



Restorative Justice as  
an Alternative to  
Punitive Discipline

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CITY OF OMAHA  
HUMAN RIGHTS & RELATIONS DEPT.



# Overview

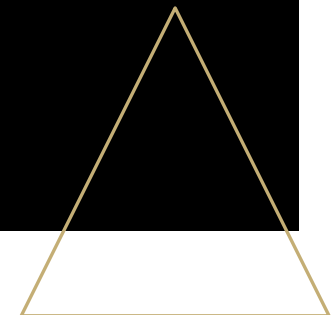
- Meet the Presenter
- Protests in Omaha
- A Social Justice Problem in Omaha
- Intro to Omaha Crime Report
- Omaha Crime Report
- Restorative Justice Diversion Crime Stats
- Birth of an Idea: RJ in Omaha
- RJ Pilot Program
- RJ Program in Omaha
- Administration
- The Omaha Model
- Perspective Exercises
- Newspaper Exercise



# Gerald M. Kuhn, II

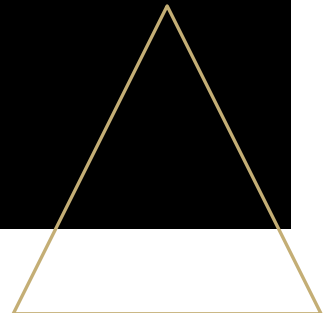
- Acting Director, City of Omaha  
Human Rights and Relations Department
- City of Omaha ADA Coordinator
- Restorative Justice Diversion  
Program Administrator

Tensions on both sides were at an all time high in Omaha...



# A Social Justice Problem in Omaha

- 2020 Omaha Protests
- Death of James Scurlock
- Police and Community Relations

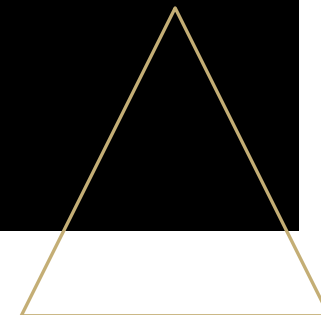


“They’re meeting them at a lot better place in life than they were when they are arrested. So the officers have a crucial rule in the restorative justice process in both learning and teaching.”

- GERALD KUHN



Intro to Omaha Crime Report – Deputy Chief of Police Steve Cerveney



- Criminal Homicide numbers down 38%
- Omaha Police Department Homicide Clearance Rate of 80%
- Rape numbers down 23%
- Burglary numbers down 13%
- Auto Theft numbers down 2%
- Robbery Clearance rate up to 62% in 2022 from 41% in 2021
- Robbery numbers up 3%
- Aggravated Assault numbers up 7%
- Criminal Homicide National Average: 6.5%
- Nebraska Criminal Homicide Average: 3.5%

# Omaha Crime Report 2022

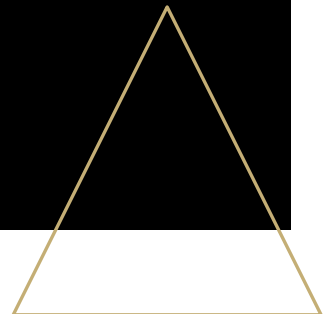
(through 6/2022)



Restorative Justice  
Diversion  
Crime Stats  
2021 / 2022

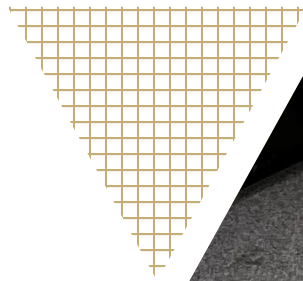
- Minor Resisting Arrest  
2021: 249  
2022: 161
- Minor Obstruction of Justice  
2021: 875  
2022: 627
- Minor Disorderly Conduct  
2021: 716  
2022: 550

Birth of an Idea: Restorative Justice in Omaha – Matt Kuhse, City Prosecutor

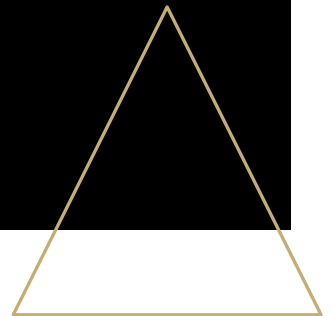


# Restorative Justice Pilot Program

- Curriculum Research
- Finding support within the city and community



Restorative Justice in Omaha – Lindsey Bitzes, Assistant City Prosecutor




# Administration

- Referral from Prosecutor
- Initial Contact
- Set Up Class
- Monitoring
- Assistance
- Program Completion

