

WORKING P A P E R

The Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey

Neighborhood Observation Forms and Interviewer Manual

LOS ANGELES FAMILY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY
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PREFACE

The Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey (L.A.FANS) is a longitudinal study of families in Los Angeles County and of the neighborhoods in which they live. Fieldwork for Wave 1 was begun in April 2000 and was completed in January 2002. This document presents the forms and interviewer instruction manual for neighborhood observations that were conducted as part of L.A.FANS. Observations were completed for 422 sampled blocks, which were located across the 65 L.A.FANS tracts. Separate observation forms were completed for each block face. The number of block faces per block varied between 2 and 23, with a mean of 4.6. A mean of 2.3 independent observations was completed for each block.

The Neighborhood Observation data are part of the L.A.FANS Restricted Data, because they include information on the blocks and tracts in the sample that might enable identification of survey respondents. RAND will provide access to these data upon compliance with the security requirements described on the L.A.FANS website <http://www.lasurvey.rand.org/policyver1.htm>. This link provides the requirements for access to restricted data and information on how to apply.

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L.A.FANS Neighborhood Observations

OVERVIEW

Introduction and Basic Procedure

L.A.FANS is a study of 65 neighborhoods in Los Angeles and the people who live in them. To fully understand life in these neighborhoods it is essential to know as much about them as possible. The L.A.FANS questionnaires collect information about the lives of the particular families we interview. However, in the course of conducting the fieldwork, field interviewers (FIs) will spend time in each neighborhood and will observe quite a bit about the neighborhood as a whole. The purpose of the Neighborhood Observation is for the FIs to record the physical and social characteristics of blocks in a systematic manner. Data from Neighborhood Observations will give researchers a good idea of the *look and feel* of neighborhoods in which our respondents live, even though the researchers have not visited the neighborhood themselves.

The Neighborhood Observations must be carried out systematically, but should be done fairly quickly. The Observation involves two steps: (1) drive around the entire block (unless there is a block face that is actually a freeway or an obstruction of some kind), and (2) walk down each block face and record the characteristics of that block face at the end of this walk. Then proceed to the next block face and repeat the procedure for that block face. A “block face” is generally a street that is one of the boundaries of the block. For example, Pico Boulevard between 16th and 17th Streets is a block face. See the specifications for detailed instructions.

Here is the general procedure for the Observations:

1. Observations should generally be carried out when you go to a sampled block for the first time. However, if you have visited the block before because you were involved in listing or because you live nearby, that’s okay. Simply record this in your response to the question on the cover page of the Neighborhood Observation Forms that asks about your previous experience in the block.
2. When you arrive at a block for the first time, consult your map and drive once all the way around the block, that is along all the streets that make up the block. Make sure you know the boundaries of the block. On some blocks you may not be able to drive down all blocks because of obstructions such as the freeway.
3. Park your car and walk to one corner of the block. Walk down the block face at a casual to moderate pace and notice what you see along the way *on both sides of the street*. Walk on the side of the street that is within the block (check with your map). Do *not* cross the street in order to get a better view of the other side of the

street. You should only record what you see on both sides of the street from the vantage point of the side of the street that is within the block.

4. Once you reach the end of the block face, complete the observation forms for that block face.
5. Repeat the procedure with the next block face, pausing at the end to record your observations on that block face. Keep going until you have observed and completed the forms for each block face in the block.
6. Make sure that you complete a form for *each and every* block face in the block. However, do not do anything that would jeopardize your safety. For example, if one block face is a freeway, do not walk down the freeway. Instead, ask your supervisor for instructions.
7. You must also observe all alleys that exist within a block face. See the specifications for detailed information on the definition of “alley.” For most blocks, you should complete all block face observations first and then complete the alley observations. However, on some blocks it may be more efficient to complete the alley observations as you reach the alley. The key issue is to make sure you observe and record information for *each and every* block face and alley in the block.
8. Neighborhood observations can be seriously biased if one FI takes twice as much time than another FI. Therefore, all FIs need to observe for about the same amount of time. Walking down a single block face or alley and recording an observation should take you *no more than 10 minutes*. In general, a standard block face or alley (including both observation and recording) should take about 5 minutes. However, for block faces or alleys that are particularly long, it may take between 5 and 10 minutes. If you are spending more than 10 minutes on a block face or alley (especially after the first few you do), you are spending too much time and potentially biasing the results. Consult your supervisor if you are running into trouble completing block faces or alleys within this time frame.

In most blocks, three or more FIs will be carrying out observations. These observations should be conducted and recorded *independently* by each FI. Do *not* consult with other FIs to decide how to record what you have observed. The idea is to record what *you yourself* observed. Different FIs will see and record things slightly differently, and that’s fine. Make sure to both conduct and record your observations independently. [During the first few weeks of fieldwork, in particular, you may be working with another FI in a team. In this case, you should split up while doing the Neighborhood Observations. For example, both FIs could start at the same street corner and work in opposite directions. You do not need to compare notes with the other FI, but if you do, do so *after* you have recorded all your observations. Furthermore, *do not* make changes in what you record because of a conversation with another FI.]

What Kind of Things FIs Will Observe

In general, the Neighborhood Observation forms ask you to observe two kinds of things in each neighborhood: (1) physical characteristics of the neighborhood, and (2) social characteristics of the neighborhood. The physical characteristics include what kind of neighborhood this is (for example, residential only, commercial only, industrial only, or some mix), the condition of the houses and other buildings, the condition of the streets, sidewalks and areas around buildings, trash and litter, whether there are certain types of buildings on the block face (like churches, grocery stores, liquor stores, etc.) and whether there are other types of things on the block face like a park, public telephone, bus stop or taxi stand.

The social characteristics include whether you see adults or children out in their yards, on street corners, or in other place, whether you see groups of teens that appear to be a gang or prostitutes, or whether anyone tells you about prostitution or gang violence on this block face.

The physical and social characteristics you are asked to observe are described in detail in the specifications. Some of these questions will require you to make judgement calls about something you observe. For example, you may not be absolutely sure whether a building is a factory or a retail store. Or you may not be sure whether people you see are involved in a gang or not. Read the specifications carefully and as often as necessary, but then make your best guess for what type of building or social situation it is that you observed.

Keep in mind that your role is to *observe* a situation, not to get involved in anything that may be potentially dangerous. For example, do not approach or stare at anyone you think might be selling drugs or soliciting prostitution clients. Do not approach people to ask about the neighborhood. For questions that ask “Did anyone tell you...” record only information that people volunteered. Do not approach people and ask them.

Observation Forms

There are three types of forms on which to include your observations for each block face and alley: the Block Observation Form, the Social Observation Form, and the Alley Observation Form. The table below outlines which forms are to be used in which situations:

	Each Block Face	Each Alley
Block Observation Form	X	
Social Observation Form	X	
Alley Observation Form		X

Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey

(L.A.FANS)

Interviewer Instruction Manual

Neighborhood Observation Forms and Procedures

Revised 10 April 2000

1. Introduction

The Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey (L.A.FANS) is a longitudinal study of families in Los Angeles County and of the neighborhoods in which they live. The L.A.FANS is specifically designed to answer important research and policy questions in three areas: 1) neighborhood, family, and peer effects on children's development, 2) effects of welfare reform at the neighborhood level, and 3) residential mobility and neighborhood change.

