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The key to making a turnaround: I wasn't involved in the efforts to revitalize the Prescott Estates Area because I was assigned to a different function within the police department at the time. From my perspective the key to the turnaround was the collaborative effort and willingness for many departments to work across jurisdictional boundaries to make the turnaround possible. The law-abiding citizens had enough and wanted change, the city wanted change, the landlords who cared about their properties wanted change.

The willingness to of all parties to seek a resolution that was, to the best of my knowledge, a foreign concept not previously used in Modesto was instrumental in the change. Without question the area was saturated with criminals and disorderly conduct becoming a haven for drug dealing, prostitution, violent crime etc. The change to Prescott Estates underscores how homeowners, business owners, government, the police can all work together to ensure the safety and revitalize a particular community.

Are there aspects that should have been handled differently?: Not that I know of. While I'm certain there were challenges and obstacles (legal, financial, jurisdictional) along the way, I believe the outcome speaks for itself.

How would you describe Whispering Woods today? By all objective measurement it appears to be a thriving community where order has been restored. Families can live in relative peace and quiet and children can now feel free to play outside without the fear of being victimized or exposed to open air drug markets and other crimes.

Are there lessons from Prescott Estates? The biggest lesson we can learn from Prescott Estates is that we should never let a particular area or residential housing complex fall into disarray to the point it causes an over-representation of law enforcement or other government programs/resources as Prescott Estates did. Strong Neighborhood Watch Programs, stringent landlord-tenant training, relentless code enforcement can all lend itself to controlling disorderly behavior in public, and an environment is created that will prevent crime from flourishing.