The Research Bureau

Brown Square Spring 2006 ComNET Review

Independent Research in the Public Interest
www.wrrb.org

What is ComNET?

Computerized Neighborhood Environment Tracking

A systematic process to record the physical conditions in your neighborhood that may require attention.

What's changed since ComNET began?

- ❖ **Citywide, more than 12,700 problem conditions documented since 2001**
    - ▪ **57 surveys in 13 neighborhoods**

- ❖ **Seven out of 10 (69%) of previously documented problems have been resolved**

- ❖ **City and community use data to identify and quantify problems**

- ❖ **Developed proactive approaches to dealing with problems- something gets done**

What Types of Conditions are Tracked?

Abandoned buildings

Abandoned & unregistered vehicles

Buildings- window boarded/broken

Clogged sewers

Crosswalks- fading lines

Broken curbs

Curbs- not level with street

Overflowing dumpsters

Graffiti

Dirty/sandy streets

Litter

Illegal Dumping

Sidewalk trip hazards

Missing street signs

Pot holes in street

Uneven roads

Dead trees

Overgrown vegetation/weeds

ComNET Results: Brown Square

❖ **Initial survey conducted in Spring 2006**

❖ **Future surveys will track status of the 181 problems identified in 2006 and will document any newly identified problems**

Brown Square Results

❖ **181 problem conditions were identified in 1st survey**

❖ **61% of all problems were street and sidewalk issues**

  ▪ **Including potholes, uneven street patching, broken curbs, clogged sewers, etc.**

❖ **Problems are grouped according to whose responsibility it is to address the issue**

  ▪ **More than 2/3 of the problems identified are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works (DPW)**
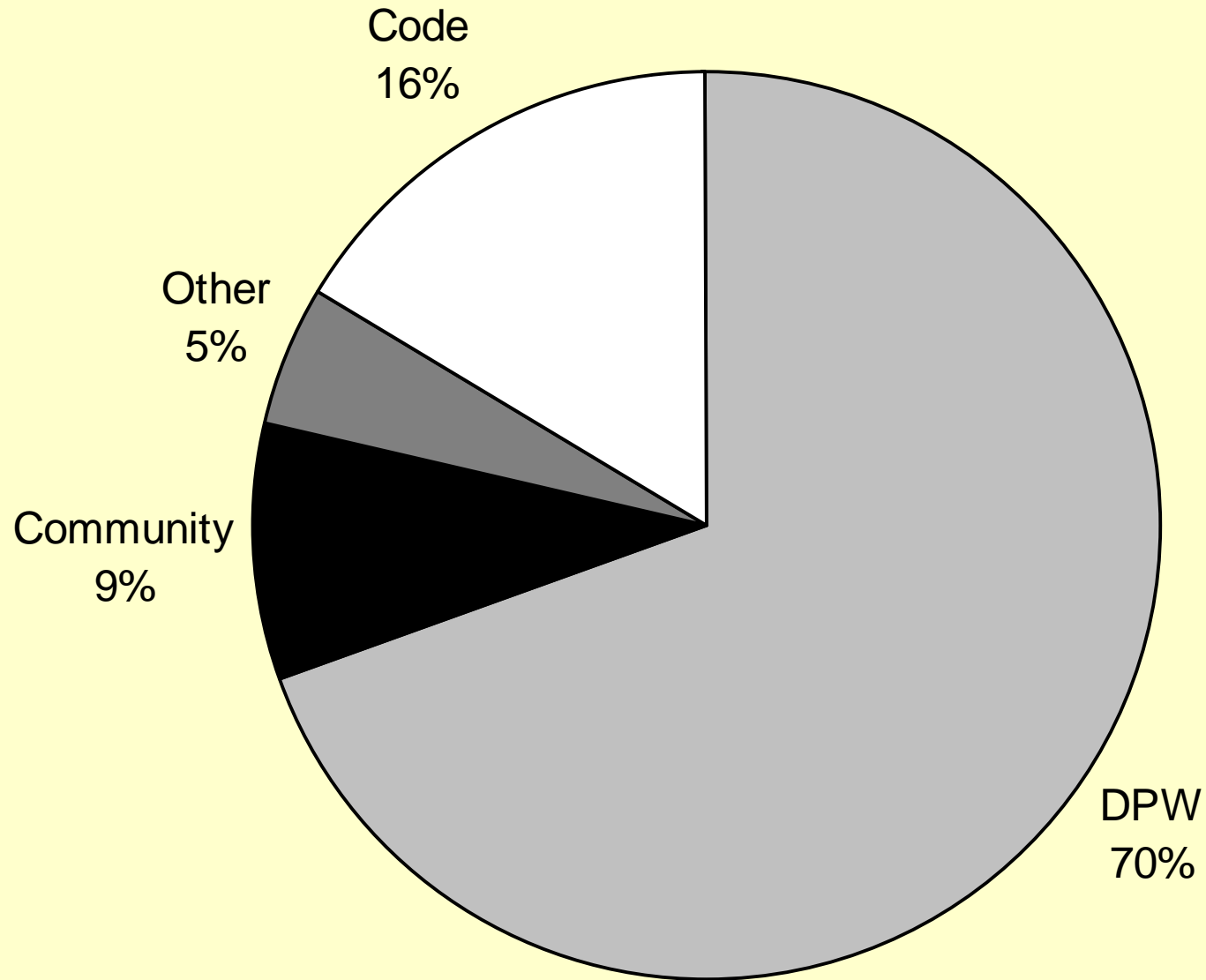
  ▪ **9% of problems are "Community issues"**

Brown Square Results Cont'd

❖**Examples of problems include:**

- **26 sites with litter**

- **5 dumping sites**

- **37 street issues** (potholes, uneven patching, etc.)

- **13 sidewalk trip hazards**

- **9 broken curbs**

Who Is Responsible for these Problems?

Code
16%

Other
5%

Community
9%

DPW
70%

What Happens Next?

❖ **All of the problems recorded that are the responsibility of a City agency will be shared with the appropriate agency, including specific details about each problem and its location.**

❖ **The City then determines how the problems will be addressed. Some of these problems will be addressed more quickly than others.**

Addressing neighborhood problems: Where do we begin?

❖ **Prioritize problems and be realistic – you won't solve everything at once!**

- **What's most important to residents?**

- **What resources are necessary to resolve problems?**

- **Who else do you need to engage? How?**

- **Map out a plan assigning roles, responsibilities, timeline, etc. and keep track of progress.**