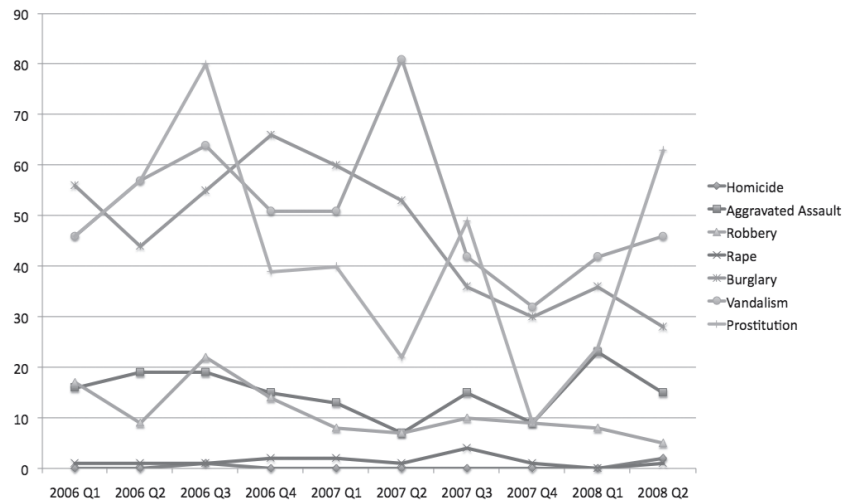


STOP THE SCAPEGOATING OF WOMEN WORKING ON THE 82ND.

The repeal of Prostitution Free Zone (PFZ) may have made prostitution more visible, but **it has not increased violent or property crimes.** In fact, there are less crimes in Montavilla neighborhood than there were when Prostitution Free Zone was in effect. According to Portland Police Bureau statistics, there were 169.86 crimes per month in Montavilla neighborhood between January 2006 to September 2007, when PFZ was eliminated. Since October 2007, the number is 138.67 per month (approx. 18% decline). Other neighborhoods, including MT. Tabor and South Tabor have experienced similar drop.



PFZ harms our most vulnerable neighbors. Rather than stopping prostitution, PFZ displaces and disperses it onto less populated or traveled areas. Women and men working there will be more isolated, and in less familiar turf—which increases the very real and already heightened **risk of violence against them.** It also makes it harder for them to access life-saving and life-sustaining social services that are located in the 82nd area, and for social service agencies to effectively outreach to people who need them the most.

PFZ deprives the civil liberties of people who have not been convicted of any crimes, and it may be unconstitutional. Yes, there is an appeal process, but this being a civil process, you would not have the same rights and guarantees that criminal defendants have, such as the right to an attorney, due process, trial by jury, presumption of innocence, or "beyond reasonable doubt" standard.

We at **82ndCARES Coalition** believe that the situation on the 82nd Avenue area is **not a law enforcement problem, but that of economic and social justice.** How so? Let's look at what people working on the street are facing: lack of affordable housing, lack of employment opportunities that pay livable wage, lack of childcare for parents who work (which also limits their employment options), lack of treatment services for substance use or for mental health, etc....

These are the fundamental problems we face in our communities, and we cannot police and criminalize our way out of it. On the contrary, **increased policing and criminal prosecution can create additional barriers for people seeking alternatives** to working on the street, since having criminal records prevents one from obtaining "legitimate" jobs.

We need to stop the scapegoating of people working on the street, and come together as a community to begin addressing these pressing issues of economic and social justice.

FIGHT POVERTY, NOT THE POOR. EVERYONE DESERVES TO BE SAFE.



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