

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

2009 OCT 15 PM 3: 20

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Dan Lindheim
FROM: Oakland Police Department
DATE: October 27, 2009

RE: **An Informational Report From the Oakland Police Department Concerning the Security Pilot Program Including the Locations and Hours of Implementation, Number of Community and Business Contacts, Number of Citations Issued, Number of Arrests made, Tangible and Intangible Impacts of the Program, With Feedback From the Affected Business Owners, and A Statistical Comparison of Violent Crime Based on the Same Time Last Year in the Impacted Areas**

SUMMARY

On April 21, 2009, the City Council authorized pilot implementation of the Central City East Commercial Security Program and the Coliseum Commercial Security Program. The programs were created in response to community support for additional security in their commercial districts.

The information contained in this report details the locations and hours of implementation, number of community and business contacts, number of citation issued and arrests made as well as tangible and intangible impacts of the programs. Also included in this report is feedback from the affected business owners and a statistical comparison of violent crime based on the same time last year in the impacted areas.

This report is for informational purposes only and staff does not require any action on the part of the Oakland City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for the program was approved by the City Council on May 5, 2009, by Resolution No. 81976 C.M.S., in an amount not to exceed \$180,000. The overtime funding was allocated in the following manner: \$60,000 was made available in the Commercial Security Guards Project (S354010) in the Coliseum Operating Fund (9450) Coliseum Redevelopment Organization (88659), and \$120,000 was made available from the Commercial Security CCE Project (S353910) in the Central City East: Operations Fund (9540), Central City East Organization (88699).

The program did not exceed the amount available.

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BACKGROUND

In a 1995 blight study conducted in the Coliseum Redevelopment Project Area it was noted, "Local business sources agree that fear for personal safety is one of the most serious impediments to investment in the Study Area"¹. Subsequent surveys and direct feedback at community meetings reiterated public safety as a primary concern.

In recent years, staff has continued to see significant criminal activity taking place in the target areas, such as open air drug dealing, prostitution, loitering, violent crime, and property crime. In an effort to address these concerns with supplemental resources, the Oakland City Council authorized the Central City East Commercial Security Pilot Program and the Coliseum Commercial Security Pilot Program in the following areas:

- MacArthur Boulevard from 73rd Avenue to the San Leandro border; and
- International Boulevard from 23rd Avenue to the San Leandro border.

Other areas being considered for the program include:

- Foothill Boulevard between 23rd and 73rd Avenues;
- Bancroft Avenue between 66th and 73rd Avenues;
- The East 18th Street/Park Boulevard area;
- The Eastlake commercial corridor between 5th and 10th Avenues along East 12th Street and International Boulevard;
- San Leandro Street between Fruitvale Avenue and 98th Avenue; and
- The 23rd Avenue corridor from East 12th Street to East 27th Street.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Impact on Crime

In an attempt to statistically measure the success of the *Foot Patrol Commercial Security Plan*, Crime analysts compared crime data 90 days prior (2/22/09 – 5/22/09) to the implementation of the project along International and MacArthur Boulevards, to the 90 days in which the program took place (5/23/09 – 8/20/09). The same comparison was used in the two additional locations added midway through the project, Foothill Boulevard and Bancroft Avenue (7/18/09 – 8/20/09), for a shorter period of 34 days. Crime statistics (in the designated locations where patrolling was conducted) were analyzed and compared to crime statistics for the same time

¹ Retrieved from the Coliseum Area Redevelopment Plan Report to Council July 1995, pp. II-99 to II-110

period in the previous year (5/23/08 – 8/20/09). Particular attention was placed on whether or not there was a reduction in Part I crimes.²

Statistical analysis revealed the total number of reported crimes was down in all areas when compared to the same time last year. Additionally, all Part I crimes, decreased over 50%. MacArthur Boulevard experienced a 54% decrease in Part I crimes reported; with arrests were up 59% (including the seizure of weapons and narcotics) when compared to the 56 days prior to the implementation of the program. International Boulevard did not experience a decrease in Part I crimes; however, the area experienced a 27% increase in arrests. Weapon and narcotic arrests and seizures remained steady.

Program Statistics

Attachment A provides statistical data for the target areas.

