

Prostitution, Displacement and Human Geography: The Affects of Police Actions

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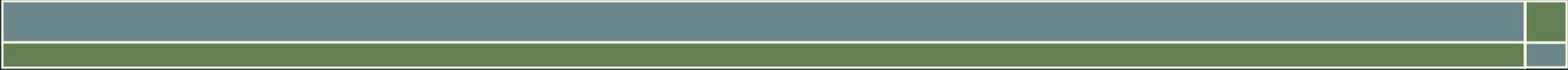
Background

- ❑ Growing concern of street prostitution in Edmonton.
- ❑ Management took primary responsibility in addressing this issue along one of the City's most prominent strolls.
- ❑ *Operation Impact* was developed.



Study Objective

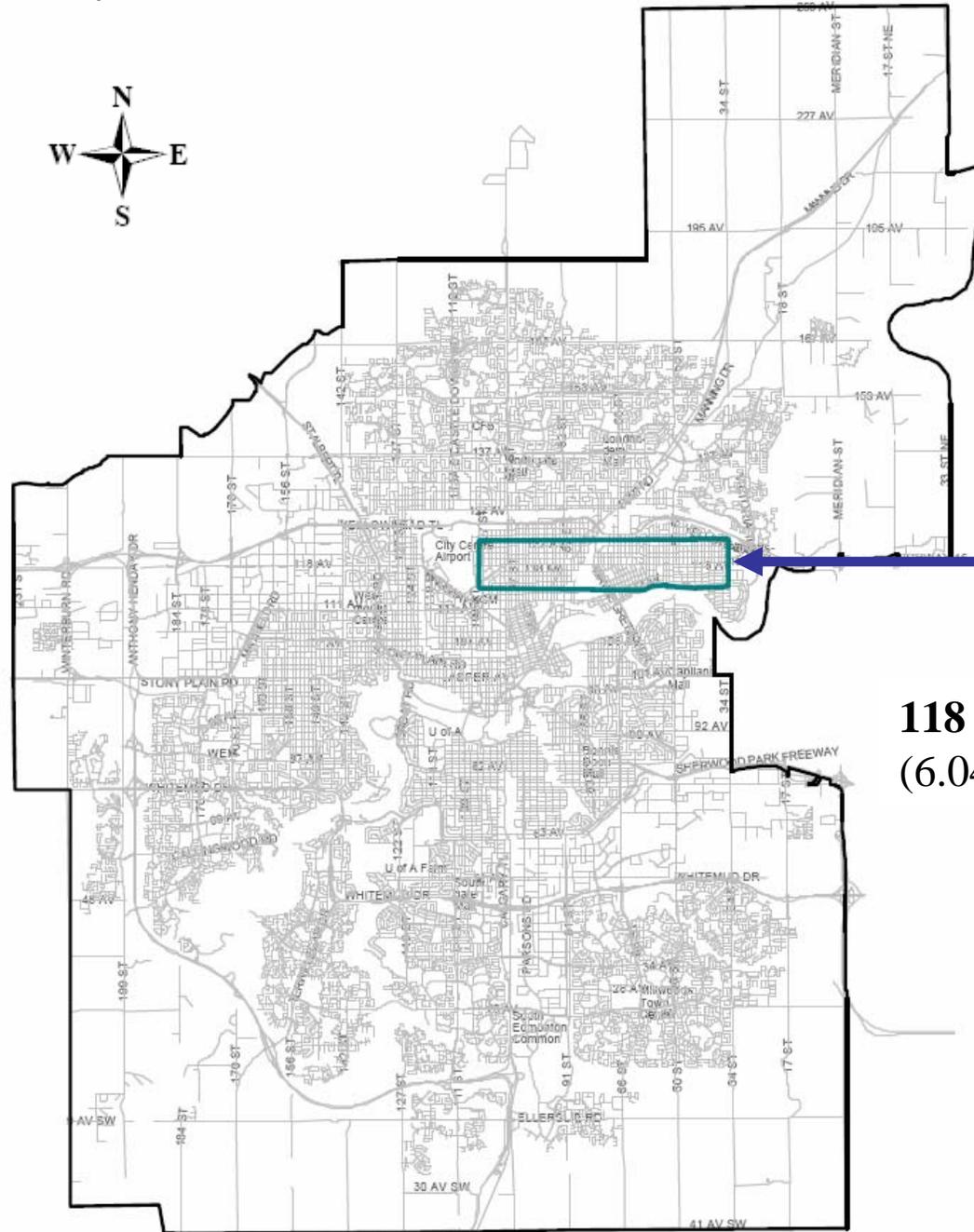
- To provide an overview and an understanding of the location of street prostitution activity in Edmonton.
- Assess if *Operation Impact* changed the spatial distribution of prostitution.



