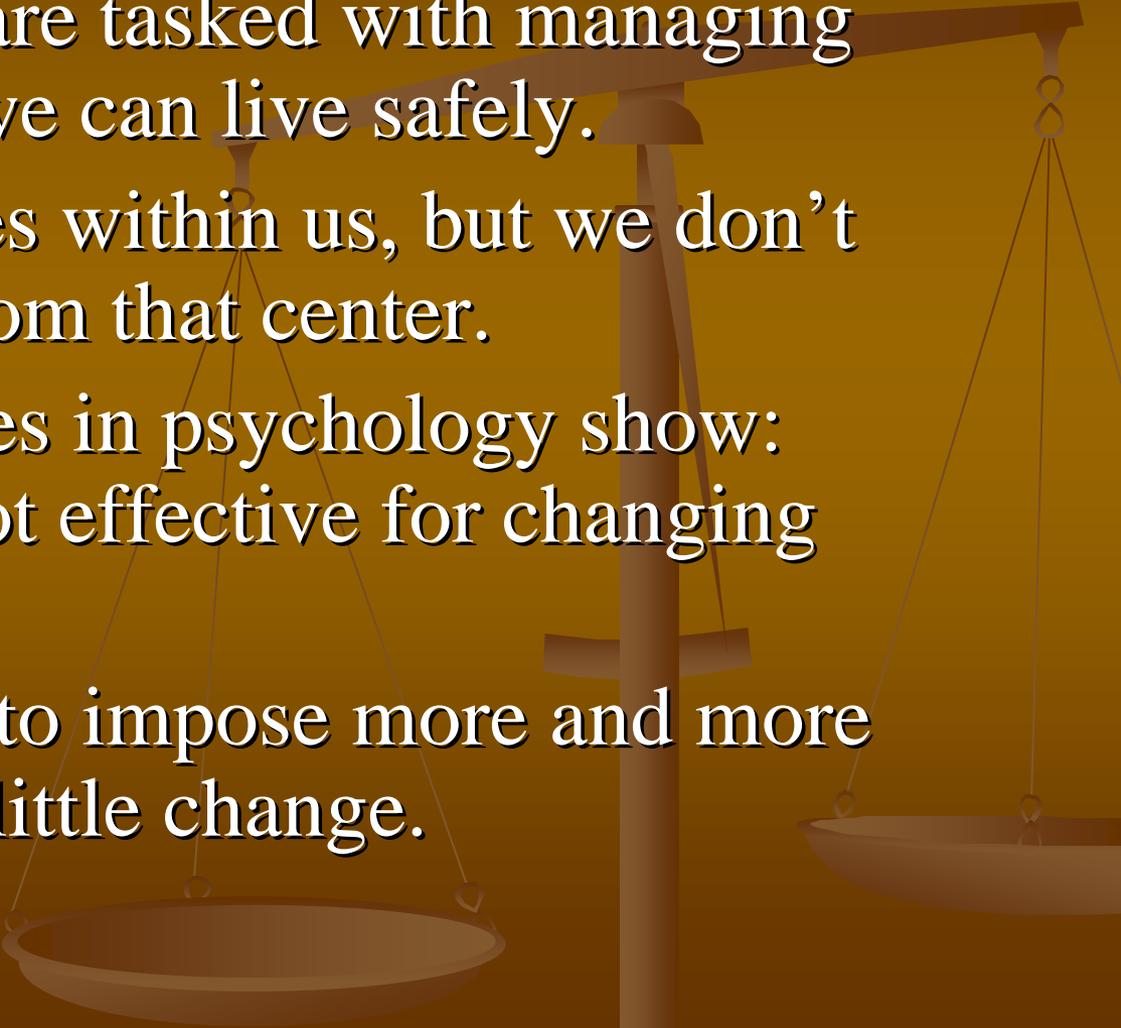




Making Minneapolis a Safe Place to Call Home

A Partnership for
Community Justice:
Restorative Justice and
the City of Minneapolis

