

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2007 NOV 15 PM 1:44

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Police Department
DATE: November 27, 2007

RE: A Follow-Up Informational Report From The Office of the Chief of Police Detailing Citywide Statistics and Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Juvenile Crime Statistics, Strategies To Encourage Crime Reporting From Non-English Speaking Citizens, And Solved Crime Comparisons

SUMMARY

As requested by the Public Safety Committee on September 25, 2007, staff has prepared a follow-up informational report detailing Oakland Police Department (OPD) statistics for robbery and burglary offenses, along with information pertaining to juvenile suspects and cases that have been solved. This report also identifies strategies to encourage non-English speaking citizens to report crimes, as well as information on how the District Attorney (DA) processes cases presented to them by OPD.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report. Fiscal impacts have not been included.

BACKGROUND

On September 25, 2007 staff presented statistical information to the Public Safety Committee concerning burglaries and robberies committed in the City of Oakland. The report also contained information which detailed the Department's enforcement efforts in confronting juvenile crime.

Staff was directed to provide a follow-up report containing comparisons of crimes solved over the years reported (2005 – 2006); strategies to encourage non-English speaking citizens to report crime; and information from the Office of the District Attorney on how reports are processed in the DA's office.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Crime statistics contained in this report for the current year (up to October 14, 2007) identify:

- The number of cases;
- The number of cases assigned to an investigator;
- The number of cases presented to the District Attorney's Office;

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- The number of cases charged by the District Attorney; and
- The number of cases involving juvenile suspects.

TABLE 1

Crime	Reports Entered YTD	No. of Assigned Cases	No. of Cases Presented to the DA	No. of Cases Charged by the DA
Robbery – 211 PC	3,051	768	245	213
Burglary – 459PC (Includes Attempts)	6,480	264	197	182

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Solved Cases / Juveniles

The following table captures data from 2005 and 2006 for robbery, theft and assault cases.

TABLE 2

	2005	2006
Robbery		
% of assigned cases w/ Juveniles	2.45%	2.62%
% Solved Cases / All Cases	13.44%	12.65%
% Solved Cases Assigned	24.16%	22.25%
Theft		
% of assigned cases w/ Juveniles	8.39%	10.27%
% Solved Cases / All Cases	3.45%	3.23%
% Solved Cases Assigned	47.95%	75.23%
Assault		
% of assigned cases w/ Juveniles	1.02%	2.31%
% Solved Cases / All Cases	14.72%	14.07%
% Solved Cases Assigned	17.47%	15.87%

Currently, there are eight robbery investigators and three burglary investigators assigned to conduct follow-up investigations, limiting the number and type of cases distributed for action. As a result, section commanders are tasked with scanning crime reports for investigative clues and solvability in an effort to provide the investigators with a manageable case load. Investigators are generally assigned cases with strong leads such as named suspects, physical evidence, good physical descriptions, license plates, or eye witness accounts.

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) utilizes a *call-out* system, in which investigators remain on call (standby) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to respond to in custody or egregious crimes. Standby investigators have been highly successful in clearing cases by confession and

identifying crime series as a result of this system. This process shows that suspects are more likely to cooperate in the early stages of an investigation as opposed to attempting to elicit information days later, and/or after incarceration.

District Attorney's Office

The investigators of CID maintain an excellent relationship with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Investigators are encouraged to meet often with charging or supervising District Attorney staff in an effort to conduct investigations beginning with the end in mind; a successful criminal conviction or plea bargain. The expertise provided by the DA's Office is invaluable, and has increased the development and individual knowledge level of CID follow-up investigators. Likewise, the District Attorney's office often relies upon investigators to re-contact or further develop a criminal case to ensure a successful outcome.

When presented with a case the DA's office typically listens to an oral summary by the investigator. When needed, the prosecutor may read the police reports and related documents. The prosecutor may ethically charge the case only if he or she determines that the case can be proven at trial "beyond a reasonable doubt." If a case cannot be charged due to insufficient evidence, then the prosecutor will explain to the investigator what is needed to strengthen the case. The investigator then attempts to locate additional evidence with a follow-up investigation.