2. Neighborhood Observation

The Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Survey will collect data through interviews with neighborhood residents and through direct observation. Direct observation allows us to collect important characteristics of the area in which the respondents reside that may not be asked during the actual interview. Interviewers who spend time in an area often have insights about characteristics that may affect data collection or data analysis. By systematically collecting those characteristics, we hope to tap into an objective source of descriptive data.

Block and Block Face

Blocks are a subsection of the census tract. Blocks are generally bordered by streets and usually correspond to what most people would think of as a city block, although a railroad track, county line, a stream or something else may define one side of the block. Normally, you would not cross a street when you walk around a block.

We are interested in collecting observations along each block face. A block face is both sides of the street along one side of the block. We typically think of blocks as squares or rectangles with the streets forming the sides of the square or rectangle. In reality, blocks may be complicated shapes with many sides. These sides may be curved not straight.

Block face observation includes both sides of a street. Buildings or properties that are located on a corner and that have entrances on two streets will be counted in the block faces where the entrances are.

Naming A Block Face

A block face name is the street name with the cross street names at the beginning and end of the block. This will allow you to easily name block. The following figure illustrates the definition of a “normal” block and block face names.

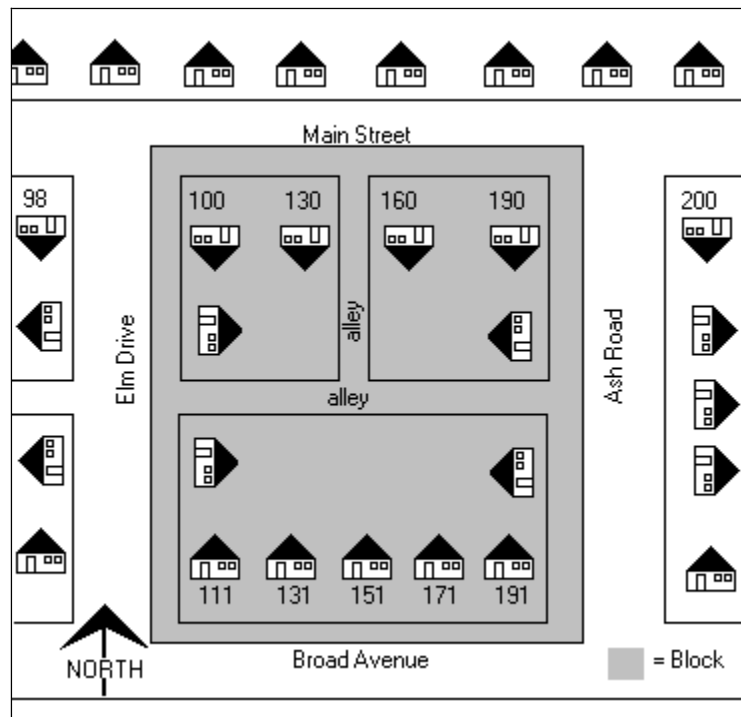


Figure 1. Block Definition

In Figure 1, the name for the northern block face would be “Main Street between Elm Drive and Ash Road”. The southern block face would be “Broad Avenue between Elm Drive and Ash Road”. The western block face name would be “Elm Drive between Main Street and Broad Avenue” and the eastern block face would be called “Ash Road between Main Street and Broad Avenue”. The names of the cross streets do not have any particular order so “Main Street between Elm Drive and Ash Road” is the same block face as “Main Street between Ash Road and Elm Drive”.

There are times when the boundaries of the block face will be unclear in terms of the physical layout of the block. Ordinarily, street numbering or the physical layout will make the boundaries of the block face clear. There may be some difficulty in defining a block face in public housing projects or apartment complexes where there are no street names for interior sections of the project, or when streets cross at angles. Talk to your supervisor before observing these blocks.

For alleys or streets within the block that do not have names, you need to create a name to refer to them. To do so, you will use the following rule: “Alley from” followed by the name of the streets between which the alley runs. For example in the diagram, the alley that runs east to west may be called “Alley from Elm Drive to Ash Road between Main Street and Broad Avenue” or a similar combination. [e.g., “Alley from Elm Drive to Ash Road parallel to Broad Avenue and Main Street”; “Alley from Ash Road to Elm Drive parallel to Broad Avenue and Main Street”; “Alley from Ash Road to Elm Drive parallel to Main Street and Broad Avenue”.] If the alley is a dead-end (such as the other alley shown in the diagram), you would call it “Dead-end alley from Main Street between Elm Drive and Ash Road.”

3. Definitions

Alley - A passage or way which generally runs behind at least some of the houses or structures in the block, distinct from a public street.

Block – Census blocks are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. In many areas, a Census block will correspond directly with a city block, though this is not always the case.

Block Face – The area of land on both sides of a street that is one side or part of a block. (See figure above).

Garbage, litter or broken glass – Includes discarded food material such as eggshells, tuna cans, milk cartons, orange peels, leftover food, etc. Also includes discarded fast food bags and containers, broken glass, etc.

Graffiti – Spray-painting (or sometimes chalk) drawing or writing inscribed on rocks, walls, sidewalks, fences, etc. Does not include community murals.

Security fence – A fence designed primarily to keep people off a property rather than to enhance the look of a property. For example, a six-foot high chain link fence is specifically designed to keep someone out. A three-foot high white picket fence (or a post and rail fence with two rails) may keep some people off the property out but its primary purpose is decorative.

Trash and Junk – This is discarded material such as newspaper, styrofoam cups, candy wrappers, paper, plastic bags, soda pop cans, etc. Also includes larger discarded items (similar to trash) like tires, cinder blocks, bricks, plastic or metal pipes, sinks, old appliances, etc. Other items of trash such as cigarette packs or butts, beer bottles, wine or alcohol containers, plastic six-can pack holders will be considered separately for our purposes here.

General Specifications for Observing the Block Face

1. Getting Started

When you first arrive at a block, drive around the entire block once or twice to make sure you know the block boundaries, to get a general sense of the block, and to find a good place to park.

2. Materials

All you need is your block map, the forms, and a pencil. There are four forms:

- Neighborhood Observation Cover Page – complete one for each block
- Block Observation Form – complete one for each block face
- Alley Observation Form – complete one for each alley in the block
- Social Observation Form – complete one for each block face

3. Observing

After you have drive once or twice around the entire block, park your car. Start with one of the block faces. Walk down the block face, on the side of the street included in the block. As you walk, look carefully at both sides of the street – the side you are walking on and the other side. Once you have walked to the end of the block face, stop at the corner and fill in the Block Observation Form and the Social Observation Form for the block face you have just walked.

Next, turn the corner and walk down the next block face. Once you have gotten to the end, stop and fill out the Block Observation Form and the Social Observation Form for that block face. Continue this way until you have walked and completed the forms for each block face.