A Safe Place to Call Home

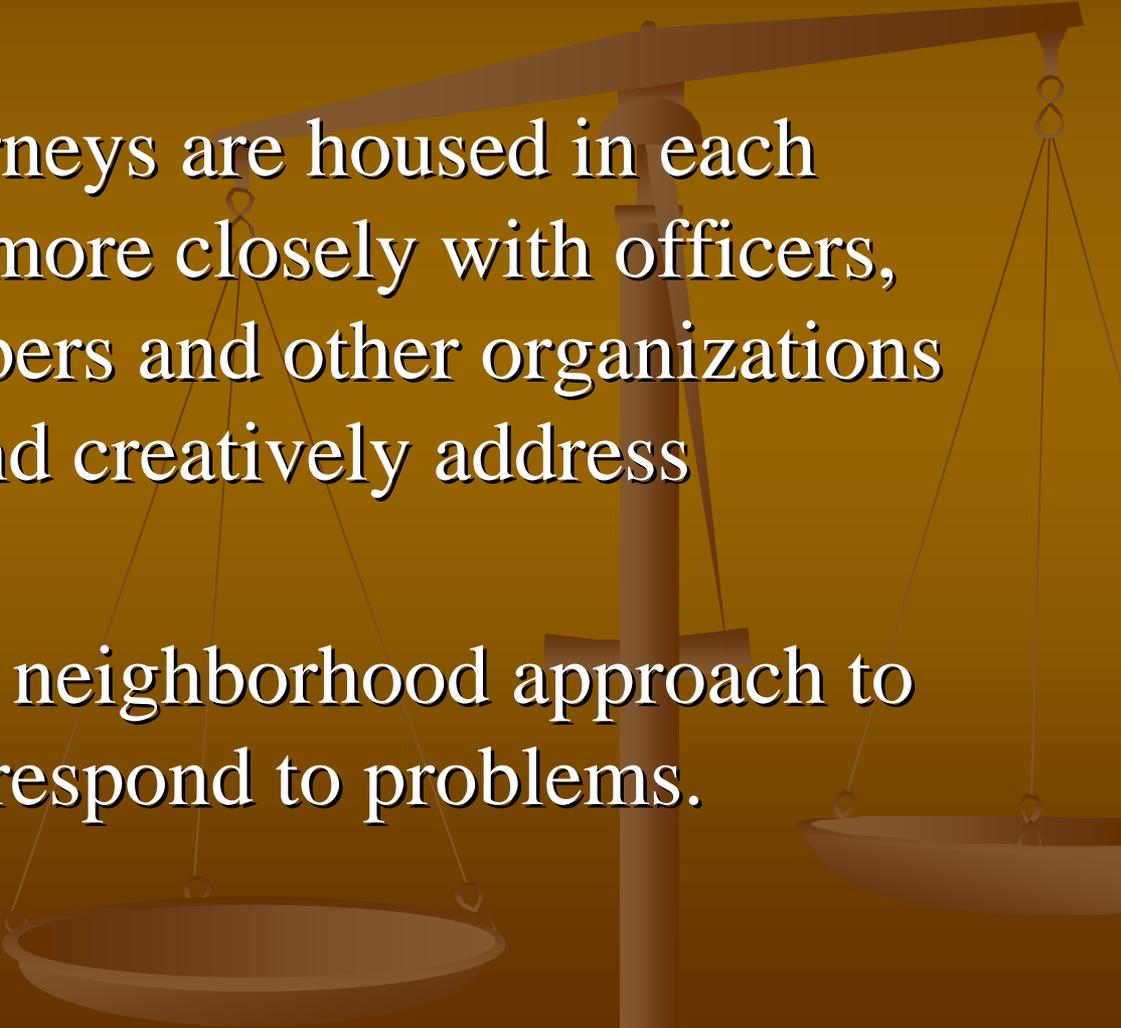
- As a society, we are tasked with managing behavior so that we can live safely.
 - We all have values within us, but we don't always operate from that center.
 - Volumes of studies in psychology show: “punishment is not effective for changing behavior.”
 - Yet, we continue to impose more and more punishment with little change.
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Community Justice

- Community Policing
 - Crime Prevention Specialists
 - Beat Patrols
 - Juvenile Diversion
- Community Prosecution
 - Partnerships
 - Problem Solving
 - Community Involvement
- Community Courts

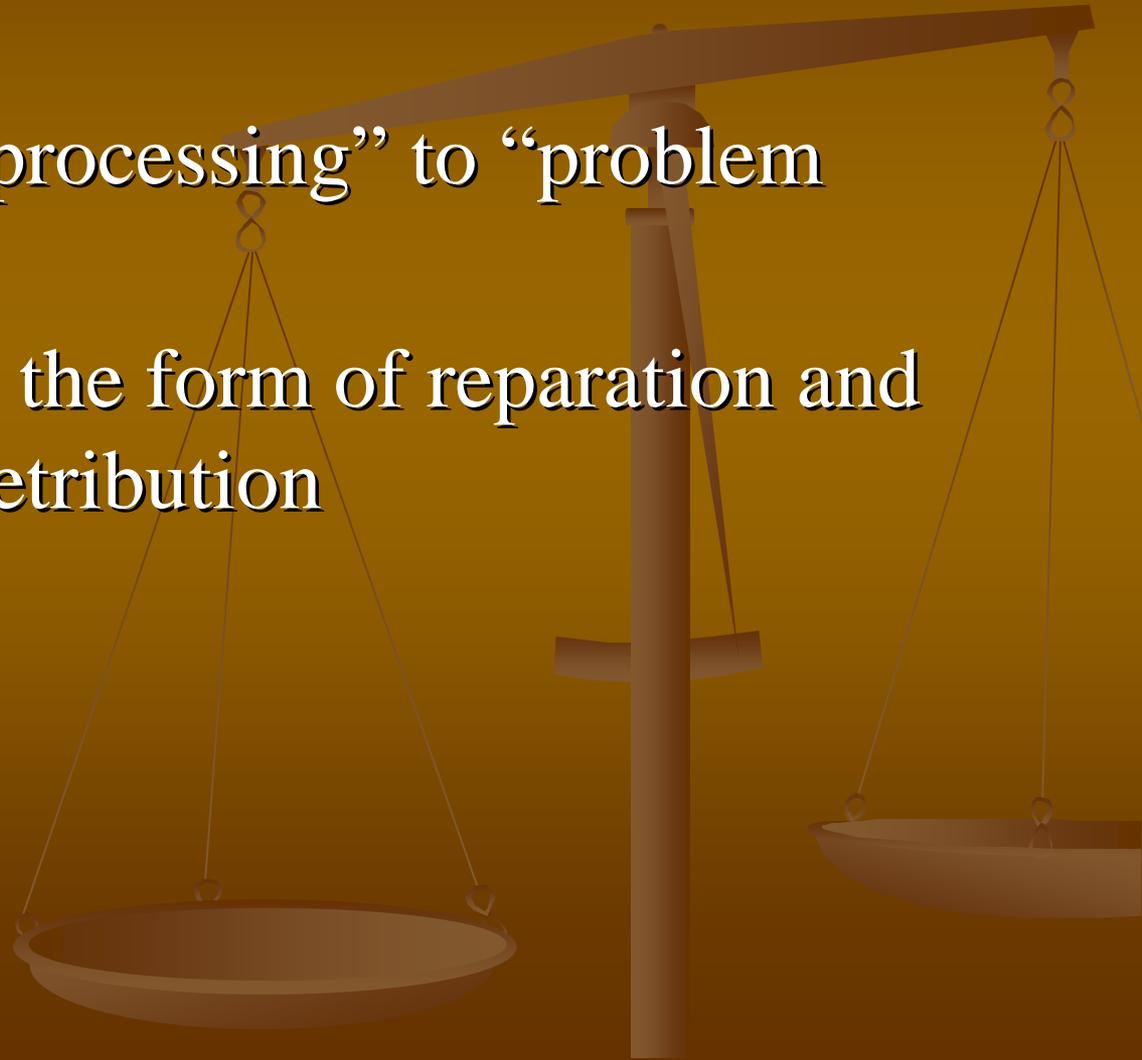


Community Attorney Initiative

- Started in 2002
 - Community Attorneys are housed in each Precinct to work more closely with officers, community members and other organizations to aggressively and creatively address livability crime.
 - Neighborhood by neighborhood approach to help prevent and respond to problems.
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Community Justice in the Form of Restorative Justice

