITURES, LIKE PRISONERS, ARE CONCENTRATED IN VERY FEW NEIGHBORHOODS.
CENTRAL CITY HAD 4.0% OF NEW ORLEANS’ POPULATION AND 8.0% OF ITS PRISON ADMISSIONS. IT COST $4,317,200 TO INCARCERE PEOPLE FROM CENTRAL CITY IN 2003.
B.W. COOPER HAD 0.9% OF NEW ORLEANS’ POPULATION AND 3.0% OF ITS PRISON ADMISSIONS. IT COST $1,132,380 TO INCARCERATE PEOPLE FROM B.W. COOPER IN 2003.
IT COST $1,337,800 TO INCARCERATE PEOPLE FROM THIS AREA IN 2003. WE CALL THIS A MILLION DOLLAR NEIGHBORHOOD.
THESE MILLIONS ARE BEING SPENT ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT NOT IN IT.
ON A FINANCIAL SCALE, PRISON CAN BE SAID TO BE THE PREDOMINANT GOVERNING INSTITUTION IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT THE MONEY GOES ELSEWHERE.
AND THE PRISONERS COME HOME. UP TO 50% OF THOSE WHO COME HOME ARE EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO PRISON.
New Orleans Prison Admissions in 2003
NATIONALLY, 650,000 PEOPLE RETURN HOME FROM PRISON EVERY YEAR.
THERE ARE STRATEGIES FOR INTERRUPTING WHAT IS IN EFFECT A CYCLE OF MIGRATION BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THESE NEIGHBORHOODS AND PRISON. WE CALL THIS JUSTICE REINVESTMENT.
2006
SINCE KATRINA, THE SPATIAL PATTERNS OF INHABITATION, CRIME, INCARCERATION, AND PRISONER REENTRY HAVE SHIFTED.
CRIME GEOGRAPHIES LEAD TO CRIME PREVENTION TACTICS.
PRISON GEOGRAPHIES SHOULD LEAD TO JUSTICE REINVESTMENT STRATEGIES.
POST-KATRINA POPULATION IS BEING ESTIMATED BY THE DISTRIBUTION OF UTILITY USAGE.

THE UTILITY MAP SHOWS UNEVEN PATTERNS OF RETURN.
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Comparisons expressed as percent of city total
Population statistics based on utility percentage usage data, UNOP, November 2006 (Algiers is approximated)
Prison admissions, 2006
OVERALL, IT COST $14 MILLION DOLLARS TO IMPRISON PEOPLE FROM NEW ORLEANS IN 2006.
AGAIN THOSE COSTS ARE CONCENTRATED IN VERY FEW NEIGHBORHOODS.
IN 2006, ALTHOUGH ONLY 57% OF ITS POPULATION HAD RETURNED, CENTRAL CITY HAD 5.4% OF NEW ORLEANS’ POPULATION, AND 12.9% OF ITS PRISON ADMISSIONS. IT COST $1,119,220 TO INCARCERATE PEOPLE FROM CENTRAL CITY IN 2006.
EVEN THOUGH ITS PRISON POPULATION HAS SHIFTED LOCATION, CENTRAL CITY STILL SHOWS ONE OF THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS OF PRISON POPULATIONS IN THE CITY.
WHAT IF THE REBUILDING PROCESS WORKED TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES, CHANGE THE PATTERNS OF INCARCERATION, AND BREAK THE CYCLE OF REENTRY AND RETURN TO PRISON?
WOULD THE CITY LOOK DIFFERENT?
WHAT STRUCTURES ARE ALREADY IN PLACE TO INITIATE A JUSTICE REINVESTMENT STRATEGY?
New Orleans Prison Admissions in 2006
existing community institutions and services, and vacant/adjudicated/blighted parcels

produced by the spatial information design lab
GSAPP, Columbia University
ALTHOUGH MANY OF THESE PLACES, INSTITUTIONS, AND SERVICES ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY SEPARATE, THEY CAN BE LINKED IN NEW COMMUNITY NETWORKS.
CONNECTING
HOSPITALS AND CLINICS
SCHOOLS
HOUSING
CULTURE
CIVIC LIFE
CAN RENEW
COMMUNITIES.
IDEA: LINKING HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CLINICS TO OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS (FOOD MARKETS, LIBRARIES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS) IMPROVES HEALTHCARE DELIVERY AND STRENGTHENS NEIGHBORHOODS.
Dr. Karen Desalvo, Director of Covenant House Community Clinic

“Big Hospitals could save $40,000/day if people accessed non-emergency services at a community clinic.”