Outreach to non-English speaking citizens

The Police Department recognizes the importance of reaching all segments of our community. Recognizing that many Oakland residents do not speak English, OPD exercises different methods to both educate and encourage the reporting of crime by community members.

Community Meetings

The Neighborhood Services Coordinators (NSC) conduct regular monthly meetings in their respective areas, during which crime prevention pamphlets, crime bulletins, OPD and City directories are made available. These resources have been translated into different languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish) by the Equal Access Department of the City Administrator's Office.

In addition, some of the NCPC meetings are conducted in different languages; for example, Beat 3X meetings are conducted in Cantonese, and Spanish translation is conducted in the Fruitvale, as well as other parts of the City.

Over the past few years the Department has sponsored several safety fairs which were advertised throughout different areas of the community by distributing multi-lingual flyers. Translators were also available at the events to ensure all citizens received and understood the information being provided.

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Additionally, bi-lingual staff consistently conduct presentations in various languages (predominantly Chinese and Spanish) to educate community members on topics such as personal safety, home safety, and reporting crime.

Media

Since criminals specifically target the non-English speaking segments of our community, the Police Department has tapped into the Hispanic and Chinese media to educate our communities about crime trends and crime prevention. Staff has been interviewed by Chinese and Hispanic news and radio stations to discuss prevailing crime trends. Basic personal safety tips have been provided to the audience in hopes of “hardening the target” group. In, the Police Service Area 3 Lieutenant took a news reporter from local Channel 26 (Chinese media) on a ride-along and showed the reporter areas where robberies were taking place and explained why the locations were attractive to would be thieves (i.e., dark streets with uncut bushes / trees). In late 2005 / early 2006, project “Hands Off” was launched in the Fruitvale District. The primary objective of this project was to curtail the number of robberies being committed against our Hispanic community. Crime prevention brochures / materials were made available in English and Spanish. All training provided by City staff was conducted in English with Spanish translations.

Police Substation

The Police Department staffs a police substation at 388 9th Street (Chinatown). It enables non-English speaking citizens (Cantonese, Vietnamese) to receive assistance from bi-lingual staff and volunteers in filing crime reports and receiving general police information. This office is staffed by OPD personnel as well as volunteers, and is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The phone number for this office is 238-7930.

The Eastmont substation is also staffed by sworn personnel. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 9: 00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 7: 00 a.m. – 5 p.m.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: Analysis of crime, specifically robberies and burglaries, is another tool used to reduce crime in Oakland and improve the quality of life for residents and merchants. This leads to a lower crime rate, which in turn encourages economic development and prosperity.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

Social Equity: The Department’s response to crime leads to the identification, arrest, successful prosecution of those responsible for committing crimes in Oakland. It serves as a deterrent and reduces recidivism rates thereby making the City safer.

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Disability and Senior Access

| There are no ADA or senior citizen access issues identified in this report.

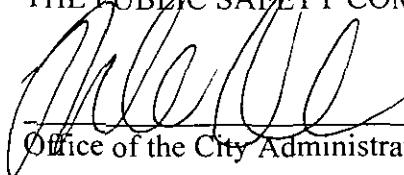
RECOMMENDATION / RATIONALE

The Department will continue to collect and analyze crime related data and criminal trends. In addition to an increased patrol presence, staff will continue to explore and utilize the latest technology in an effort to thwart criminal behavior.

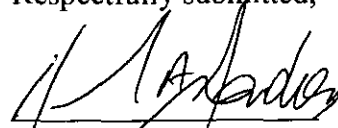
ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL

This is an informational report; therefore, no action is requested of the Council. Staff recommends acceptance of this report.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

Respectfully submitted,


For Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police

Prepared by:
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Strategic Area Command

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Bureau of Administration

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