- Shift from “case processing” to “problem solving”
- Accountability in the form of reparation and contribution vs. retribution



A Paradigm Shift

Traditional Justice

The state determines blame (guilt) and imposes pain (punishment).

- *What law was broken?*
- *Who broke it?*
- *What punishment is deserved?*

Restorative Justice

Victims, offenders and community members determine how to make things right (restorative agreement).

- *What harm was done?*
- *What are the needs of those involved?*
- *How can the harm be repaired?*

Restorative Justice is . . .

. . . based upon an old, common sense understanding of wrongdoing:

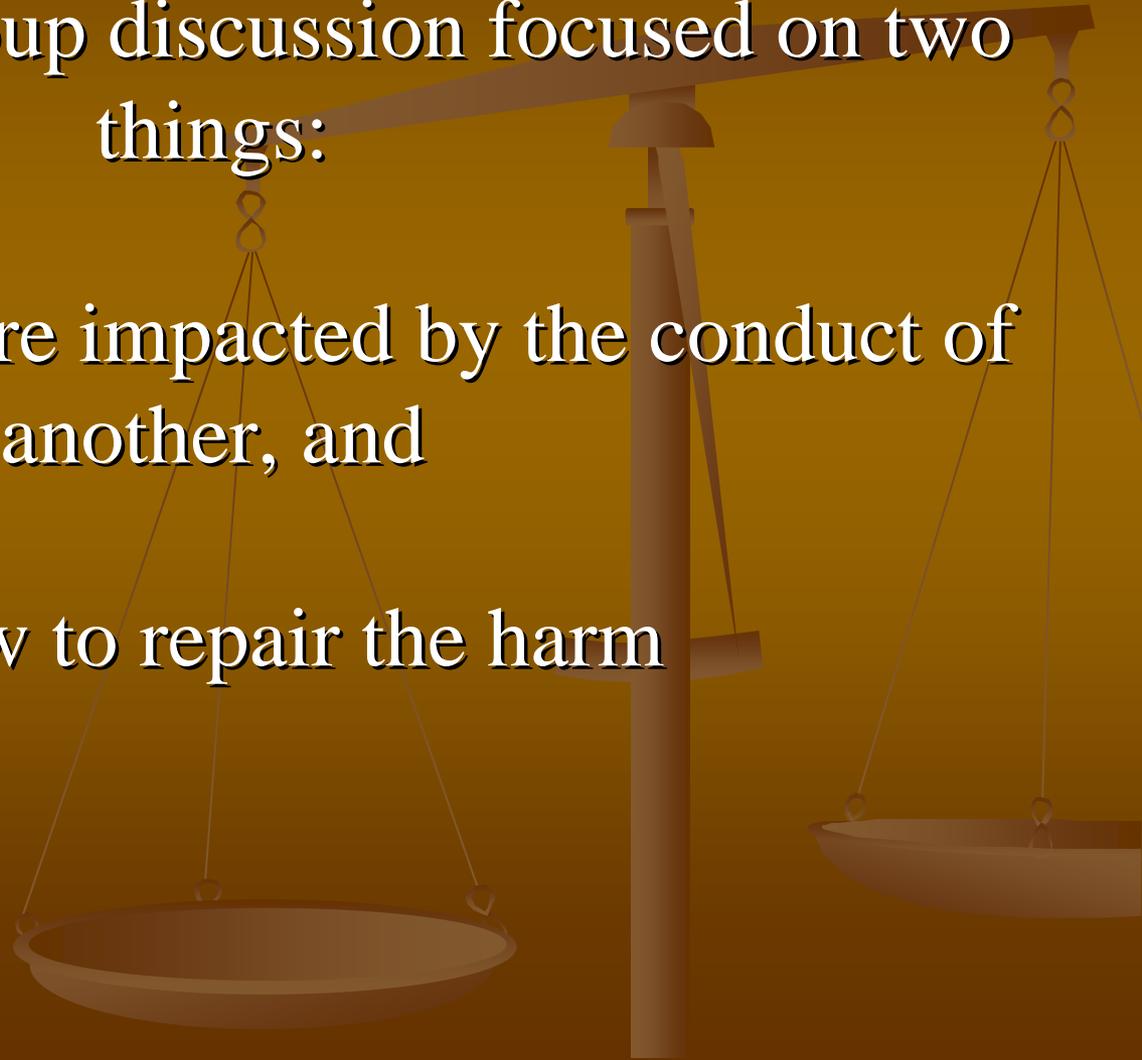
- Crime is a violation of people and interpersonal relationships;
- Violations create obligations;
- Justice involves victims, offenders, and community members in an effort to put things right; and
- The central focus is the victim's needs and offender's responsibility for repairing harm or the obligation to put right the wrongs.

What does it look like?

A guided small group discussion focused on two things:

(1) how people are impacted by the conduct of another, and

(2) how to repair the harm

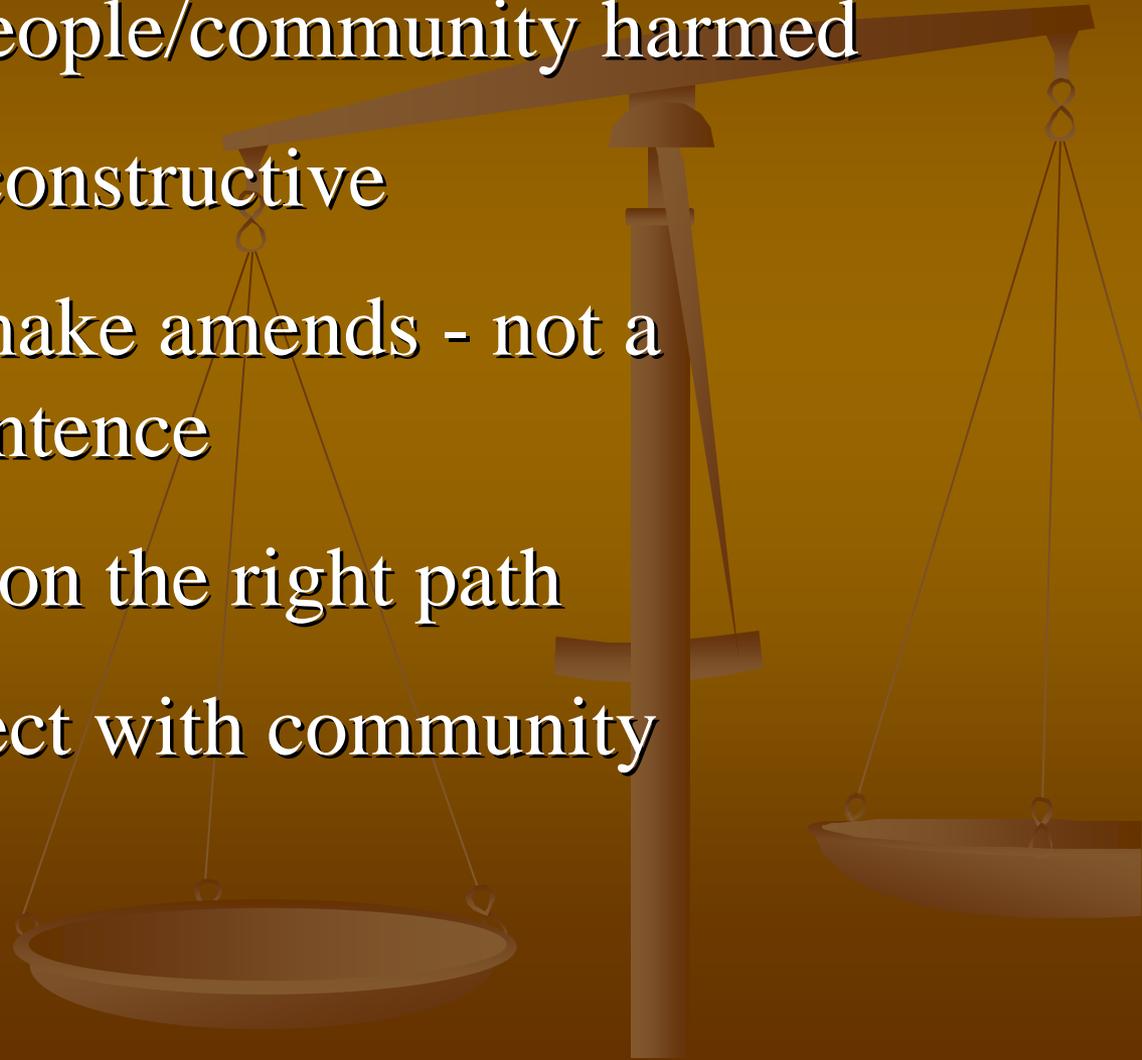


Who Participates?

- People engaged in Minneapolis communities (“Community Members”)
 - People directly impacted by the crime (“Victims”)
 - Those cited with a crime (“Offenders”)
 - Supporters, Advocates, Interpreters
 - Trained volunteer neutral facilitator(s)
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Restorative Agreements

- Goal – Restore people/community harmed
- Meaningful and constructive
- Positive way to make amends - not a punishment or sentence
- Tools for getting on the right path
- Connect/re-connect with community



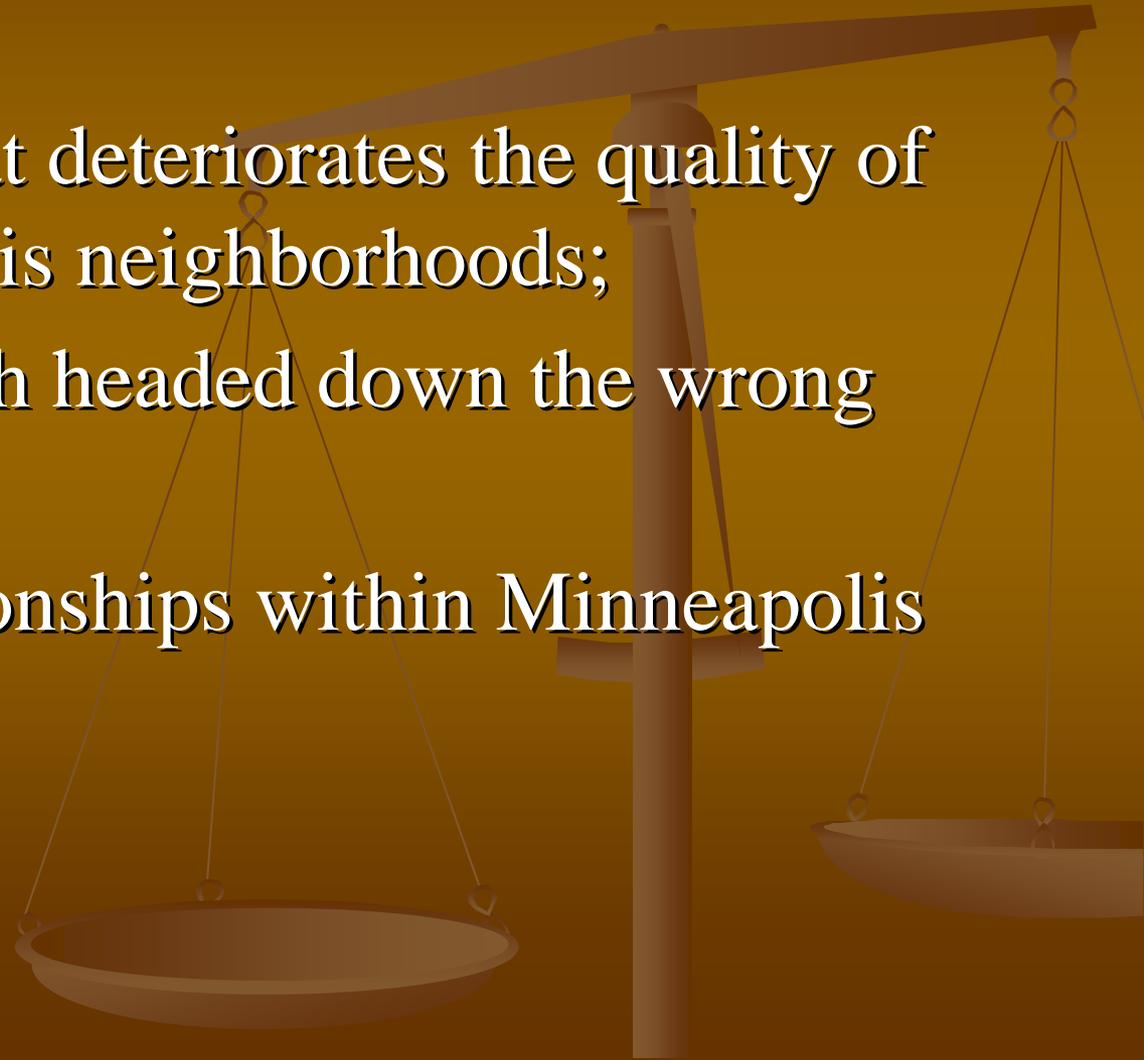
Restorative Justice Outcomes

- Improved accountability for criminal behavior
- Direct benefits to neighborhoods
- Community empowerment
- Community and offender satisfaction
- Potential to reduce crime
- Increased sense of safety in community

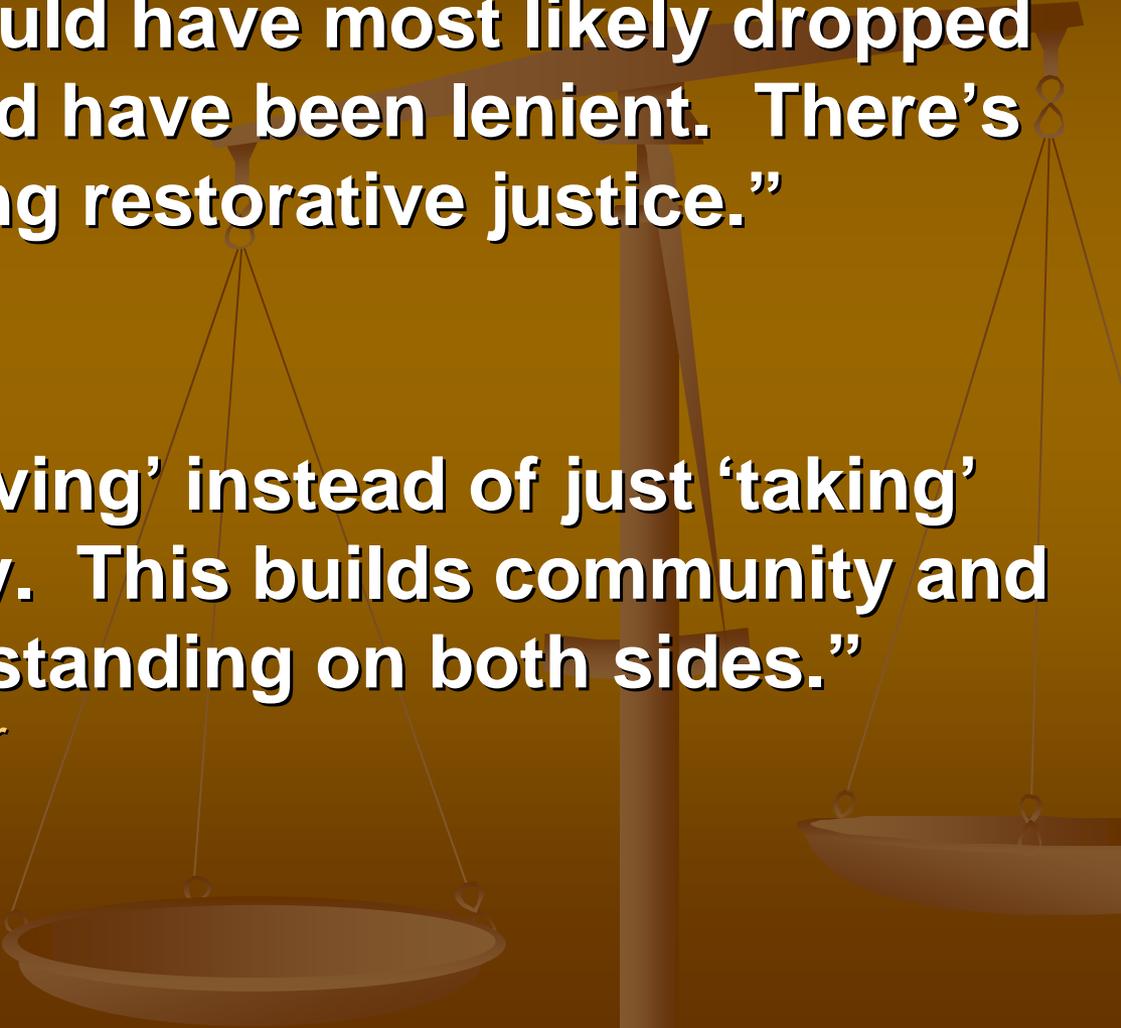


Minneapolis Residents Established Restorative Justice Programs to . . .

