

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

## **Amendments to Secondary Metals Recyclers**

**September 5, 2006**

# Worldwide Issue

- Time Magazine (Europe) has reported an alarming increase in metal thefts in Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, England, and the United States
- Dramatic rise in manufacturing and building in India and in particular China has driven the demand for scrap metal
- In 2004, the United States traded more than 2 Billion dollars worth of scrap metal to China alone

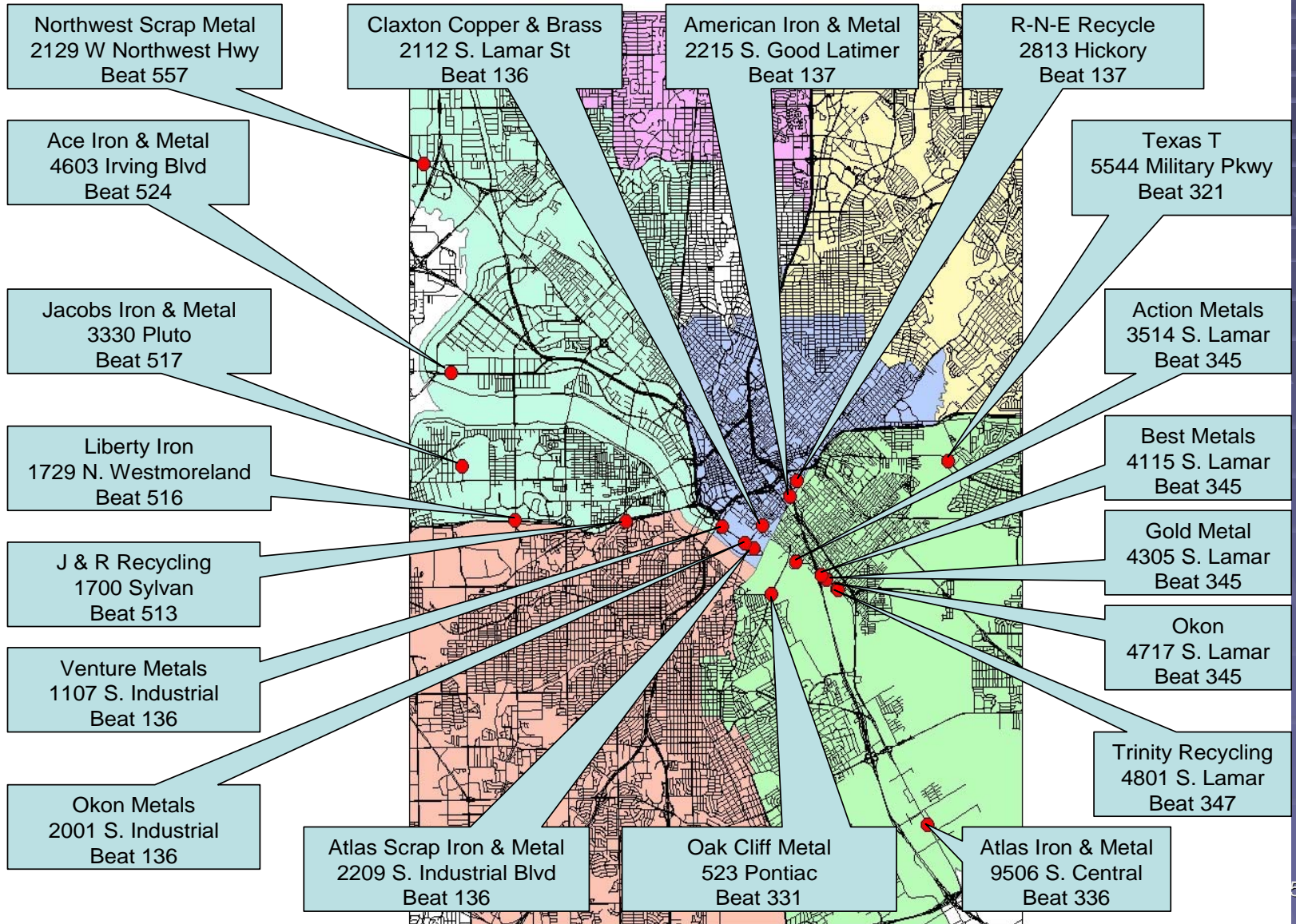
# Impact on the City of Dallas

- **July 2006**
  - thieves climbed a utility pole and cut phone cables for copper wire. As a result , phone service was lost to areas of Oak Cliff
- **May 2006**
  - thieves climbed on top of business on Gaston Avenue and removed copper tubing from two air conditioners. The copper stolen was worth \$300-\$400 but \$20,000 worth of damage was done.
- **April 2006**
  - thieves took a set of aluminum bleachers from Zaragoza Park in West Dallas. The cost to the City \$1000.00.
- **November 2005**
  - 6 stop signs were stolen along Lenway Street from C.F. Hawn Freeway to Latimer. The cost to the City \$3000.00. No accidents were reported as a result of the missing signs.