Along the way, make sure to notice whether there are alleys in the block face. Some will be marked on your map, but you should double check as you are walking. Once you are finished with each block face, go to each alley in the block, one-by-one. Walk down the alley and observe in the same way as if it were a block face. At the end of each alley, complete an Alley Observation Form.

4. Observing

Here is how you should answer the information on the forms:

- Block Observation Form – Answer the questions based only on what you observe as you walk down the block face.

- Alley Observation Form – Answer the questions based only on what you observe as you walk down the alley
- Social Observation Form – This is different than the other two. Answer the questions based on: (1) what you observe as you walk down the block or alley and (2) any previous experience you had working in this neighborhood for L.A.FANS (e.g., doing listing, screening, or interviews). If you have not worked in the neighborhood previously, record the information based only on what you observe as you walk down the block.

5. Tips for Successful Observation

- Get a good feel for the block face or alley before recording your observations.
- If you notice something that is out of the ordinary, contact your supervisor. For example, we know that “normal” blocks have streets as their boundaries. You may have a block that has a number of streets within the boundaries of the block. Contact your supervisor to make sure you are observing the correct block faces. A general rule to follow is that we want to observe all streets and alleys within a selected block.
- Sometimes, the boundary of the block under observation is something other than a street. If practical, observe the boundary of the block. If the boundaries of the block provide safe access, you should observe this boundary as one of the block faces. If there is no practical or safe way to observe the boundary, discuss the situation with your supervisor.

NEIGHBORHOOD OBSERVATION COVER PAGE

Question by Question Specifications

Interviewer Name and ID Number Label

Place a mini-label with your name and two digit assigned ID number on the cover page in the space indicated.

Tract Number and Block Number Bar Code Label

Place the correct tract and block bar code ID label on the cover page as indicated.

Number of Block Faces

Print the number of block faces in this block. Refer to your Master List for a summary of the block faces on your block.

Number of Alleys

Print the number of alleys in this block. If none, circle '00' for none.

Date

Print the date (month, day, year) on which the forms were completed.

Day of Week

Circle the day of the week on which the forms were completed.

Start Time

Print the time you begin the observation of the block. Be sure to code AM or PM.

End Time

Print the time you finished the observation of the block. Be sure to code AM or PM.

1. What experiences have you had on this block? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

Indicate all of the previous experiences you had had on this particular block. These previous experiences may include screening, interviewing households, validating screening or household interviews, listing, and validating listings, for either the L.A.FANS pretest or for the main survey. They may also include having a general familiarity with the area, having friends or relatives in the area, or living in the area or near by.

2. How many [hours/minutes] did you spend on this block face this visit?

Indicate the number of hours and minutes you spent on this block face during the current visit. Include all the time you spent from when you first arrived until when you finished completing all of the block observation forms. Do not include subsequent time you spent visiting households for screening or interviewing.

3. How many times have you visited this block face?

Indicate the total number of times you have visited the block face (include the current visit). A visit means that you have walked on the block face, for example to visit a respondent. Do not include times you have driven along the block face on your way somewhere else.

4. Have you visited this block during any of the following times? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

Indicate whether you have visited this block on weekday evenings or nights, weekend days, or weekend evenings or nights. You do not need to indicate anything if you have only visited the block during weekday days.

5. Notes: Note any special situations or circumstances that may have affected how you filled out this form (e.g., unusual weather, trash day, etc.).

Indicate any and all special situations or circumstances that occurred during the time that you visited the block to complete the neighborhood observation forms. Examples include that it was dark or raining, that it was trash day and garbage had spilled on the streets, that a local school had just let out and there were lots of children on their way home, etc.

BLOCK OBSERVATION FORM
Question by Question Specifications

Street Name

Print the street name of the block face you are observing. If your observation is for an alley within a block, use the ALLEY form.

Between Street/Landmark 1

Print the name of the first cross street or other landmark that marks the beginning of the block face that you are observing.

And Street/Landmark 2

Print the name of the second cross street or other landmark that marks the end of the block face you are observing.

1. How many lanes for traffic are there on this street?

Count the number of lanes in total in both directions. If there is a center turn lane in the block face, count it as a lane also. If there is no divider line along the center of the street, check to see if the street is one-way or two-way. If it is one-way, count it as one lane if it is two-way, count it as two lanes. Do not count curb lanes used only for turns—count only lanes that extend for the entire block.

2. What is the traffic flow on this street?

Estimate the level of traffic on the block face during your observation.

- Very light traffic should be used either when you observe no traffic or when you observe only one or two passing cars during the observation. Very light traffic would be common in a quiet residential area that has no through streets.
- Light traffic should be used when you observe a moving vehicle no more than every two or three minutes during the observation and people usually do not have to wait to cross the street. Light traffic would be common in most residential areas.
- Moderate traffic is when the traffic flow makes it necessary for pedestrians to look both ways when crossing the street but the flow of traffic is controlled by stop signs not by traffic signals. Moderate traffic flow would occur on main streets and thoroughfares where a pedestrian may have to wait briefly for a few cars to pass before crossing the street but would not experience long delays to cross.
- Heavy traffic is characterized by traffic signals and some cars must usually wait for the signal to change. Heavy traffic flow would be characteristic of the major surface streets and thoroughfares where traffic is almost constant and a pedestrian would have to use a traffic signal to safely cross the street.

- Very heavy traffic flow is characterized by a continuous flow and traffic is backed up at traffic signals. It should be considered very heavy when the traffic signal provides an arrow for turns.

3. Are there speed bumps on this street?

Indicate whether there are speed bumps present on this street for slowing down the speed of traffic.

4. How would you rate the condition of the street surface (for driving)?

Indicate the quality of the street for driving (rather than for appearance).

- Very poor – Very poor street surface means that drivers would have to slow down to avoid damaging their cars.
- Fair – A fair street surface may have rough spots that drivers may easily avoid (e.g., a small pothole).
- Moderately good – no unrepaired cracks or potholes or other conditions that would cause problems for drivers.
- Very good – A very good street surface condition would be a paved street that has no cracks or potholes, good curbs, clean storm drains and gutters, no loose stones, etc.
- Under construction – Self-explanatory

5. How would you rate the condition of the sidewalks (for walking)?

Indicate the quality of the sidewalks for walking (rather than for appearance).

- Very poor – Very poor sidewalks would be those that were not paved or had damaged paving which would make it difficult to walk down.
- Fair – A fair sidewalk might have a few areas that were not paved or that were poorly paved or were damaged.
- Moderately good – Sidewalk would be completely paved but may have a somewhat uneven surface with one or two bumps (e.g., due to tree roots).
- Very good – A very good sidewalk would be completely paved that with a smooth, even surface and no bumps or major cracks.
- Under construction – Self-explanatory

6. Are there permit-only parking restrictions on this street?

Indicate whether there are signs posted that restrict parking to non-residents without the necessary permits.

7. Is there public transportation (e.g., a bus stop) on this block?

Indicate whether this block face has a bus stop or other public transportation stop (e.g., a taxi stand or a metro stop). We want to get some idea of geographic access to public transportation. However, if you see a public bus or taxi, but no taxi stand or bus stop, this

does *not* count. You must see a specific place where taxis line up to wait for customers or a bus, metro, or rail stop.