- Reduce crime that deteriorates the quality of life in Minneapolis neighborhoods;
- Better serve youth headed down the wrong path;
- Strengthen relationships within Minneapolis communities.



Impact Statements



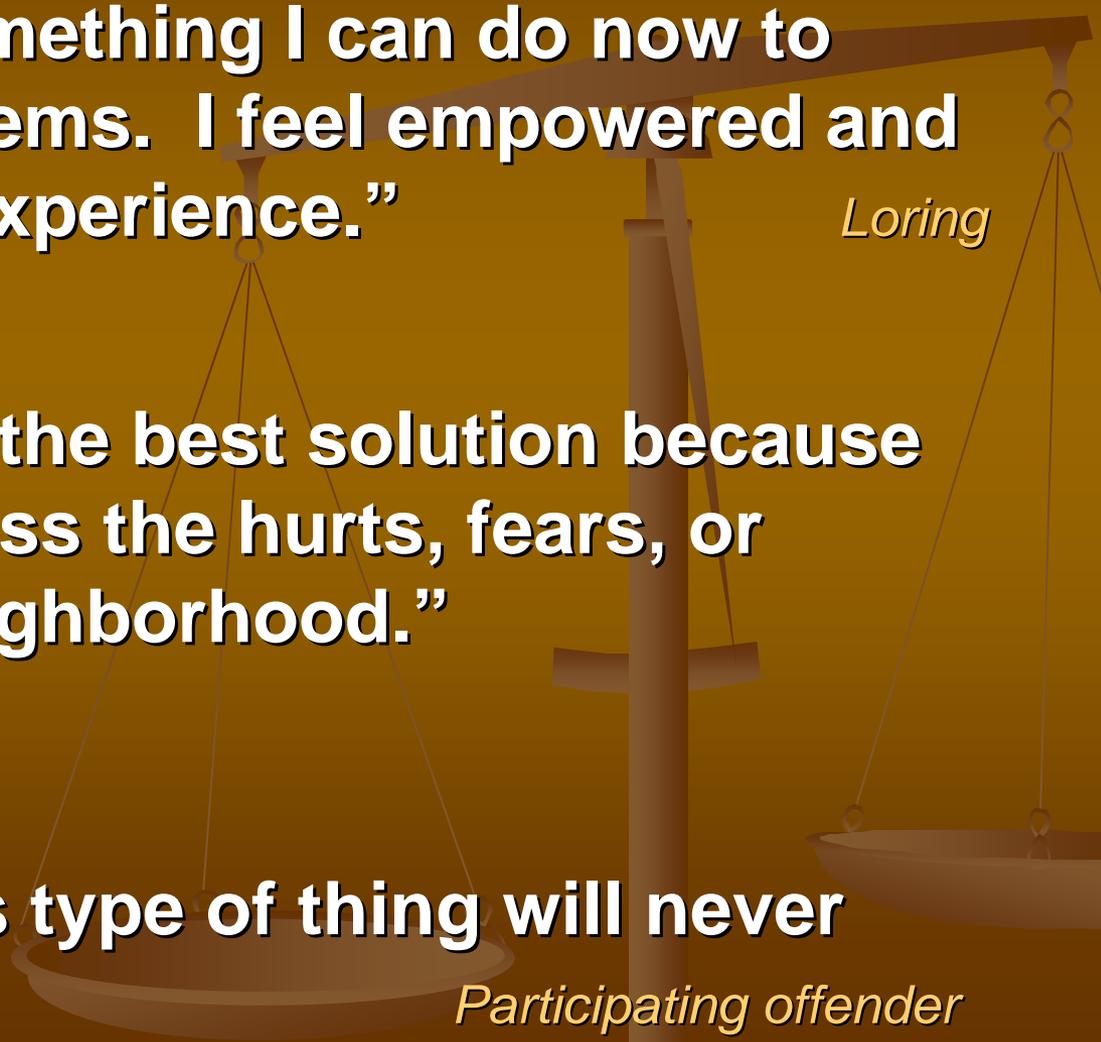
“The court system would have most likely dropped the charges or would have been lenient. There’s a bigger impact using restorative justice.”

Downtown worker

“The offenders are ‘giving’ instead of just ‘taking’ from our community. This builds community and creates more understanding on both sides.”

Elliot Park churchgoer

Impact Statements



“I feel like there is something I can do now to resolve these problems. I feel empowered and vindicated by this experience.”

