

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2004 APR 16 PM 1:28

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: April 27, 2004

Re: INFORMATIONAL REPORT REGARDING THE WORK ACTIVITES OF THE
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY LITTER ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SUMMARY

This informational report highlights accomplishments and provides an overview of the work activities of the Public Works Agency's Litter Enforcement Officers (LEO's).

The Illegal Dumping Abatement Program fulfills the Mayoral and Council Goals of improving Oakland neighborhoods, and developing a sustainable City. The unit is funded by the comprehensive clean-up fund 1720 and consists of eight Litter Enforcement Officers and one Public Works Supervisor. The Unit maintains and patrols the entire City of Oakland.

This is an informational report, and no action is necessary.

FISCAL IMPACT

Since this report is informational only, no fiscal impacts are included.

BACKGROUND

The City of Oakland established the Litter Enforcement Unit in 2001. The purpose of LEO's is to add an enforcement component to the Illegal Dumping Abatement Program. The Illegal Dumping Abatement Program is charged with the removal and disposal of illegally dumped debris.

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The following major actions were taken to implement the LEO's:

- City Council adopted Ordinance # 12295 that authorizes the LEO's to enforce provisions of the Oakland Municipal Code, California Penal Code.
- The City of Oakland received a \$499,748 grant from California Integrated Waste Management Board to help address illegal dumping in Oakland. The funding of this grant was to pay for implementation of mitigation measures (fencing, signage, etc.), outreach, and education.
- In December 2001, eight LEO's were hired. They received 80 hours of training specifically from Oakland Police Department, and an additional 80 hours from PWA, CEDA, Fire Department, and the City Attorney's Office.

The primary role and responsibility of the eight LEO's is to use police-style investigative, forensic type techniques, and enforcement methods. The LEO's also conduct sting operations in collaboration with the Oakland Police Department. The LEO's monitor over 90 illegal dumping hot spots, respond to constituent complaints or reports of illegal dumping activity, and work with the community to educate and create partnerships. These partnerships create the "eyes on the street" which are needed tools to help stop illegal dumping.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The focus of the LEO's is to target and eliminate chronic illegal dumpsites ("Hot Spots") through aggressive investigative techniques, monitoring, enforcement, public outreach and education. The LEO's are assigned to eight geographic areas throughout the City and provide coverage 7 days a week. Neighborhoods see the LEO's as partners in the fight against illegal dumping and most indicate a major improvement in the appearance of their neighborhoods.

The LEO's continue to research new surveillance camera systems, but to date have not been able to retrieve the proper level of data from these systems to apprehend illegal dumping violators.

There is an administrative appeals process available for citizens who want to appeal the citations. This gives them an opportunity to explain the circumstances for the specific case to the Agency Administrative Manager. After the hearing, a determination letter is sent to the appellant that details the decision of the hearing officer, and explains the next steps.

The Grant from California Integrated Waste Management Board ends May 1, 2004. The funds that are collected by the fines and penalties from the LEO's will be used to continue the implementation of mitigation measures in Hot Spot locations.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The overall efforts of the LEO's have helped strengthen the Illegal Dumping Abatement Program. The following is a list of the major results of the LEO's in the past year:

- Installation of Cyclone fencing completely abated illegal dumping at three locations in East Oakland, two in Central Oakland, and three in West Oakland
- Installation of 130 bilingual "No Dumping" signs at various Hot Spot locations
- 2,658 abandoned vehicles have been towed from Oakland neighborhoods
- 288 Sidewalk encroachment citations were issued with 98% compliance. Residents have had to remove the debris from the sidewalk within a 72-hour period
- 1,912 citations were issued to illegally parked vehicles

Additionally, results since the LEO's began in March of 2002:

- 1,421 illegal dumping cases have been processed
- \$138,700 of dumping fines has been collected
- 85 Surveillance Operations with the assistance of OPD have resulted in 28 suspects being caught dumping on the streets of Oakland (including one homicide suspect)
- The LEO's work in close contact with the public, patrolling the hot spots, attending Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council and Service Delivery System meetings. These are important ways to educate the public about *Keeping Oakland Beautiful*. Other outreach opportunities are being pursued, such as working with Oakland schools to educate the young people of our community. We are working to provide information to the Elementary schools by acting out scenarios that will show the kids that it's not "cool" to litter in Oakland.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The reduction of dumped materials will improve the physical appearance of the City of Oakland and will help stimulate economic growth, retain business, and promote civic pride.

Environmental: When litter and debris accumulate in storm drain inlets it can lead to flooding. The decrease in dumped materials and litter will lessen the amount of debris that enters the storm drain system polluting our creeks, Lake Merritt and the Estuary. It also reduces vector opportunities for pests and vermin.

Social Equity: The improvements of cleanliness and debris removal citywide will enhance the overall living conditions and safety of all Oakland residents. Supporting a pride of ownership mentality, with enforcement efforts, while working closely with residents and community groups ensures equity throughout the city.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The decreased amount of debris in the public right-of-way will provide more ease of access to the disabled and senior citizens.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No action is requested since this is an informational report.

Respectfully submitted,



RAUL GODINEZ II, P.E.
Director, Public Works Agency

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE



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