8. Is this street barricaded to prevent through traffic?

Indicate whether there is a barricade on this street to prevent traffic from using it as a through street.

9. Are there trees lining the street of the block face?

The idea is to determine whether an effort has been made to create a “tree-lined” neighborhood. Not all the trees may be fully-grown and in some areas there may be new plantings. Indicate the extent to which trees line the street of the block face:

- None – No trees along the block face, or only 1 or 2 at most.
- A few – Trees along part of the block face or very widely spaced so that they are noticeably sparse.
- Some – Trees lining much, but not all, of the block face. One or two noticeable gaps in the rows of trees.
- Many – Trees covering the entire block face. At most one or two small gaps in the row of trees.

10. Are there abandoned cars on the street or in alley or lots?

Look for cars that are missing parts, have flat tires or missing wheels, or have tickets. Do not assume that an old car is abandoned.

- None = 0 cars
- Very few = roughly 1 – 2 cars
- Some = roughly 3 – 4 cars
- Many = roughly 5 or more cars

11. Is there trash or junk on the street or sidewalks, in yards/lots?

When estimating the amount of trash, your judgment is required. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work.

- None – No trash or junk is visible.
- Very little – If you look around carefully, you see trash in one or two places.
- Some – You notice trash or junk in three or four locations.
- A lot – You see trash or junk in several locations.

12. Is there garbage, litter, or broken glass on the street or sidewalk, in yards, or vacant lots?

When estimating the amount of garbage, your judgment is required. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work.

- None – No garbage, broken glass or litter is visible

- Very little – If you look around carefully, you see a piece of garbage, broken glass or litter in three or fewer places.
- Some – You notice more than 6 items or you see a piece of garbage, broken glass or litter in more than three locations.
- A lot – You see garbage, broken glass or litter in several locations.

13. Are there needles, syringes, condoms, or drug-related paraphernalia on the street or sidewalk, in yards/lots?

Examples of drug-related paraphernalia include small plastic bags and glass vials. In addition, while you may not see actual needles or condoms, you may see the packages in which they are sold. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No evidence of needles, syringes, other drug-related paraphernalia, or condoms is visible.
- Little – You may see one or two items.
- Some – You notice more than 3 items or you see items in more than two locations.
- A lot – You see 4 or more items or an item in several locations.

14. Are there empty beer containers or liquor bottles on the street or sidewalk, in yards, or vacant lots?

Include wine bottles. Include the bottles if they are broken, but still recognizable as bottles. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No bottles are visible.
- Little – You may see one or two items.
- Some – You notice more than 3 items or you see items in more than two locations.
- A lot – You see 4 or more items or an item in several locations.

15. Are there cigarette or cigar butts or cigarette or cigar packages on the street or sidewalk, in yards/lots or gutters?

Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No cigarette or cigar butts or packages are visible.
- Little – You may see one or two items.
- Some – You notice more than 3 items or you see items in more than two locations. More than what you would encounter from a single careless passerby.
- A lot – You see 4 or more items or an item in several locations.

16. Is there any graffiti on buildings, sidewalks, walls, or signs?

By graffiti, we do not mean community murals or commissioned artwork on the side of buildings or walls. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No sign of graffiti is visible.
- Little – You see one or two areas of graffiti
- Some – You see 3-5 areas of graffiti
- A lot – You see 5 or more areas of graffiti

17. Is there painted-over graffiti on buildings, sidewalks, walls, or signs?

Indicate whether there is notable evidence that walls, buildings or signs have been painted over in order to hide graffiti. Use the following answer categories:

- None – No sign of painted-over graffiti is visible.
- Little – You see one or two areas of painted-over graffiti.
- Some – You see 3-5 areas of painted-over graffiti.
- A lot – You see 5 or more areas of painted-over graffiti.

18. Are there obvious strong odors anywhere in the block face (urine stench, rotting garbage, etc.)?

Self explanatory.

19. How would you characterize the land use on this block face? (SELECT ONE)

The purpose is to summarize concisely what the land on the street is used for in general. Looking down the street of the block face you are observing, you should select the one response that best categorizes land use on both sides of the street as follows:

- Primarily residential (houses and apartments) – Both sides of the streets have primarily houses, condominiums, or apartments. There may be a couple of stores (e.g., small grocery, laundry, convenience store or gas station, etc.), a school, an office building, a church or a park on the block face.
- Primarily commercial (stores and businesses) – Both sides of the street have mostly stores, offices, or private businesses. There may be some residences above a few storefronts. There may be a very large apartment complex but when you look down the street you see mostly businesses.
- Primarily industrial (warehouses and factories) This categories includes manufacturing plants (light or heavy), factories, warehouses, and wholesale storage facilities.
- Primarily vacant lots or undeveloped open space. This does not include parks, airports, rails easements, aqueducts but land that either has not been used or is no longer in use.

- Mixed residential and commercial. One side of the street may be residential, the other side, commercial. It does not have to be 50-50 residential to commercial but neither the commercial nor the residential should be vastly greater.
- Mixed residential and industrial. This scenario would include areas where there are plants, factories, warehouses or wholesale storage facilities in or around residences.
- Mixed residential and vacant lots
- Other, specify: _____. Use this category only for unusual circumstances that cannot be adequately explained with one of the other categories.

20. What are the main types of housing along this block face? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Indicate all the different types of residential housing that you see on the block face. Remember that you are identifying the physical structure of the building not its type of real estate ownership (e.g., condominium, cooperative, etc.)

- No residential units – If there are no residential housing units, skip the next several questions that pertain to residential housing and skip to Question 33.
- Single occupancy dwelling units – One household in a single residential structure that stands alone.
- Duplexes are two-household structures attached together and have separate entrances. They may be arranged side by side, above or below each other or to the front or to the rear of each other.
- Multiple household occupancy. 3-6 units
- Housing units over commercial storefronts.
- Low rise apartment or condominium buildings (7+ units, 1-3 floors)
- Mid-rise apartment or condominium buildings (4-6 floors)
- High-rise apartment or condominium buildings (more than 6 floors)

21. What is the overall condition of the residential buildings?

Do not let your assessment be influenced by one unit. In addition, you are not judging the beauty of the block face. You want to note how well residents are maintaining their homes. Notice the condition of the buildings. Are there any windows or window screens broken or missing? Do houses need paint? Are walls cracked? Are there any fences that need repair? Are there shingles missing from the roofs? The response categories are: Very poor, Poor, Fair, Very good, and Excellent.

22. How many houses/apartments are burned out, boarded up, or abandoned?

Here you are looking for houses or apartments that are burned out, boarded up or abandoned. Use the following categories as general guidelines.

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

23. How many vacant lots are there on this block?

Indicate the number of vacant lots on this block using the following categories:

- None – There are no vacant lots on this block.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the lots on the block face are vacant.
- Some – Three or four of the lots on the block face are vacant.
- Many – More than four of the lots on the block face are vacant.
- All – Virtually all of the lots on the block face are vacant.