Long Term Impact

The program areas were staffed by the Patrol and Problem Solving officers who are normally assigned to the area, providing enhanced access to businesspersons and community members and further developed their direct lines of communication. Prior to the implementation of this program, some officers worked late evening shifts, which made it difficult for them to regularly meet with community members. Because of this project, they were able to spend several shifts learning the needs of the community first hand and developing relationships with its members. In addition, the officers were often able to take action to alleviate complaints concerning criminal activity, loitering, and other municipal code violations. This type of direct interaction in the program areas has made a positive impact on long-term police community relations. Furthermore, those officers who worked the late evening hours now have a better understanding of the issues they should address when businesses are closed, such as abandoned vehicles, suspicious persons, loitering, and other illegal activity.

Increased communication and intimate familiarity with the community invariably leads to more collaboration with its members. Increased collaboration leads to long-term problem solving. This program, as a supplement to other police efforts, makes the program areas safer and more desirable for new businesses. There were additional advantages in using sworn personnel versus private security. Sworn personnel are better trained to address public safety issues directly, and have received more training in the areas of Use of Force, community relations, and racial profiling.

² Part I crimes are defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), as murder, aggravated assault, robbery, rape, burglary, larceny-theft, arson, and motor vehicle theft.

Much work remains, but ultimately these efforts will lead to increased economic activity. When the economy begins to rebound, these areas will be prime locations for current businesses, as well as attractive to new ones. However, during this economic downturn, staff must remain focused on decreasing crimes in these areas.

Community Survey

During the week of September 21, 2009, Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) staff conducted interviews of employees and owners of businesses served by the foot patrols. Businesses were randomly selected from a list of businesses contacted by OPD walking patrols during the course of the program. Of the 16 interviews conducted, 3 were businesses on Bancroft Avenue (between Havenscourt and 73rd Ave), 2 on Foothill Boulevard (between 52nd and 54th Avenues), and 11 on International Boulevard (between 73rd and the San Leandro border).

Some notable results from the survey:

- 69% of respondents believed that crime and public safety was the most important factor affecting the success of their business.
- 60% believed that customer concerns about personal safety negatively affected their business.
- 100% of respondents were aware of the walking patrols.
- 73% of respondents would be in favor of enhancing the patrols (When questioned, interviewers described this as increasing the number of patrols.)
- 100% of all respondents stated that it would be beneficial to continue the walking patrols.

When asked to rate the effectiveness of the patrols in improving the safety of the neighborhood, (with 5 being the highest possible rating of "very helpful") the average rating was 4.7, with 75% of all respondents giving the highest possible rating of 5.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Central City East Commercial Security Pilot Program and the Coliseum Commercial Security Pilot Program began on May 23, 2009 and ended on August 20, 2009. There were six overtime shifts per week (Monday – Saturday), with four officers assigned to each shift scheduled from 12:00 P.M. through 7:00 P.M. These officers were primarily on foot patrol throughout the entire shift; the program was supervised by the Area 3 commander.

The program officers took enforcement action when appropriate and discussed safety issues with business owners and residents. Officers who were trained in bicycle and dual-purpose motorcycles were encouraged to use their bikes as alternative methods if appropriate. The

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program participants were required to complete statistical sheets to track their work output for each shift.

Emphasis was placed on communication with business persons and residents in the program areas.

The program was initially set up with a focus on seven primary areas:

May 23 through July 17, 2009

	Location
1	MacArthur Blvd. from 73 rd Ave. to 90 th Ave.
2	MacArthur Blvd. from 90 th Ave. to the San Leandro border
3	International Blvd. from High Street to 73 rd Ave.
4	International Blvd. from 73 rd Ave. to 90 th Ave.
5	International Blvd. from 90 th Ave. to the San Leandro border
6	International Blvd from 29 th Ave. to 35 th Ave.
7	International Blvd. from 35 th Ave. to High St.

Based on feedback from stakeholders, staff changed the walking areas of the program to offer coverage to areas that had not received supplemental patrols during the first period.