Operation Impact

- The targeted area: 118 Avenue

City Of Edmonton



118 Avenue
(6.0442 sq km)



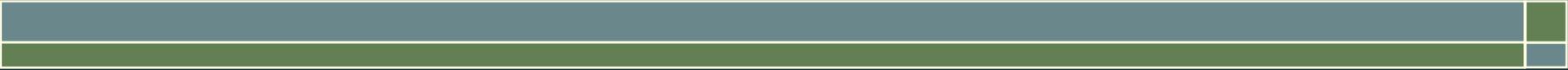
Operation Impact

- ❑ The targeted area: 118 Avenue
- ❑ Main objective: To decrease the amount of street prostitution, drug dealers and gang activity along the avenue.
- ❑ Duration: May 16, 2006 to June 30, 2006
- ❑ Units Involved: Traffic, VICE, Beats, North Division, Downtown Division, and Neighborhood Empowerment Team.
- ❑ Strategies:
 - Arrest prostitutes and johns operating in the target area.
 - Public awareness campaign.
 - Enforce the law (bylaw, traffic, and criminal).



Spatial Distribution of Prostitution

- Police and/or community action force prostitution away from neighbourhoods and into industrial areas or into private facilities.
- Legislation can also force prostitution to certain areas or away from certain areas.
 - Legality of massage parlours
- Cost benefit choice by the Prostitutes.
 - Risk of targeting by police and the community
 - Access to clients



Displacement Theories

- Time Displacement
 - Times that are less likely patrolled by police or community groups.
- Geographical Displacement
 - Move a few blocks away, move to another part of town, or move to another town/city.
- Tactical Displacement
 - Move indoors.
- Crime Type Displacement
 - Achieve monetary gain through other illegal behaviours.

Methodology

- A three year trend was completed on prostitution activity (2003-2005)
- A pre-post analysis of *Operation Impact* (Feb-Mar 2006, May-Jun 2006, Jul-Aug 2006)



A pedestrian stops to speak with a known prostitute (95th Street).

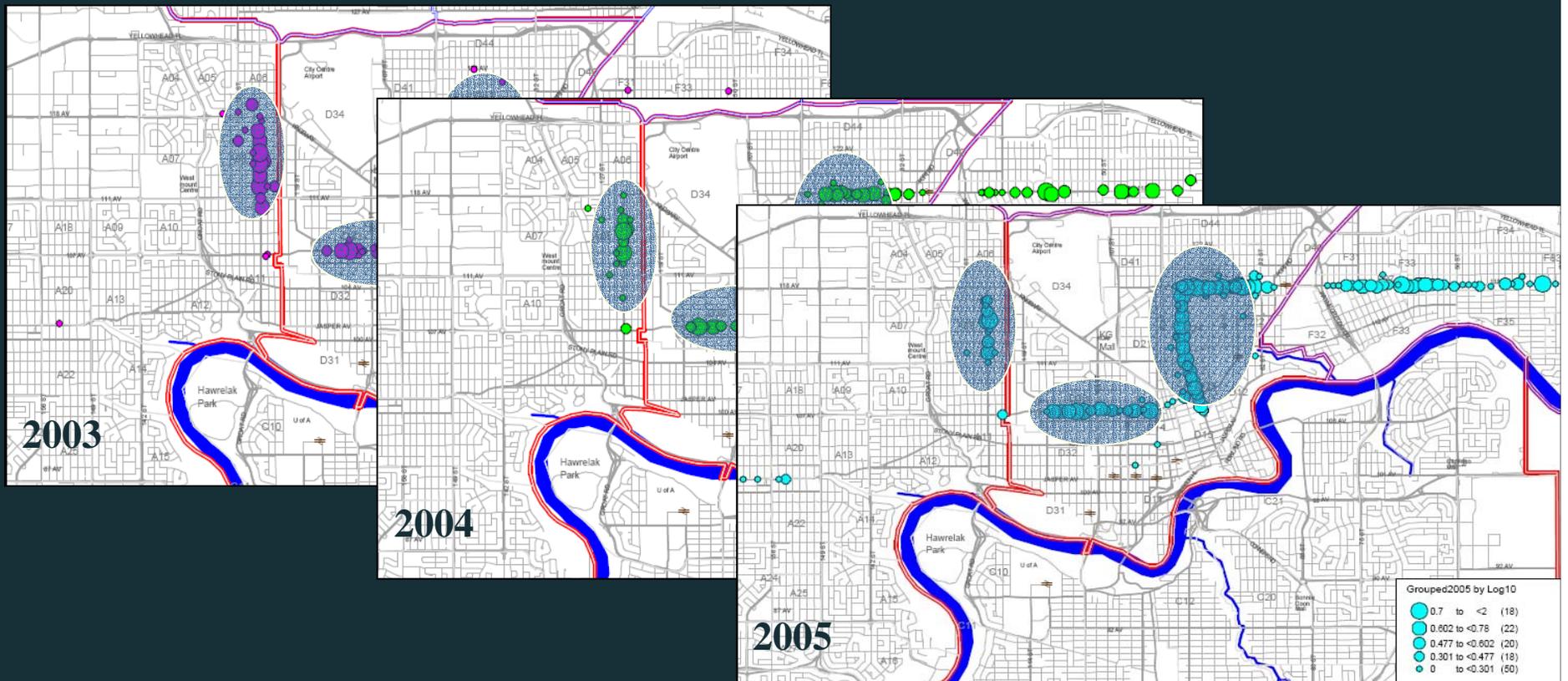
Methodology



- Data
 - Police reports
 - Public reports
- GIS – MapInfo
 - Pin Mapping
 - Spatial Mean
- Classic Statistics
 - T-test
 - ANOVA

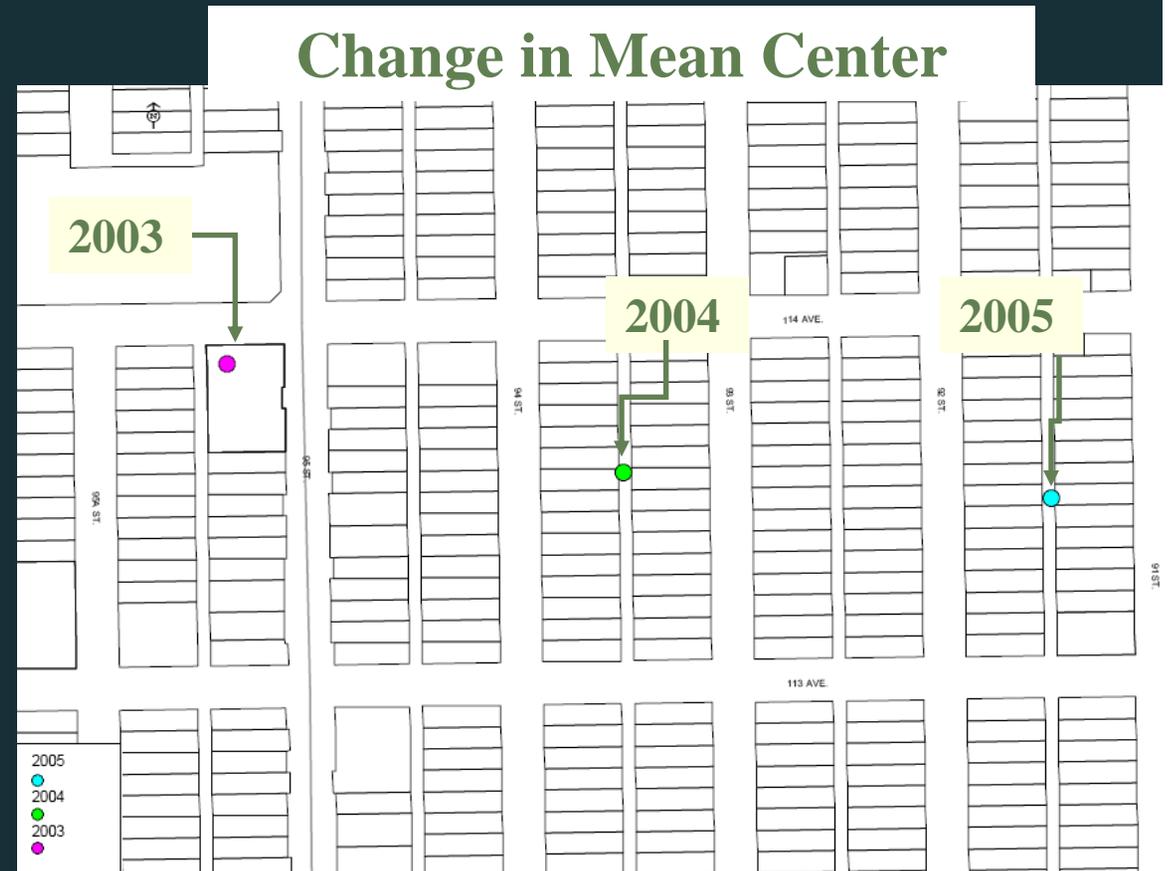
Results

- Three Year Trend
- Minor Differences



Results

- Three Year Trend
 - Fewer reported prostitution activities.
 - Mean change significant only with respect to X coordinate ($p. <.05$).



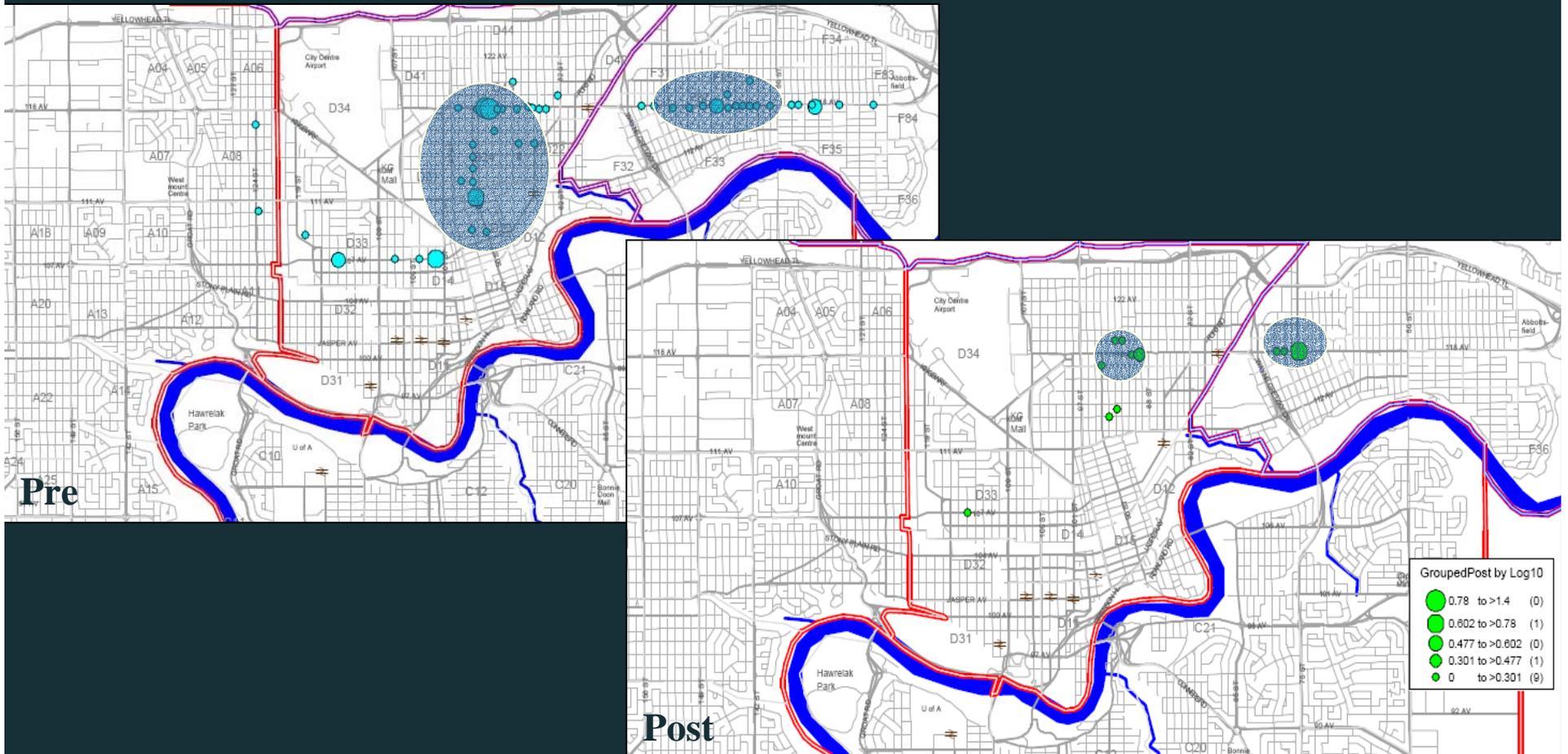


Results

- Pre-Post Operation Impact
 - Due to small number of reported activities post *Operation*, it is difficult to determine if change occurred.
 - However, it appears as though the Avenue still saw a larger portion of the citywide street prostitution activity before, during and after *Operation Impact*.

