

What has Trudy's position been on crime in the City and public housing?

Regarding the consistency of Trudy's positions over time, no one has a more public and consistent record on crime and public housing than she. In 2004, she was instrumental in implementing the first Public Safety Plan between the Housing Authority and the City that called for better policing for public housing, foot patrols and community policing. In 2006, she was responsible for the Robinwood Safety Plan. In 2007-2008, Citizen for Better Annapolis' published reports on crime and housing, which she co-authored. In addition, she has written guest columns and letters to the editor on these subjects where the data and recommendations she has presented have been consistent. She has also made numerous presentations to many neighborhood associations, the City's Public Safety forum, the Capital Editor and staff, church groups and the Mayor and the past and present Chief of Police. This is an extensive written and public record, all of which have consistently advocated the same points, namely:

- Annapolis has a serious crime problem that needs to be dealt with.
- Police should be assigned in relationship to where crime occurs; public housing areas have become soft spots where people from around the region come to buy and sell drugs because these properties have not been adequately policed.
- Public housing is not federal property, but clearly the City's responsibility to police adequately.
- Proactive community policing with foot patrols is needed in targeted areas.
- Modern technologies, including crime data mapping and license plate recognition systems, should be used.

In a Guest Column in the Capital published in February, 2007 Trudy presented data on crime in public housing. As counter intuitive as the results might seem, the following was based on 2006 crime data provided by the Annapolis Police Department:

"A Housing Authority analysis of Annapolis Police Department data from 2006 shows that, last year, only 5 percent of the arrests in the city involved public housing residents. "

"In 2006, 7 percent of all serious crimes in the city occurred on Housing Authority property. The figure is 16 percent when adjacent neighborhoods are added."

"...violent crime and drug offenses are more concentrated on public housing property. Nearly 30 percent of violent crimes (murder, rape and aggravated assaults) and 26 percent of drug arrests are on Housing Authority property."

"...it appears that crimes on Housing Authority property are commonly committed by those who don't even live in the city."

Subsequently, Citizens for a Better Annapolis published a report showing that:

- 11% of arrests in the City were of (legal) public housing residents (from Jan. 2006-Sept. 2007)
- 9.4% of Part I crimes occurred on public housing property
- 29.5% of the more violent Part I crimes occurred on public housing property (in 2006)
- 28% of drug arrests occurred on public housing property (from Jan. 2006-Sept. 2007).

Some have indicated that citing such data has equated to Trudy saying public housing communities are safe. On the contrary, Trudy has never said public housing communities are safe and she has always indicated that more policing is needed.