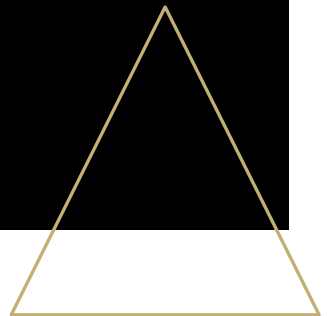


- Class Structure
- Humanization
- Perspective Building
- Acceptance/ Accountability
- Community Service
- Exit Interview
- 6 Month Diversion Period



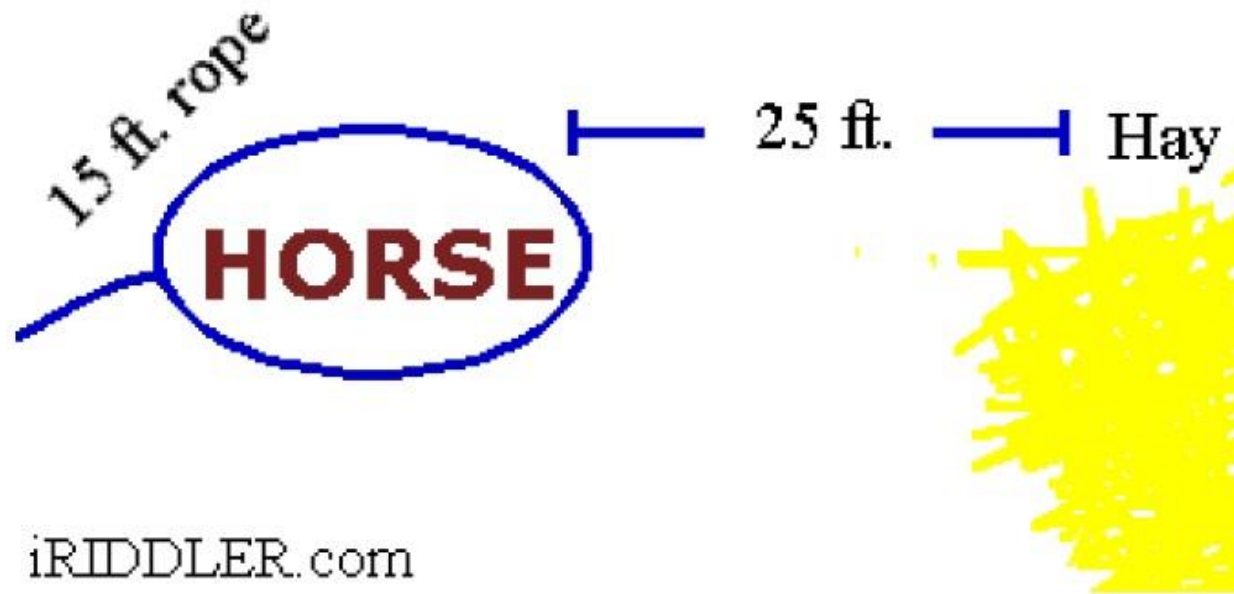
The Omaha  
Restorative  
Justice  
Diversion  
Model

# Perspective Exercises

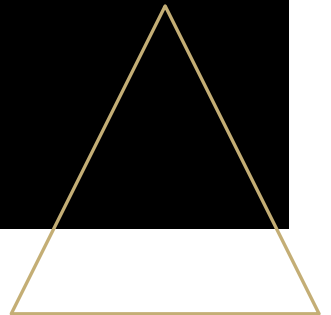


# Perspective Exercises

How is it possible for the horse to get to the hay?



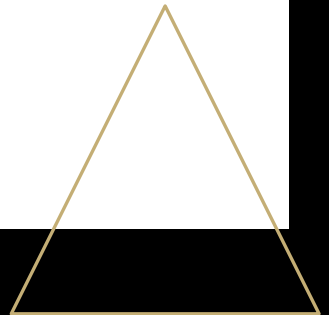
# Perspective Exercises





# Newspaper Exercise

- 5 minutes
- No talking
- Goal is to build the tallest free standing tower



# Thank You



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