24. How many houses/apartments have peeling paint or damaged exterior walls?

Categorize the number of residential buildings that have peeling paint or damaged exterior walls. Peeling paint should be noticeable from the street and should cover either a large area of the house or be in several places. For exterior walls, look for cracks or holes. Remember that in block faces that have many more (or less) residential dwelling units, the number within these categories may shift up (or down).

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

25. How many houses/ apartments have well-tended yards or gardens?

Categorize the number of residential buildings that have well tended yards or gardens. Look for lawns without weeds that are uniformly green. The height of the grass should

indicate it is mowed regularly. Gardens should not be over-grown, have weeds, or have dead flowers or foliage. Bushes and hedges should be trimmed. Trees without dead branches and healthy leaves.

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

26. How many houses/apartments have window bars or gratings on doors or windows?

Categorize the number of residential buildings that window bars or gratings on doors or windows of the building. These bars or gratings would be for security (keeping intruders out of the home).

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

27. How many houses/apartments have signs indicating they are protected by private security services?

Categorize the number of residential buildings that have signs indicating a private security service is protecting the dwelling.

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

28. How many houses/apartments have signs indicating they are protected by dogs?

Categorize the number of residential buildings that have signs indicating that they are protected by dogs. Also include residential buildings that have a guard dog clearly visible even though you don't see a sign.

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

29. How many houses/apartments have security gates or fences?

Categorize the number of residential units (including vacant lots) that have a gate that requires special keys or access procedures. Note that security fences are designed to keep people off the property and are typically 4 to 6+ feet high. They should be distinguished from decorative fences, such as a low (3-4 feet high) picket fences.

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

30. Are there signs indicating there is a neighborhood watch on this block?

Look for neighborhood watch signs in yards, in front windows of houses, or posted along the street.

31. How many houses/ apartments have “for sale” or “for rent” signs?

Categorize the number of residential units that have a “for sale” or “for rent” sign. If there is more than one apartment for rent or sale of an apartment complex, count each apartment unit.

- None – None of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the residential units on the block face can be included in this category.

32. Are there old, beat-up cars on the street or in driveways or yards?

The purpose of this question is to get an idea of whether people on this block face own or will allow vehicles that may detract from the block in passing view.

- None – There are no old, beat-up cars visible on this block face.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 old, beat-up cars are visible on this block face.
- Some – Three or four old, beat-up cars are visible on this block face.
- Many – More than four old, beat-up cars are visible on this block face.

33. What is the overall condition of the commercial/industrial buildings?

Do not let your assessment be overly influence by the one building. In addition, you are not judging the beauty of the block face. You want to note how well businesses are maintaining their buildings. Notice the condition of the buildings. Do buildings need paint? Are walls cracked? Are there any fences that need repair? Are there shingles missing from the roofs? The response categories are self-explanatory.

- No Commercial/Industrial Building – If there are no commercial or industrial building skip to Question 38.
- Excellent
- Very good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor

34. How many of the commercial/industrial buildings are abandoned, burned out, or boarded up?

Categorize the number of commercial/industrial buildings that are burned out, boarded up or abandoned. If more than one building of a business complex qualifies, count the complex as a single building. Use the following categories as general guidelines.

- None – None of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.

35. How many of the commercial/industrial buildings have windows that are barred or boarded against entry?

Categorize the number of commercial/industrial buildings that have window bars or boarded up windows on the building. These bars or boards would be for keeping intruders out of the building.

- None – None of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.

36. How many of the commercial/industrial properties have security fences?

Categorize the number of commercial/industrial properties that have a security fence. The fence should go around the entire property and be designed to keep people off the property, rather than being purely decorative. Count the property even if the fence has gaps or is in disrepair only if there is evidence that it had encircled the entire property.

- None – None of the commercial/industrial properties on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the commercial/industrial properties on the block face can be included in this category.

- Some – Three or four of the commercial/industrial properties on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the commercial/industrial properties on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the commercial/industrial properties on the block face can be included in this category.

37. How many commercial/industrial buildings have “for sale” or “for rent” signs?

Categorize the number of commercial/industrial buildings that have a “for sale” or “for rent” sign. If there is more than one commercial/industrial building for rent or sale in a commercial/industrial complex, count each building unit.

- None – None of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Very few – Only 1 or 2 of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Some – Three or four of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- Many – More than four of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.
- All – Every one of the commercial/industrial buildings on the block face can be included in this category.

38. Are there any recreational facilities in the block face (see list in next question)?

Yes/no. See list of recreational facilities in Question 39.

39. What kinds of recreational facilities are in the block face?

Code all that apply, including parks, playgrounds, and sports facilities—including playing fields, basketball or tennis courts, or a swimming pool.

40. Is there a public telephone easily visible on the block face?

Yes/no. Code “yes” even if the telephone is missing from the box.

41. Please look at the list below and indicate the presence of commercial establishments that you observed in this block face. Are there any...

If a corner store or business has a public entrance on both streets, be sure to count that store or business on each of the block faces. This introduction leads to counting the number of businesses/commercial enterprises. The following question asks about private institutions/public service organizations/civic institutions/governmental agencies and the like.

41.1. Street vendors (on sidewalk or in vehicles)

This category includes people selling fruit or vegetables, prepared food, and non-food items.

41.2. Banks

This category includes full service banks, savings and loan banks, or credit unions.

41.3. Check cashing services

Include businesses whose main service is cashing checks. These businesses may provide their services in their own shop or building or within a retail store although they are not part of the retail store business. Do not count retail stores like grocery stores that also provide check-cashing services.

41.4. Pawn shops

Shops that provide small short-term loans with personal articles (jewelry, musical instruments, etc.) as collateral. Exclude consignment shops from this category. Use Second Hand/Thrift stores category for those shops.

41.5. Second hand stores/thrift shops

Include consignment shops. Exclude charitable organizations such as Goodwill donation centers, Salvation Army Thrift stores, etc.

41.6. Massage parlor

May be just a single massage therapist. Do not include chiropractors or physical therapists that may offer massage therapy. Include them in the "Professional offices" category.

41.7. Sex stores/porno shops/peep shows

These businesses should have age restrictions noted outside. Include adult bookstores in this category.

41.8. Video store

Stores that sell and/or rent video tapes. Exclude video stores that exclusively sell adult sex items or have viewing booths from this category. Those businesses belong to the sex stores category.

41.9. Video games/pool halls

Include arcades. Pool halls may serve alcohol. Bars with one or two pool tables should be included in the "Bars" category.

41.10. Liquor stores

Stores that sell alcoholic drinks. Often have a sign that says "liquor" or "liquor store". Do not include stores that primarily see something else (like groceries) but may also sell liquor.

41.11. Bars

Businesses that serve alcohol and sometimes a very short menu (grill or sandwiches).

41.12. Restaurants (sit-down)

These businesses have a full menu and may also have a bar area and serve alcohol (or just beer and wine).

41.13. Fast food/take out places

Limited or specialty menus often with limited seating or self-service. Like McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, etc.

41.14. Hotels/motels

Include hotels, motels, lodges, and bed-and-breakfast establishments.