Dr. Lance Estrada, Orthopedic Surgeon + "Hurricane Katrina Medical Staff Hero"

“Rebuilding a large research center + a community based clinic must happen concurrently, with a relationship between them…”

Paul Ikemire, Director, Phoenix of New Orleans (PNOLA)

“Community clinics work best if they are associated with SOMETHING ELSE beyond a hospital environment- like a church or foodmarket in community-based locations.”
PROPOSAL: CONNECT NEIGHBORHOOD CLINICS, INSTITUTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY, WITH SCHOOLS, SHELTERS, SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CENTERS.
Integrate Van McMurray Park with Service Center & Extend with Pocket Parks

Current

Future

newly developed housing

extension of Van McMurray Park kept permanently
IDEA: SUPPORT O.C HAYLEY BOULEVARD’S EXISTING INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PATTERN TO EXPAND ITS CAPACITY TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF INCARCERATION, REENTRY AND RETURN TO PRISON.
Central City's Oretha Castle Haley Blvd's existing justice-related programs and new infill development, as proposed by the local community development board.
ORETHA CASTLE HAYLEY BOULEVARD IS BEING REVITALIZED, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY, BY **SMALL** CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORIENTED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.
CAFE RECONCILE HAS BECOME A NEIGHBORHOOD HUB, A CITYWIDE EXAMPLE OF SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATION, AND A TRAINING CENTER FOR RECENTLY RELEASED JUVENILES.
THE ASHE CULTURAL CENTER RUNS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUNG PEOPLE.

HALF A DOZEN OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS MAKE THE BOULEVARD VIBRANT.
ORETHA CASTLE HALEY BOULEVARD: POTENTIAL FOR REINVESTMENT
IN 2003 $11,654,000 WAS INVESTED IN ALL OF CENTRAL CITY BY BANKS, WHILE $8,058,000 WAS SPENT HOUSING 510 NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS IN PRISON.
IF THE SAME 510 PEOPLE WERE EMPLOYED AT THE LOW RATE OF $8.00 PER HOUR, IT WOULD COST ROUGHLY THE SAME $8,384,440 DOLLARS. THIS WOULD BE CALLED JUSTICE REINVESTMENT.
IDEA: CONNECTING SCHOOLS TO LOCAL INSTITUTIONS CAN BUILD PERSONAL AND PHYSICAL NETWORKS TO CREATE MORE ROBUST COMMUNITIES.
In 2003, 46% of Central City residents had high school diplomas. All but one school was rated unacceptable.
PERCENTAGE POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY: CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS

SCHOOL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
U Unacceptable
W Warning
★ 1 Star (of 5)

Percentage Population Living in Poverty: Census Block Groups

Produced by the Spatial Information Design Lab
GSAPP, Columbia University
Prison admissions total: 156

School admissions total: 3,765

Produced by the Spatial Information Design Lab
GSAPP, Columbia University
Prison expenditure total (2003):
$5,414,202
Cost per prisoner per year:
$15,800

School expenditure total (2003):
$27,469,440
Cost per student per year:
$7,300
IN 2003 PRISON ADMISIONS WERE 4% OF SCHOOL ADMISSIONS.

PRISON EXPENDITURES WERE 25% OF SCHOOL EXPENDITURES.
SINCE KATRINA, ONLY 3 OUT OF 11 SCHOOLS IN CENTRAL CITY HAVE BEEN REOPENED, WHILE 57% OF ITS POPULATION HAS RETURNED.
PROPOSAL: REOPEN AND TRANSFORM SCHOOLS
EXTEND LEARNING BEYOND THE SCHOOLS.
SPONSOR INSTITUTIONAL LINKS BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOOD ASSETS. CREATE NEW PUBLIC SPACES TO CONNECT SCHOOLS WITH NEIGHBORHOODS AND BUILD COMMUNITY.
KIPP CENTRAL CITY ACADEMY
(Knowledge is Power Program)
opening Fall 2007
nationally, 80% of KIPP students attend college

PUBLIC LIBRARY
proposed by UNOP

Guste Housing

schoolyard gardens developed with PARKWAY PARTNERS

outdoor classrooms

playground
DATA SOURCES:

Prison Admissions Data 2003 provided by: Justice Mapping Center and JFA Institute
Prison Admissions Data 2006 provided by: Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Crime Data 2005-2006 collected from Nola.com
Utilities Data 2006 as percentage of 2005 usage: UNOP
All other data from 2000 US Census, unless otherwise noted.

CREDITS:

This work was produced as part of a larger project:
Rebuilding Community: Linking Prisoner Reentry to Neighborhood Planning in Post-Katrina New Orleans.

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Student Research Fellows: Candy Chang, Andrew Colopy, Leah Meisterlin, Derek Lindner, Julia Molloy

Research Assistant: Cressica Brazier

Selected Design Research: Steve Caputo, Cressica Brazier, Laura Lee, Annie Scheel.

With special thanks to Norris Henderson: Safe Streets, Strong Communities.

The project has been generously funded by the Open Society Institute.
This work builds upon a larger project: Graphical Innovations in Justice Mapping
A collaboration between:
Spatial Information Design Lab,
The Justice Mapping Center,
and the JFA Institute.
Project Directors: Eric Cadora, Laura Kurgan
Research Associates: David Reinfurt, Sarah Williams

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