



The Brunner Report

A newsletter from Councilwoman Jane Brunner

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A Message from Jane Brunner:

Happy New Year. For our first newsletter of 2008, we are focusing on crime and public safety. Crime is the greatest concern of most Oaklanders these days. In the forty years that I've lived in Oakland, I've never seen violent crime as high in all neighborhoods. Oaklanders are demanding results from our City officials.

Crime Reduction Strategies

The City Council has responded to the rise in crime by supporting a significant number of crime reduction strategies, including:

- ◆ Raising the police pay rate to one of the highest in the state to make sure they stay.
- ◆ Reviewing the vacancy rate of police officers and providing \$2 million extra to the Oakland Police Department (OPD) for recruitment of new officers.
- ◆ Demanding that the juvenile desk be put back into operation, in order to track crimes by juveniles and provide that they either go to juvenile hall if appropriate, or be provided with services to turn their life around.
- ◆ Supporting the geographical division of the OPD into three areas in the City.
- ◆ Requesting a strategic plan from OPD.
- ◆ Providing excellent prevention programs through Measure Y and Parks and Recreation.

The Mayor has made crime one of his top priorities and is working with the Governor to have more police come to Oakland. He is reviewing the police plan and working on prevention.

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Interview with Police Chief Wayne Tucker

What can the Oakland Police Department (OPD) do to make people in Oakland feel safe?

In order for people to feel safe they need to have trust and confidence in the police. Our officers need to have high visibility and spend time in the community doing proactive problem-solving and preventive patrol work.

Ideally officers should have about 20% of their time in a given shift open so that they can do prospective enforcement work and problem-solving work. Unfortunately, our officers have an average of about 2 minutes per hour to do this type of work. The rest of the time, they are responding to calls.

There are a number of issues, like minor traffic accidents with no injuries, that don't necessarily require a sworn officer to handle. We are hiring civilian Police Service Technicians, to take on some of these duties.



What is happening in OPD in the next 6 months?

On January 12th, the OPD will take its single greatest step towards implementing citywide community policing. OPD will be switching to a geographic-based Area Command policing model in which

the City will be divided into 3 main Areas.

Each Area will have an Area Commander who has direct control over officers in that Area. District 1 is part of Area 1 and Captain Anthony Toribio will be your Area Commander.

What are your plans for the next three years?

We have put together a strategic plan for 2007-2010. Our main goals are to reduce violent crime by 10% from the prior year and to reduce prop-



erty crime by 10%. Long term, we are working with the Mayor on his Public Safety Plan and are continuing with the Violent Crime Reduction Initiative through the Geographic Accountability Model.

How is OPD going to meet its staffing goals?

Staffing is a critical issue. We are working closely with the Mayor's office and the City Administrator to solve this problem.

We just graduated another 25 officers. They will begin their 16 week field training program, and within 6 months, they will be new members of the Department.

District 1 residents will see more two-man cars out in the neighborhoods as these officers train with field officers. In addition, another 5 new officers will be deployed downtown and along San Pablo. We have another academy beginning on January 28th.

The other big issue is the ongoing negotiation with the Oakland Police Officers' Association. This contract will have a major effect on how we deploy and retain officers. We do a good job of recruiting and training officers but we are losing more than we can recruit and train. We're losing close to 60 officers a year.

In order to maintain a staff of 803, we need to "overhire" which means we need funding for closer to 900 officers. We have to pay for officers while they are in the academy and in field training even though they are not yet sworn officers. So, as long as we are losing folks as quickly as we do, we will continue to have fewer than 803 active officers.

Why are you moving to 12-hour shifts when police officers are opposed to this change?

We are moving to 12-hour shifts because they will increase the effectiveness of our patrol staff.

Interview with Police Chief Wayne Tucker (continued)

12-hour shifts will increase the time that officers work by 5%. They also reduce one change of watch per day eliminating about an hour and a half of administrative duties.

While the officers are opposed, this is not a new system. It has been around for at least 30 years in the field and is used by many other major cities. It has been popular in every place its been implemented.

How do you plan to increase investigation of crimes in Oakland?

Investigation is clearly the area with the most need. