

A panoramic view of the Kansas City skyline, featuring various skyscrapers and buildings. The foreground shows a green lawn, a road, and some trees. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the image, containing the name and title of the Chief of Police.

# **James D. Corwin**

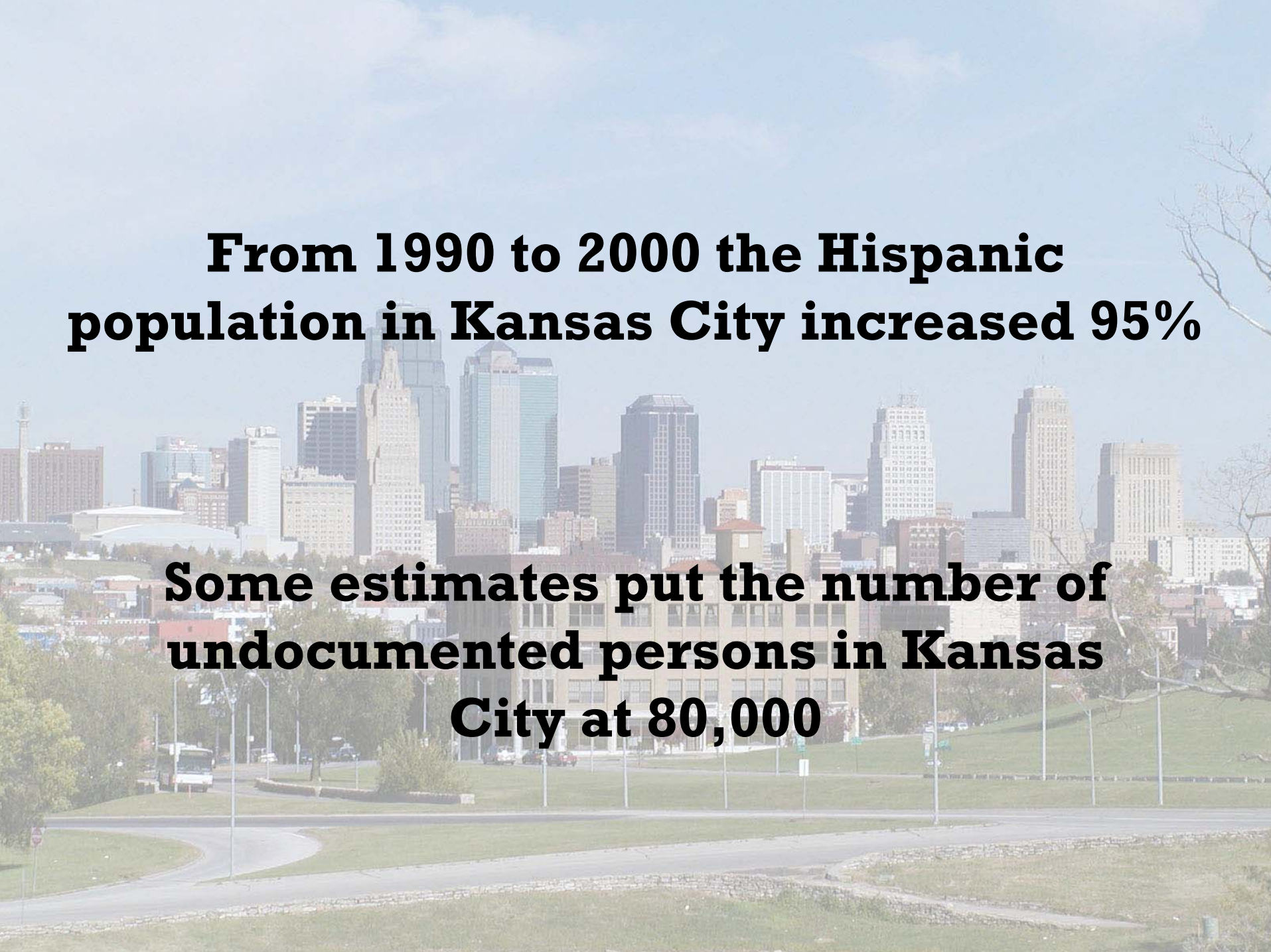
## **Chief of Police**

### **Kansas City, Missouri**

### **Police Department**

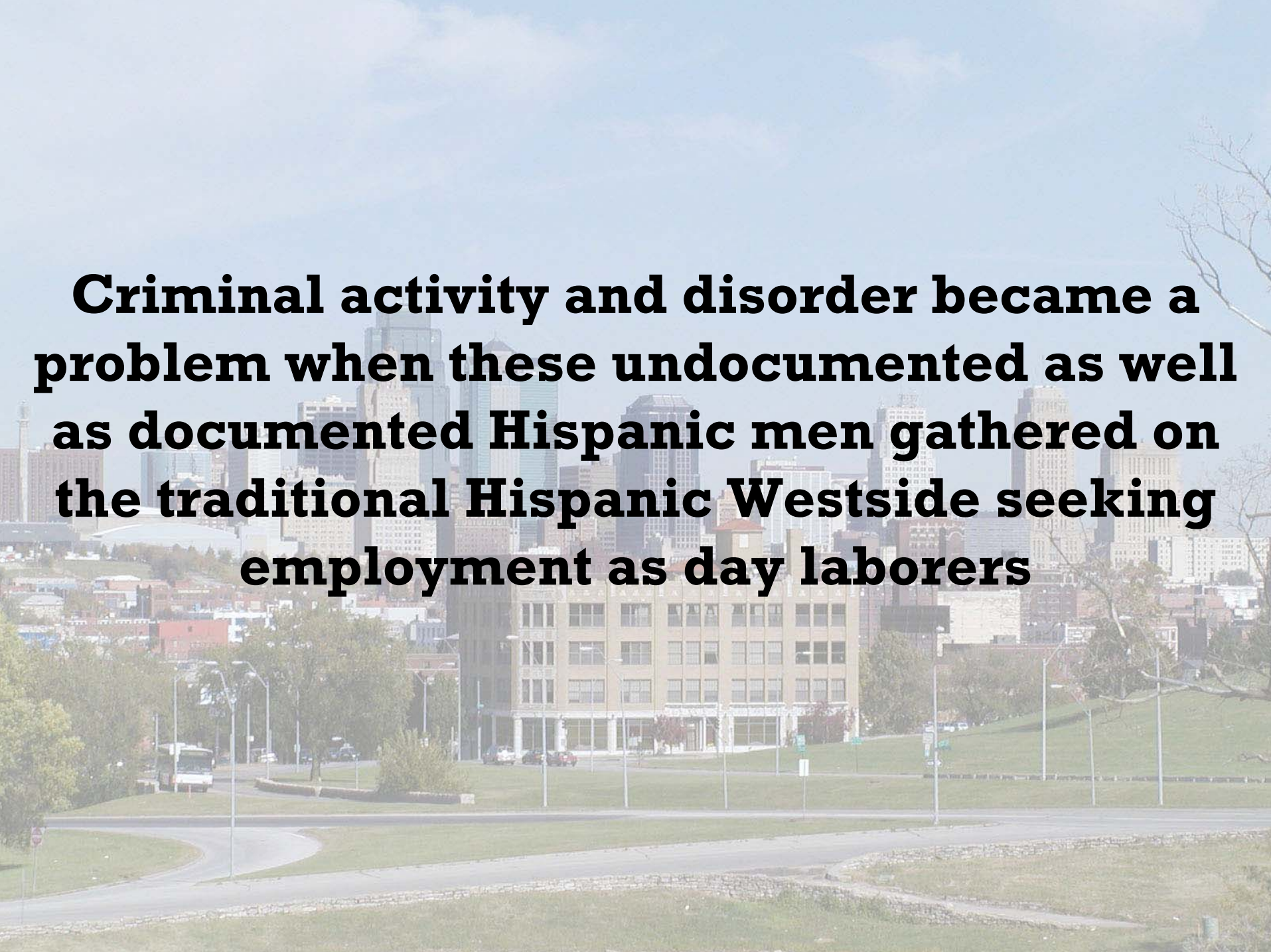


**Day Laborers:  
Improving the Quality of Life  
for Laborers, Employers,  
and Neighbors**



**From 1990 to 2000 the Hispanic population in Kansas City increased 95%**

**Some estimates put the number of undocumented persons in Kansas City at 80,000**

A photograph of a cityscape, likely New York City, viewed from an elevated position. In the foreground, there is a large, multi-story, light-colored building with many windows, possibly a university or government building. The building is surrounded by green grass and some trees. In the background, a dense skyline of skyscrapers is visible under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Criminal activity and disorder became a problem when these undocumented as well as documented Hispanic men gathered on the traditional Hispanic Westside seeking employment as day laborers**

**The number of men seeking employment each day has quadrupled in 5 years. With this increase came related problems:**

- Criminal activity (Burglary, Robbery, Theft)
- Loitering
- Public urination/defecation
- Drinking in public
- Graffiti
- Vandalism
- Aggressive panhandling
- Prostitution

**Residents and business owners  
felt helpless and the neighborhood  
was in distress**

**“Don’t bother calling the police,  
because they won’t do anything for  
you. They will just cause you more  
trouble than they are worth.”**

# **Traditional law enforcement approach**

**Aggressive Patrol**

**Aggressive Arrest**

**Immigration Sweeps**

## **All approaches failed for various reasons**

**Only addressed symptoms, not the cause**

**Limited ID's; criminals provided false info**

**Arrests released prior to positive ID**

**Communication barrier**

**ICE lacked mandate/resources for deportation**

A city skyline with a road in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Neighborhood wanted respectful and humane way to co-exist with day laborers**

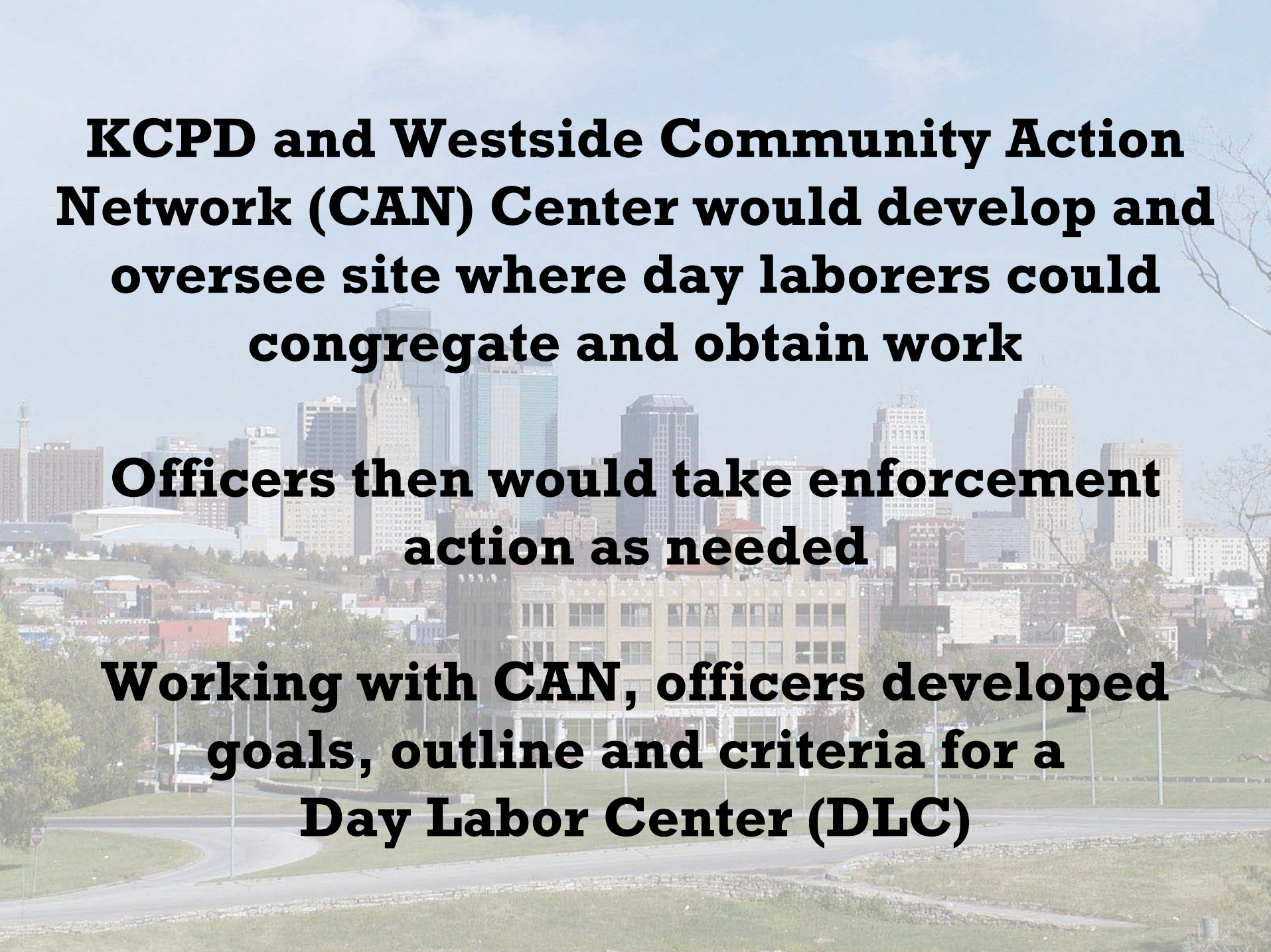
**A change from traditional police techniques to community-based policing was in order**