Park resident

Loring

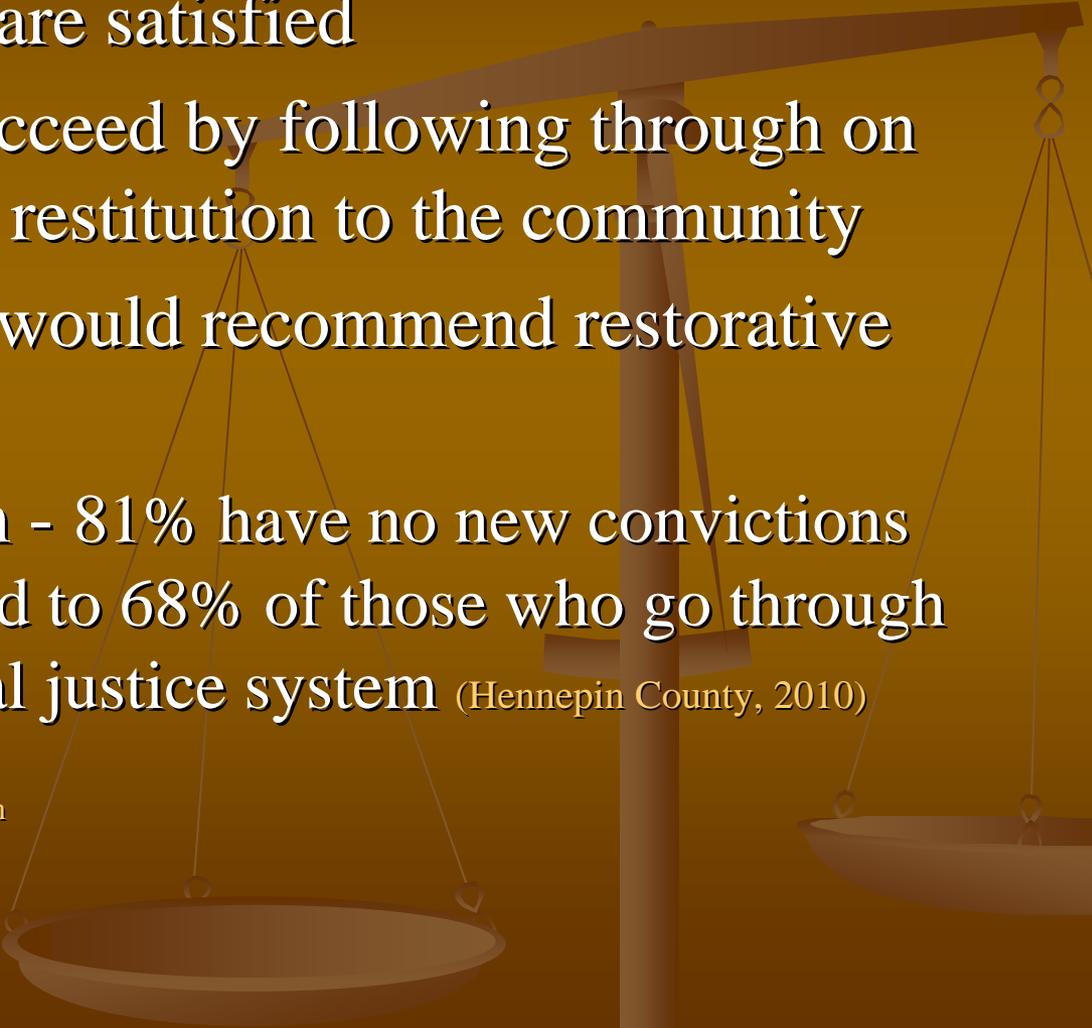
“The conference was the best solution because courts do not address the hurts, fears, or frustrations of a neighborhood.”

Community member

“I assure you that this type of thing will never happen again.”

Participating offender

Show me Results!



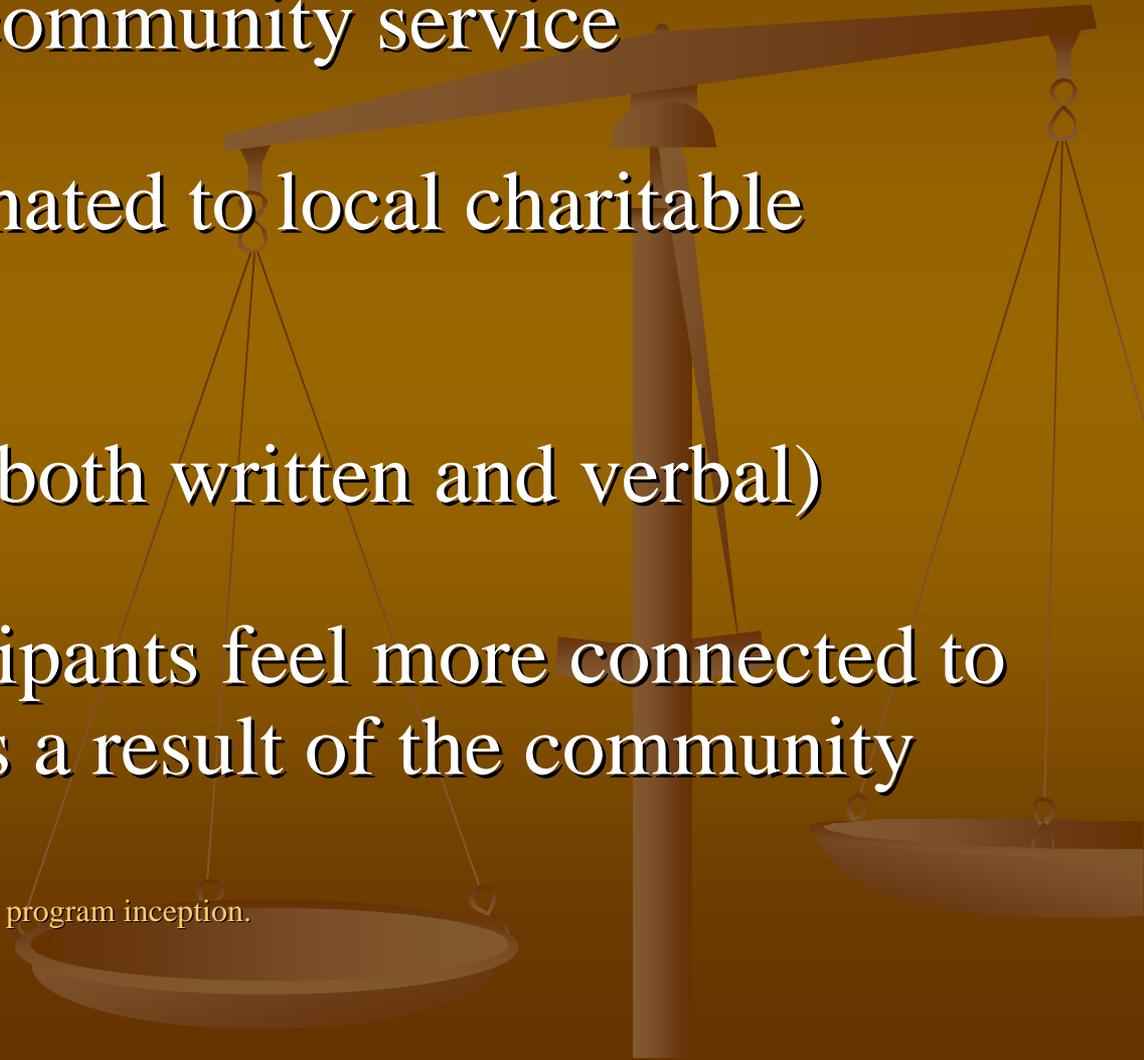
- 96% of participants are satisfied
- 86% of offenders succeed by following through on their agreements for restitution to the community
- 98% of participants would recommend restorative justice to others
- Reduced Recidivism - 81% have no new convictions after 3-years compared to 68% of those who go through the traditional criminal justice system (Hennepin County, 2010)