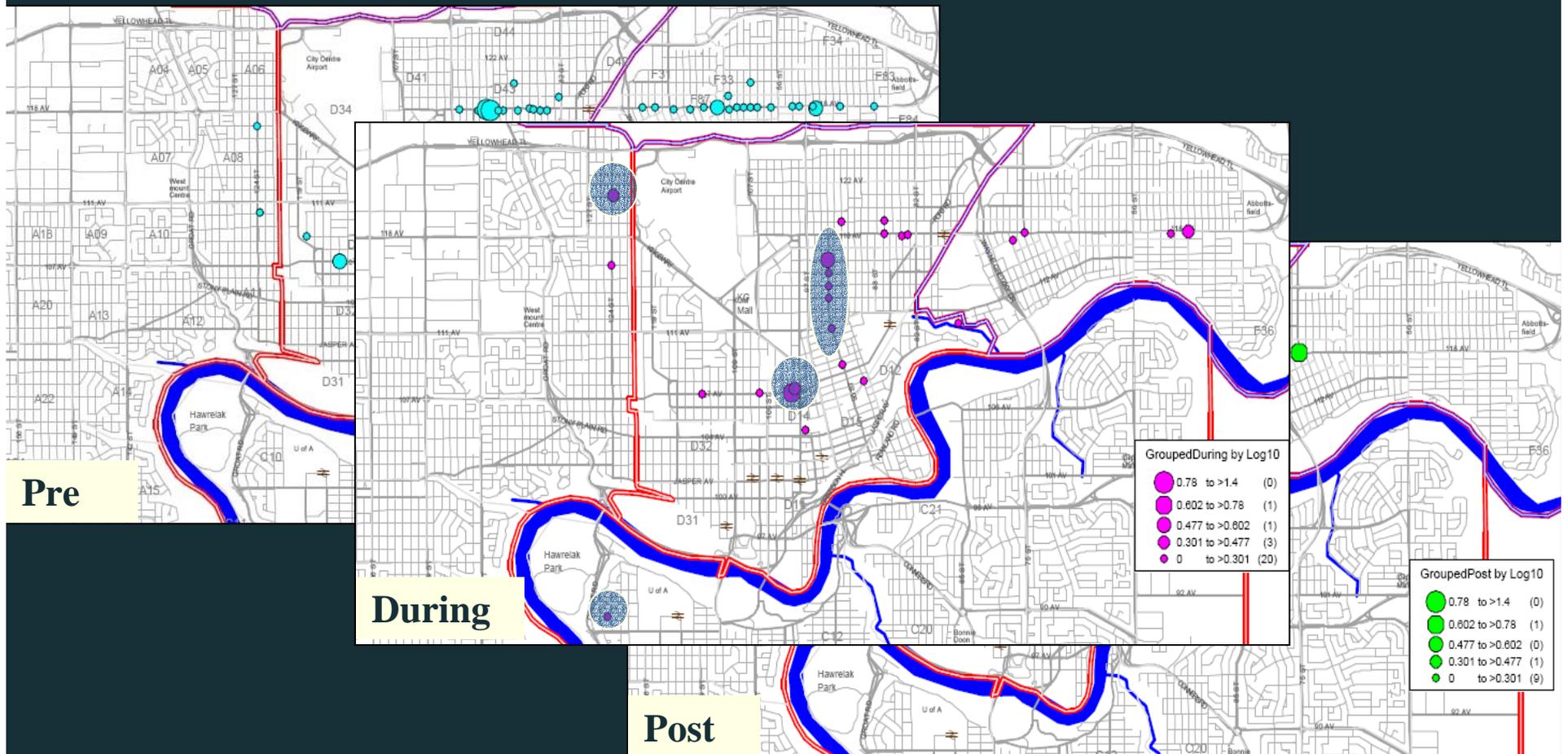
Results

Pre-Post Operation Impact



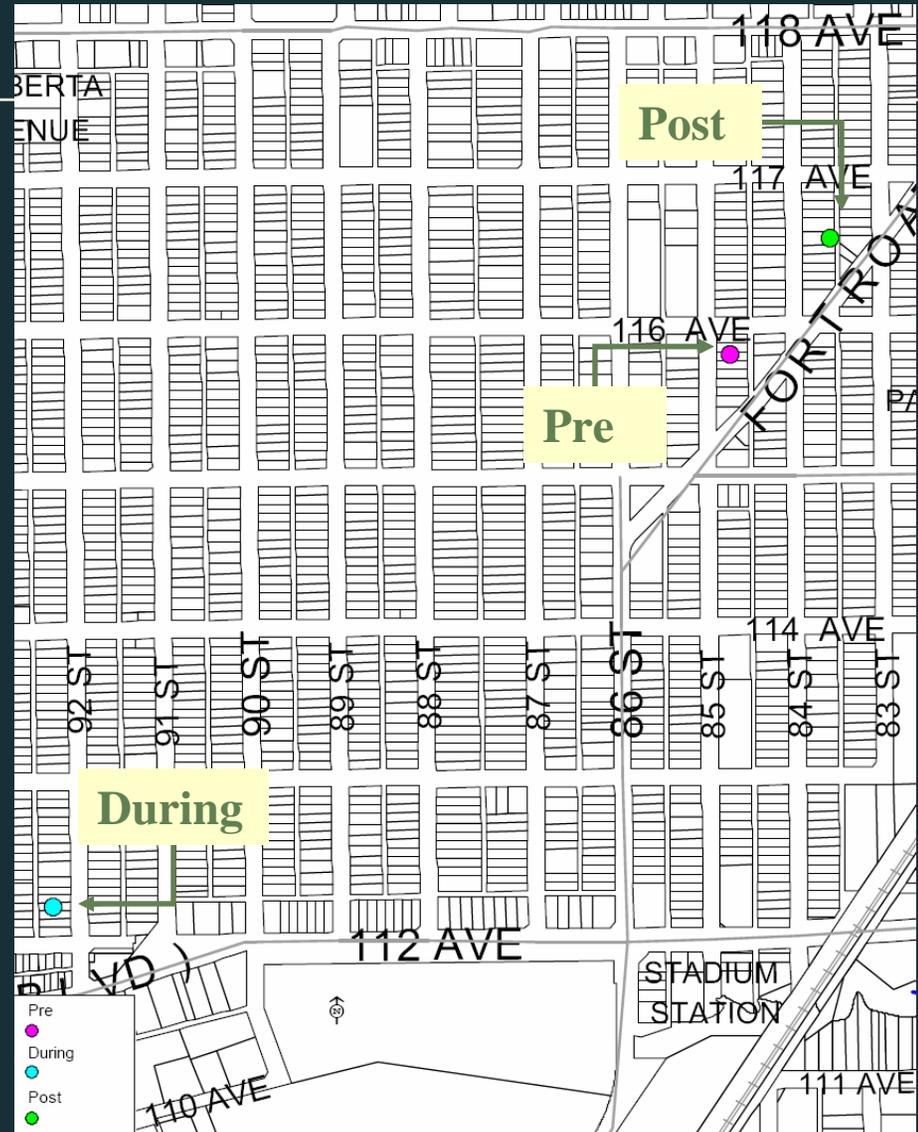
Results

Pre-Post Operation Impact



Results

- Pre-Post *Operation Impact*
 - Mean Centre



Results

- *Pre-Post Operation Impact*
 - **Difference Between Pre and During**
 - Activity reported on the South Side.
 - Activity moved off of 118 avenue.
 - Statistically significant change in Y coordinate ($p. <.05$).
 - **Difference Between During and Post**
 - Activity moved back on the Avenue
 - Statistically significant change in Y coordinate ($p. <.05$).

Discussion

- ❑ There was geographic displacement during *Operation Impact*, however once the project ended so did the displacement.
- ❑ During the Operation displacement was noted, but it wasn't permanent.
- ❑ It appears that tactical displacement or crime type displacement may have occurred.
- ❑ Long term trends suggests that, prostitution is slowly migrating east, but remains within the general vicinity of the current stroll.



Discussion/Conclusion

- Community surveys should be conducted to see if their perception of the problem, post *Operation Impact*, has changed.
- If community response still demands policing operations to combat this issue, alternatives could be looked at.
 - Zones of Tolerance
 - Project SNUG

Questions?