41.15. Cinema/theatre

Movie theaters, playhouses, or stages are included in this category.

41.16. Parking lot (commercial)

These lots will have attendants, meters, or other pay systems. This category does not include free parking lots or spaces for customers.

41.17. Barber shops and beauty salons

Places for hair cuts or hair styles. Include nail salons or day spas.

41.18. Dry cleaners/tailors

Include seamstress and dress maker shops (and haberdasheries).

41.19. Laundromats

Self operated laundry machines but may include clothes cleaning services where someone washes and folds your laundry.

41.20. Clothing store

Stores that primarily sell clothes and clothing accessories. Include shoe stores. Examples of clothing stores include GAP, Banana Republic, Lane Bryant, the Limited, Men's Wearhouse, Foot Locker, Nine West, Floreshiem, etc.) Do not include department stores (such as Sears, JC Penny, Lord & Taylor, Macy's, Saks, etc.) here as they should be in the Variety Stores category. Discount clothing stores like Marshall's or Payless Shoes should be included in this category.

41.21. Discount stores (e.g., Target, WalMart)

This category may include large discount stores like Target, K-Mart or WalMart or small "dollar" stores. Specialty discounters like Payless Shoe Source or Mattress Discounters should be included in the clothing and furniture categories respectively.

41.22. Convenience stores/7-11s

Include convenience stores that also sell gasoline in this category.

41.23. Food stores (e.g., bakery, butcher)

Include specialty food stores in this category. This should include butcher shops, bakeries, fish stores, etc.

41.24. Grocery stores: large chain

For example, Lucky's, Ralph's, Von's etc.

41.25. Grocery stores: independent

Sometimes small shops with more produce and other perishable food items than convenience stores. Cannot be a part of a chain.

41.26. Drug store/pharmacy

For example: Sav-On Drugs, PayLess Drug Stores, Thrifty Drug Stores

41.27. Specialty stores (books, software)

Specialty stores sell one type of product for example: books (Waldenbooks, Crown, Barnes & Noble), bedding and table clothes (Beds, Bath & Beyond; Linen and Things) etc.

41.28. Variety stores

Include department stores. K-Mart, Target, WalMart should be included in discount stores category.

41.29. Electronics stores

For example, Radio Shack, Best Buy, etc. Include stores that sell telephone equipment or services (including cellular) or pager services but exclude printing or business services. Use Business services category for these businesses. Also, include stores that rent, sell or repair only TV, Audio or VCRs. Some appliance store may sell these type of devices along with appliances.

41.30. Appliance sales/rental/repair/etc.

Include store that rent, sell or repair microwave ovens, refrigerators, TV, audio or VCRs.

41.31. Home repair/hardware/lumber

May be national chains like Home Depot, Builders Square, Ace Hardware or local lumberyards or hardware stores.

41.32. Garden stores/nurseries

Include stores that sell garden supplies, plants, garden/pool furniture, etc. Should not include florists.

41.33. Furniture store: new furniture

Sells only new furniture. Include mattress discount stores and other discount furniture stores if they sell only new furniture.

41.34. Furniture store: used furniture

Must sell used furniture but may also sell new furniture or furniture on consignment.

41.35. Gas station

Use for gas stations without convenience stores or mini-marts. If there is a convenience store, code it in the convenience store category. If this business also repairs cars, code in the Car Repair category.

41.36. Car repairs/body shops/garages

Include oil change stores (Jiffy Lube, etc.), car wash businesses, auto parts stores, tire stores.

41.37. Car sales: new cars

If the dealer sells used cars, do not include in this category. Use Car sales: used cars category

41.38. Car sales: used cars

Primary business is used cars. May also sell new cars.

41.39. Business services (printing, shipping)

Photocopy businesses, shipping and courier services, other mail services (Mailboxes), printing services.

41.40. Travel agents

May be one agent's office or a travel company.

41.41. Professional offices (doctors, dentists, lawyers, accountants, etc.)

Do not include medical office building that may be part of a hospital complex. This category is for independent professionals whose office is not affiliated with a hospital or larger organization. For example, a Kaiser medical facility should be counted as a health/medical clinic.

41.42. Real estate

Include apartment locating services.

41.43. Manufacturing: light (e.g., tools)

Light manufacturing industries provide products to be used by consumers or businesses.

41.44. Manufacturing: heavy

Heavy manufacturing industries provide the equipment used by industry for large projects such as building, construction, mining, and metals processing. For example, foundries, cement factories.

41.45. Warehouses

Mostly wholesale storage facilities but include self-storage facilities.

41.46. Other, specify:

Use this category only if there is not other suitable category available. Be sure to indicate clearly the type of commercial enterprise. You may enter as many additional types as required. Be sure to write clearly the category name and the total number of commercial enterprises in that category for the block face.

42. Please look at the list below and indicate the presence of institutions that you observed in this face block. Are there any...

These institutions may be public or private.

42.1. Churches or other religious institutions

Include mosques, synagogues, temples, Christian Science Reading Rooms, Wicca or other New Age religions but exclude psychics, fortunetellers, or other occult practitioners.

42.2. Police station

May include state highway patrol, county sheriff's office as well as municipal police.

42.3. Courts/jails/detention centers

Include prisons, youth facilities, and halfway houses.

42.4. Fire station

Self explanatory.

42.5. Post office

U.S. Post Office or its branches only.

42.6. Employment/manpower offices

Include temporary employment agencies & military recruiting offices.

42.7. Welfare offices

Include welfare offices, food banks, food pantries, etc.

42.8. Public services (e.g., DPSS, WIC)

Include government welfare program offices, such as DPSS (Department of Public Social Services) and WIC (Women, Infants and Children nutrition program).

42.9. Health or medical clinic

Stand-alone clinics, providing ambulatory medical care or diagnostic services including urgent care centers, women's health centers, radiology (including MRI) centers or other diagnostic laboratories. Exclude large medical practices (laser eye center, dental practices, medical weight loss centers) and include in one of the previous (commercial) categories. Include HMO (Kaiser, Pacific Care) clinics. Exclude if the clinic is within a hospital or university setting.

42.10. Hospital

Provides inpatient diagnostic and curative medical care services. Has a sign saying "_____ Hospital."

42.11. Day care center/nursery schools/children's centers

Include public and private but not those schools or centers run by religious organizations (see schools: parochial or religious)

42.12. Public schools: kindergarten/elementary

Grades K-6.

42.13. Public schools: junior high/middle school

Grades 7-9.

42.14. Public schools: high school/secondary

Grades 10-12.

42.15. Public schools: technical

Public schools providing technical training.

42.16. Schools: parochial or religious

Any school grades K-12 that is supported primarily by religious organizations.

42.17. Schools: private, trade/technical

Include the following types of schools: business/secretarial, cosmetology/hair/barber, massage therapy, art/design/fashion, medical assistant, electronics, air conditioning/heating, automotive repair, etc.

42.18. Schools: private schools

Private schools, military academies, boarding schools, Montessori, etc.

42.19. Schools: college or university

May be public, private, community college, university.

42.20. Recreation/community center

Include senior centers, boy/girls clubs, Police Athletic League, teen centers, etc.

42.21. Utilities: gas, water, electric

Include offices, pumping stations, relay stations, sewage treatment plants.

42.22. Charitable organizations (e.g. Goodwill)

Goodwill donation centers, Salvation Army Thrift stores, etc. Do not include non-charitable thrift stores in this category. See previous commercial question.

42.23. Other, specify

Use this category only if there is not other suitable category available. Be sure to indicate clearly the type of institution. You may enter as many additional types as required. Be sure to write clearly the category name and the total number of institutions in that category for the block face.

ALLEY OBSERVATION FORM
Question by Question Specifications

Alley Name

Print the name of the alley you are observing, if it is named.

Between Street/Landmark 1

Print the name of the first cross street or other landmark that marks the beginning of the alley that you are observing.

And Street/Landmark 2

Print the name of the second cross street or other landmark that marks the end of the alley you are observing.

1. Are there any houses with main entrances on the alley?

Indicate whether there are one or more houses with a main entrance on the alley.

2. Are there any businesses with main entrances on the alley?

Indicate whether there are one or more businesses with a main entrance on the alley.

3. Is the alley locked-down?

Indicate whether the alley is locked down—that is, it is gated and inaccessible to non-residents. Complete the remainder of the alley observation by looking down from the locked gate.

4. How would you rate the condition of the street surface in the alley?

Indicate the quality of the street for driving (rather than for appearance).

- Very poor – Very poor street surface is characterized by motorists slowing to avoid damaging their cars.
- Fair – A fair street surface may have rough spots that motorist may easily avoid (e.g., a small pothole).
- Moderately good – no unrepaired cracks or potholes or other conditions that would cause problems for drivers.
- Very good – A very good street surface condition would be a paved street that has no cracks or potholes, clean storm drains and gutters, no loose stones, etc.
- Under construction – Self-explanatory

5. Are there abandoned cars in the alley?

Look for cars that are missing parts, have flat tires or missing wheels or tickets. Do not assume that an old car is abandoned.

- None = 0 cars
- Very few = 1 – 2 cars
- Some = 3 – 4 cars

- Many = 5 or more cars

6. Is there trash or junk in the alley?

When estimating the amount of trash, your judgment is required. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work.

- None – No trash or junk is visible.
- Very little – If you look around carefully, you see trash in one or two places.
- Some – You notice trash or junk in three or four locations.
- A lot – You see trash or junk in several locations.

7. Is there garbage, litter, or broken glass in the alley?

When estimating the amount of garbage, your judgment is required. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work.

- None – No garbage, broken glass or litter is visible.
- Very little – If you look around carefully, you see a piece of garbage, broken glass or litter in three or less places.
- Some – You notice more than 6 items or you see a piece of garbage, broken glass or litter in more than three locations.
- A lot – You see garbage, broken glass or litter in several locations.

8. Are there needles, syringes, condoms, or drug-related paraphernalia in the alley?

Examples of drug-related paraphernalia include small plastic bags and glass vials. In addition, while you may not see actual needles or condoms, you may see the packages in which they are sold. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No evidence of needles, syringes, other drug-related paraphernalia, or condoms is visible.
- Little – You may see one or two items.
- Some – You notice more than 3 items or you see items in more than two locations.
- A lot – You see 4 or more items or an item in several locations.

9. Are there empty beer containers or liquor bottles in the alley?

Include wine bottles. Include the bottles if they are broken, but still recognizable as bottles. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No bottles are visible.
- Little – You may see one or two items.

- Some – You notice more than 3 items or you see items in more than two locations.
- A lot – You see 4 or more items or an item in several locations.

10. Are there cigarette or cigar butts or cigarette or cigar packages in the alley?

Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No cigarette or cigar butts or packages are visible.
- Little – You may see one or two items.
- Some – You notice more than 3 items or you see items in more than two locations. More than what you would encounter from a single careless passerby.
- A lot – You see 4 or more items or an item in several locations.

11. Is there any graffiti on buildings, sidewalks, walls, or signs?

By graffiti, we do not mean community murals or commissioned artwork on the side of buildings or walls. Below are some guidelines to help you get a feel for how the categories should work for this question.

- None – No sign of graffiti is visible.
- Little – You see one or two areas of graffiti
- Some – You see 3-5 areas of graffiti
- A lot – You see 5 or more areas of graffiti

12. Is there painted-over graffiti on buildings, sidewalks, walls, or signs?

Indicate whether there is notable evidence that walls, buildings or signs have been painted over in order to hide graffiti. Use the following answer categories:

- None – No sign of painted-over graffiti is visible.
- Little – You see one or two areas of painted-over graffiti.
- Some – You see 3-5 areas of painted-over graffiti.
- A lot – You see 5 or more areas of painted-over graffiti.

13. Are there obvious strong odors anywhere in the block face (urine stench, rotting garbage, etc.)?

Self explanatory.

SOCIAL OBSERVATION FORM
Question by Question Specifications

Street Name

Print the street name of the block face you are observing. If your observation is for an alley within a block, use the ALLEY form.

Between Street/Landmark 1

Print the name of the first cross street or other landmark that marks the beginning of the block face that you are observing.

And Street/Landmark 2

Print the name of the second cross street or other landmark that marks the end of the block face you are observing.

1. Did you see a police officer on the block face? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

Include city police, county sheriff, state highway patrol, etc. You must see a person not just a police vehicle. However, if you see an officer, in the vehicle, that counts. Circle all responses that apply during the time you were visiting the block face. The response categories are: 1) In a vehicle (sitting in a patrol car, driving by in a car, motorcycle, paddy wagon, assault vehicle, etc.); 2) On a bicycle or on horseback; 3) On foot (could be walking, sitting, etc. but there is no vehicle/bicycle around); and 9) Did not see a police officer.

2. Did you see any private security guards on the block face?

Businesses, organizations and residents employ security guards to protect private property. Be aware that many private security guards look very similar to police officers probably to act as an additional deterrent to criminal activity. Indicate "yes" if you see one on the block face regardless if he/she is posted at a particular location, on foot, bicycle, or in a vehicle. Do not indicate "yes" if the only evidence is a sign saying: "this property is protected by" a security service. You must to see a person.

3. Did you see any children on the block face? (CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY)

To answer this question, you will sometimes have to guess the ages of young people you see on the block. For this form, children are between 0 to 12 years old.

The responses indicate if the children are in their own yard or if activities may also take place in "common" or public areas of the block. For adult supervision, the adult must be at least within visual contact of the child or somehow monitoring the child on a regular basis.

You may select as many of the response categories as apply to your observations. The response categories are: 1) Playing in the front private yards; 2) Playing on the sidewalk or in the street; 3) Under adult supervision/accompanied by an adult; 4) Arguing, fighting, acting hostile or threatening; 5) Saw children but not in above activities; and 9) Did not see any children.

4. Did you see any teenagers on the block face?

To answer this question, you will sometimes have to guess the ages of young people you see on the block. For this form, teenagers are between 13 and 19 years old.

The response categories are: 1) Yes; and 2) No. Skip to Question 9 if you see no teenagers on the block face.