July 18 through August 20, 2009

	Location
1	Foothill Blvd. from High St. to 55 th Ave.
2	Foothill Blvd. from 55 th Ave. to 73 rd Ave.
3	Bancroft Ave. from 46 th Ave. to 66 th Ave.
4	Bancroft Ave. from 66 th Ave. to 82 nd Ave.
5	Bancroft Ave. from 82 nd Ave. to the San Leandro border
6	International Blvd. from 23 rd Ave. to 35 th Ave.
6A	Foothill Blvd. from 23 rd Ave to 35 th Ave. (added half way through the program)
7	International Blvd. from 35 th Ave. to High Street
7A	Foothill Blvd. from 35 th Ave. to High Street (added half way through the program)

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The program focused on preventing crime in commercial districts in the Central City East and Coliseum Redevelopment Areas. Commercial activity is negatively impacted by crime along these commercial corridors and the amount of criminal activity has made it difficult to retain businesses. The increased presence allowed for increased crime prevention and/or response. Reducing crime rates and increasing response in the identified areas helps in create an environment where business can thrive, thereby generating additional tax revenues and attracting other businesses into the Central City East and Coliseum Redevelopment Areas.

Environmental: Oakland Police Officers addressed issues of loitering and litter during their supplemental walking shifts. Traditionally, loitering and littering have contributed to the blight in both Redevelopment Areas.

Social Equity: The program worked to improve blighted conditions and quality of life for businesses and residents. The pilot program assisted in the efforts to provide economic revitalization in both Redevelopment Areas.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The walking areas include businesses and properties that work with senior citizens and the disabled; this program assisted in making those areas safer.

RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends the acceptance of this informational report.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

This is an informational report; therefore no action is requested of the Council.

Respectfully submitted,

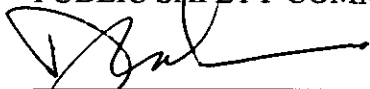


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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:



Office of the City Administrator

Attachment A: Statistical Data

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AREA 2 & 3 FINAL FOOT PATROL STATS

AREA 2	AREA 3		Total
20	51	Calls for Service (dispatched)	71
85	180	Calls for Service (on view)	265
169	251	Walking Stops	420
4	3	Felony Arrests	7
4	4	Felony Warrants	8
10	9	Misd. Arrests	19
9	12	Misd. Warrants	21
19	19	Crime Reports	38
84	113	Field Contact Reports	197
4	13	Vehicles Towed	17
72	85	Citations Issued (Moving)	157
14	251	Citations Issued (Parked)	265
1	0	Firearms Recovered	1
3	2	Narcotics Recovered	5
164	647	Other/Contacts with Businesses	811

AREA 2	May 23, 26 and Jun 1, 4, 2009	June 9, 09 – Jul 7, 09	Jul 8, 09 – Jul 24, 09	Jul 25, 09 – Aug 25, 09	TOTAL
Calls for service (dispatch)	3	5	6	6	20
Calls for service (on view)	1	36	17	31	85
Walking Stops	33	58	28	50	169
Felony Arrests	0	1	2	1	4
Felony Warrants	3	0	0	1	4
Misd. Arrests	3	2	2	3	10
Misd. Warrants	3	4	1	1	9
Crime Reports	2	4	7	6	19
Field Contact Reports	29	32	11	12	84
Vehicles Towed	0	3	0	1	4
Citations Issued (moving)	3	34	7	28	72
Citations Issued (parking)	1	8	4	1	14
Firearms Recovered	0	1	0	0	1
Narcotics Recovered	2	1	0	0	3
Other:	18	79	16	51	164
<i>Stop-Data-Forms</i>	8	54	6		
<i>Vehicle Stops</i>	3	16	1		
<i>Citations Issued (Ped)</i>	6	7	4		
<i>Citations Issued (Misd.)</i>	1	2	5		

AREA 3	May 23, 09 – Jun 5, 09	Jun 6, 09 – Jul 3, 09	Jul 4, 09 – Jul 31, 09	Aug 1, 09 – Aug 20, 09	TOTAL
Calls for Service (dispatched)	7	14	7	23	51
Calls for Service (on view)	48	37	70	25	180
Walking Stops	73	65	99	14	251
Felony Arrests	1	0	1	1	3
Felony Warrants	2	1	1	0	4
Misd. Arrests	1	6	0	2	9
Misd. Warrants	3	6	1	2	12
Crime Reports	2	4	7	6	19
Field Contact Reports	50	26	30	7	113
Vehicles Towed	0	7	3	3	13
Citations Issued (Moving)	23	36	20	6	85
Citations Issued (Parked)	25	50	87	89	251
Firearms Recovered	0	0	0	0	0
Narcotics Recovered	1	1	0	0	2
Other/Contacts with Businesses	60	94	220	273	647