*Results from Restorative Justice Community Action

Benefits to Minneapolis*

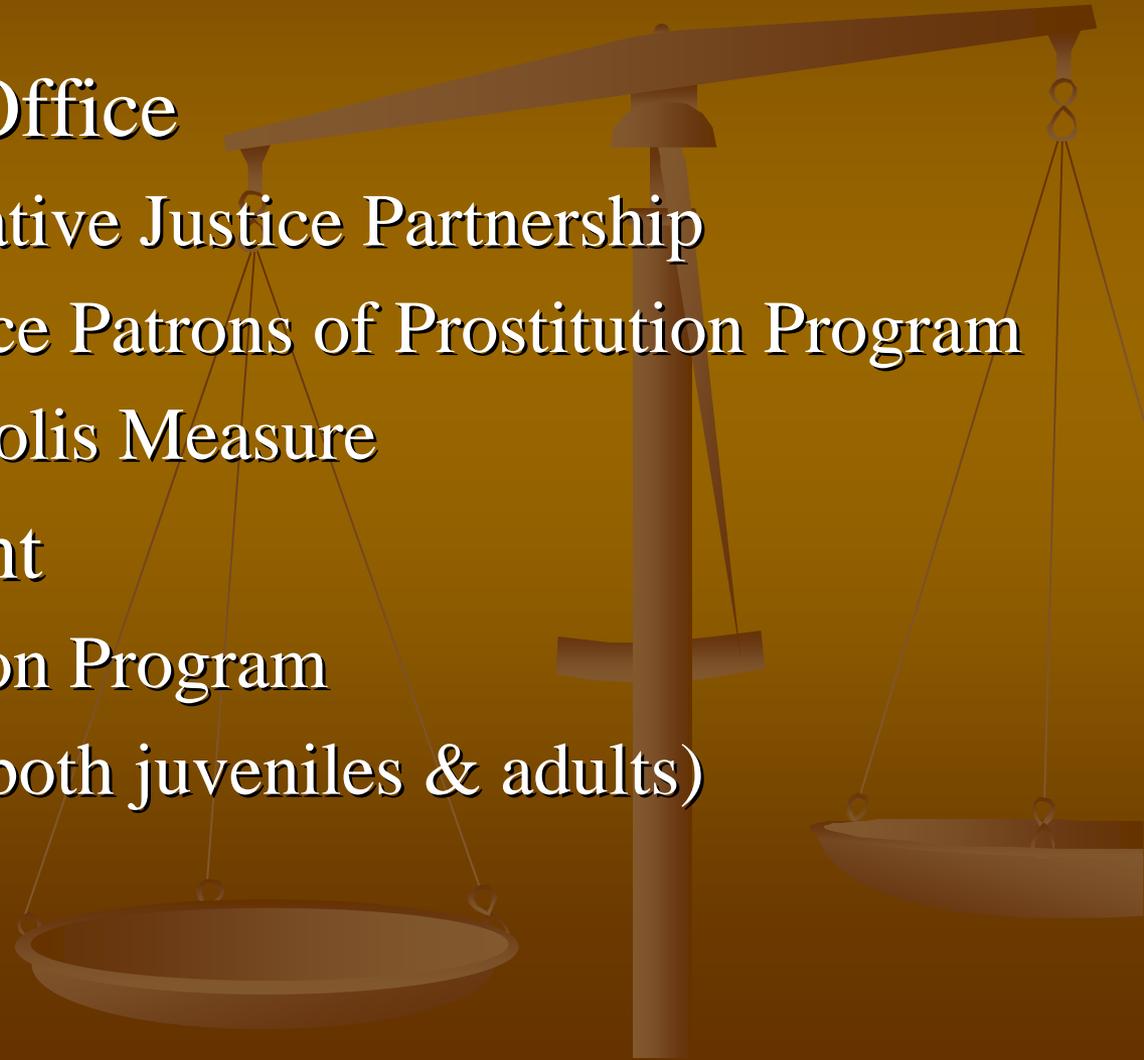
- 17,000 hours of community service
- Over \$18,000 donated to local charitable organizations
- 1,500 apologies (both written and verbal)
- 94% of the participants feel more connected to the community as a result of the community conference

*From Restorative Justice Community Action since program inception.



Restorative Justice Partnerships with the City of Minneapolis

- City Attorney's Office
 - Citywide Restorative Justice Partnership
 - Restorative Justice Patrons of Prostitution Program
 - Results Minneapolis Measure
- Police Department
 - Juvenile Diversion Program
 - Direct Referral (both juveniles & adults)





Questions/Discussion

Thank You!

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