5. Did you see any teenagers in groups of three or more?

There must be at least three teenagers together. It doesn't matter whether or not the teenagers are related to each other. The response categories are: 1) Yes; and 3) No.

6. Were teens in the groups you saw male, female, or mixed?

Use your best judgment about the sex of the teenagers in the group and record your observations. You may see more than one group during your observations so you may code any of the categories that apply to your observations. The response categories are: 1) All male; 2) All female; 3) Mixed male/female; and 9) Did not see teenagers in groups.

7. Did you see any teenagers in the group who were... (CODE ALL THAT APPLY)

You may select as many of the response categories as apply to your observations.

Style of clothes should indicate more than that everyone in the group could engage in the same activity (casual wear, sports wear, etc). For example, if teenagers are wearing jeans, the jeans should be cut the same way (e.g., loose and baggy). In groups with both males and females, you do not have to observe that both sexes have the same style. However, all the females should have a similar style of clothes and all the males should have a similar style of clothes.

Wearing the same color or colors just refers to the color of clothes. The color should be obvious to you as you look at the group but not everyone has to be dressed in only one color. (For example, everyone does not have to dress in all black to count but maybe everyone is wearing black tops.) In groups with both males and females, you do not have to observe that both genders have the same color(s). However, all the females should have the same color(s) and all the males should have the same color(s).

Wearing the same sports insignia means that everyone has a sports team logo on some article of clothing like a hat, shirt, etc. Sports logos on bags would count.

The response categories are: 1) Wearing the same style clothes; 2) Wearing the same color(s); 3) Wearing sports insignias; 4) Wearing the same hats, jewelry, or shoes; 5) Saw teenagers in groups but none of the above; and 9) Did not see any teenagers in groups.

8. Did any of the groups of teens you saw appear to be a gang?

The response categories are: 1) Yes; 3) No; and 9) Did not see any teenagers in groups. Use your best judgment in determining whether or not any of the groups you see on the block face are likely to be a gang.

9. Did someone tell you that there was a gang or gang activity on the block face?

Do not directly ask people about gangs or gang activity on the block face. If someone you were talking to for other reasons tells you that there is gang activity on the block, then record this information.

The response categories are 1) Yes; 3) No; and 9) No one spoke about gangs on the block face.

10. Did you see any adults on the block face?

You may estimate the ages of the adults (adults are 19 years old and older). The response categories are: 1) Yes; 3) No.

11. Did you see any adults on the block face loitering, congregating or hanging out?

The adult may be alone or in a group. The adult or adults must be standing about idly or hanging out. For example, if you see an adult waiting for a bus or taxi, do not include him/her in this category. The response categories are: 1) Yes; and 9) No.

12. Did you see any prostitutes on the block face?

Be aware that there are male prostitutes. Street prostitutes will be looking at the cars that drive by to identify potential customers. Female prostitutes dress in a way to draw attention to themselves. If a stranger approaches and asks you if you are looking for a date, they are likely to be a prostitute. If you have additional questions about how to identify prostitutes, speak directly to your supervisor.

Be aware that dressing norms vary in different communities. A revealing outfit is not automatically an indication that the person will exchange sex for money. Use your best judgment. The response categories are: 1) Yes; and 9) No.

13. Did someone tell you that prostitutes work on the block face?

Do not directly ask people about prostitutes on the block face. If someone you were talking to for other reasons tells you that there are prostitutes on the block, then record this information.

The response categories are 1) Yes; 3) No; and 9) No one spoke about prostitutes on the block face.

14. Did you see any homeless people or people begging on the block face?

The response categories are: 1) Yes (If you saw homeless or begging people on the block face); and 9) No (You did not see any homeless or begging people on the block face). Note that homeless people should include those living in a car or a van.

15. Did someone tell you that there are homeless people or people begging on the block face?

Do not directly ask people about homeless people on the block face. If someone you were talking to for other reasons tells you that there are homeless people on the block, then record this information.

The response categories are 1) Yes; 3) No; and 9) No one spoke about prostitutes on the block face.

16. Did you see people were selling illegal drugs on the block face?

This question asks whether you actually saw someone who appeared to be selling drugs on this block.

Do not put yourself in dangerous situations. If you see something that might be a drug sale, do not come closer or stare in an effort to determine whether or not it was a drug sale.

17. Did someone tell you that people sell illegal drugs on the block face?

Do not directly ask people about illegal drug sales on the block face. If someone you were talking to for other reasons tells you that there are illegal drug sales on the block, then record this information.

The response categories are 1) Yes; 3) No; and 9) No one spoke about prostitutes on the block face.

18. Did you see any people drinking alcohol openly on the block face?

This means that you saw someone drinking a can of beer or out of an alcohol bottle. If the person has a beverage in his/her hand and is drinking it, but you need to guess whether you think it is an alcoholic beverage. Does it look like a coke or ice tea or lemonade or more like a glass of wine or shot of liquor?

19. Did you see any drunken or otherwise intoxicated people on the block face?

This question asks whether you actually saw someone who appeared to be drunk or intoxicated on this block.

Do not put yourself in dangerous situations. Drunk or intoxicated people may act unpredictably. If you encounter a drunk or intoxicated person quickly move away to a safe area where there are other people.

Drunken or intoxicated behavior may manifest as staggering, slurred speech, or uncoordinated movement. If you are close to the person, you may be able to smell or see alcohol, glue, crack, marijuana or some other intoxicant around the person. Some mental conditions may resemble intoxication to the lay person so take care in your observations. Be sure that someone who is having trouble walking is not physically handicapped. The response categories are: 1) Yes; and 9) No.

20. Did someone tell you that drunk or intoxicated people loiter on the block face?

Do not directly ask people about drunk or intoxicated people on the block face. If someone you were talking to for other reasons tells you that there are drunk or intoxicated people on the block, then record this information.

The response categories are 1) Yes; 3) No; and 9) No one spoke about drunk or intoxicated people on the block face.

21. Did you hear loud music playing from boom boxes or any of the buildings on the block face?

The response categories are: 1) Yes; and 9) No. You may also answer yes if parked cars are playing loud music. Do not count loud music that is played from passing cars.

22. Did you hear or see another language other than English on the block face? (CODE ALL THAT APPLY)

If someone on the block face tells you what the language is you may count that language. Code all categories that apply. The response categories are: 02) Heard some other language don't know which one; 11) Spanish; 12) Armenian; 13) Khmer; 14) Vietnamese; 15) Korean; 16) Filipino; 17) Chinese; 18) Japanese; and 99) No people around or did not hear or see any language. Also, there are Other categories (20 and 21) that will allow you to specify up to two additional languages that are not on the list.

23. How did people on the block face regard you? (CODE ALL THAT APPLY)

This question asks how people on the block face responded to you when you were observing. Code all response categories that apply. As objectively as you can, estimate how you were regarded by those people on the block face. The response categories are: 1) Paid little or no attention by those around; 2) Treated with suspicion; 3) Friendly responses, greetings, helpful; 4) Polite responses to your queries; 5) Queried about what you were doing in neighborhood; 9) No people around.