# DPD Metal Unit

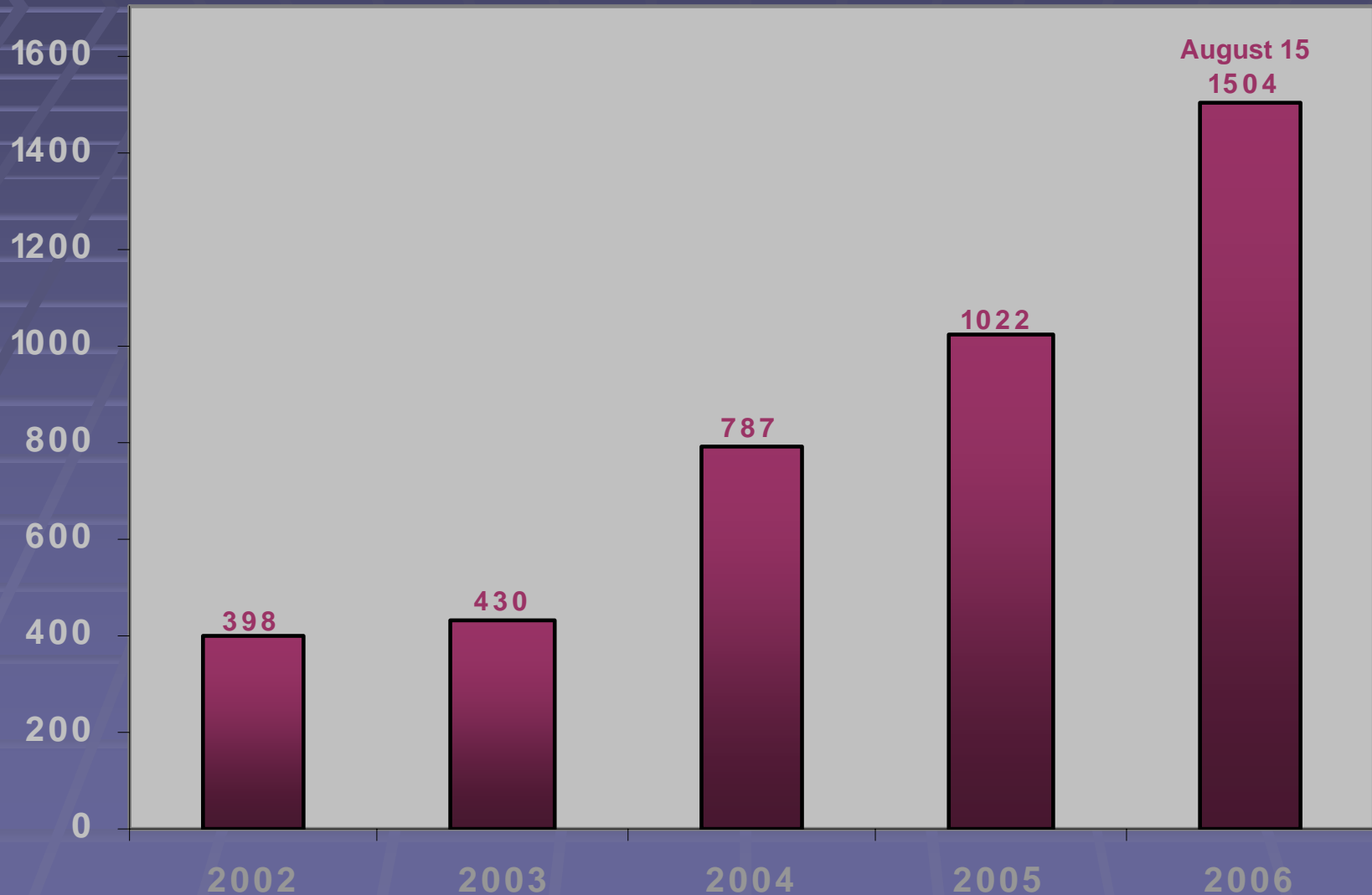
- **City Code 40B implemented in 1994**
- **Dallas Police Department formed a squad of detectives specializing in the theft of metals.**
  - **Four detectives are assigned to Central Division and investigate all metal offenses citywide.**
- **Duties:**
  - **inspection of the scrap yards every three days**
  - **monitoring the scrap yards for compliance to city code**
  - **send out alerts to scrap yards regarding stolen property**
  - **assist other law enforcement agencies in their investigation and training**
  - **recovering stolen property (to date \$3,267,364.00 worth of property has been recovered)**

# METAL SCRAP YARDS



# Increased Metal Offenses

## January 2002 – August 15, 2006



# Dallas City Code 40B - Secondary Metals Recyclers

The current city code was passed in November 1996.

- **Section 1 Buying of metals:**
  - Records required to be kept
  - State issued I.D. required by seller
  - Restriction on the buying of manhole covers, light poles, and guard rails.
  - 72 hour tag and hold on property that is bought
  
- **Section 2 Licensing of the secondary recyclers:**
  - License required for secondary metal recyclers
  - Fees
  - Suspension/revocation of license

# Proposed Amendment to City Ordinance

- Restrict the purchase of copper or aluminum condensing / evaporator coils.
- Restrict the purchase of aluminum or stainless steel propane fork lift containers.
- The seller is required to provide a letter of permission from manufacturer or licensed installer / repairman to sell these items.
- Phase in computerized record keeping at secondary recycling yards within five years.



# Proposed Amendment to City Ordinance

(continued)

- **Recycler cannot purchase metals from someone who is intoxicated or under 18 years old without consent from parent or guardian.**
- **Required to maintain records of purchases of less than 50 lbs. copper/brass and less than 40 lbs. other metals.**
- **The seller will be required to affix a legible thumb print to the record of purchase.**

# Proposed Amendment to City Ordinance

## (continued)

- **Increase the number of items that are designated as regulated items:**
  - **Street signs**
  - **Traffic control signs, traffic light signals, light poles and their fixtures**
  - **Communication wire**
  - **Transmission or service wire**
  - **Historical markers**
  - **Funeral markers and vases**
  - **Property owned by railroad**
  - **Any metal item that is conspicuously marked with the name /initials of the city, city water, city public service board, or telephone company**

QUESTIONS ?