**KCPD for the first time approached the problem not solely as a law enforcement challenge but as an economic issue of supply and demand: workers needed jobs and employers needed workers**



# The stakeholders:

- **Group 1: Area citizens and businesses**
  - Poor quality of life**
  - Feeling unsafe in homes or work**
  - Reduced economic growth**
- **Group 2: Documented and undocumented men willing to work**
  - Concern for quality of life**
  - Lack of employment opportunities**
  - Unfairly labeled as a group 3 member**
- **Group 3: Documented and undocumented men unwilling to work**
  - Little/no regard for community standards**
  - Criminal (intimidation and violence)**
  - City jail was not a deterrent**



**KCPD and Westside Community Action Network (CAN) Center would develop and oversee site where day laborers could congregate and obtain work**

**Officers then would take enforcement action as needed**

**Working with CAN, officers developed goals, outline and criteria for a Day Labor Center (DLC)**

# **Criteria for new DLC and CAN Center:**

**Good access to major roads**

**Space for 200**

**Nearby previous location**

**Good distance from liquor store to deter abuse**

**Amenities (bathroom, showers, laundry, kitchen)**

**Rent no more than \$400/month including utilities**



## **For the DLC to be successful:**

- **Men must want to come to the new location**

Bathrooms, phones, shelter from the weather, abide by the rules, contribute free labor to the community

- **All workers must use the new DLC**
- **Employers must pick up workers at DLC**

Safe location, no traffic hazard as before

- **Use of deportation**

35-40 hardcore “group 3’s” were identified and deported with the help of ICE, praise for “sweeps” from community for first time

**Vacant and dilapidated machine shop  
unoccupied for 15 years was located**

**Owner agreed to donate to CAN rent free  
for 5 years**

**Construction companies remodeled the  
building pro-bono. One year and \$150,000  
in donated labor and supplies CAN center  
opened with ZERO tax money spent**

## Results:

- **Dilapidated building was brought up to code**
- **Men no longer congregate on the streets**
- **Traffic hazard reduced**
- **School children/residents no longer harassed**
- **Habitual “group 3’s” were deported**
- **Public urination/defecation all but eliminated**
- **Prostitutes no longer loiter**
- **Business sales have increased 20% while losses from shoplifting/vandalism have decreased 15%**

# **Benefits:**

- **Police**

Neighborhood cooperation has increased

Calls to CAN center increased 40%

Steady flow of crime tip information

911 calls have dropped 50%

Bank on Southwest Blvd. for 1<sup>st</sup> time in 40 years

- **Men**

Turn in the rule breakers

Volunteer in community and maintain the DLC

Sense of community and belonging

- **Citizens/businesses**

Crime is down

Business is up

Quality of life has risen

# Westside Community Action Network (WCAN) Center

2136 Jefferson Street Kansas City, Mo 64108 816-842-1298

WESTSIDE







\$ 183 Million  
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Wesley Community Action Network (WCA) Center

317

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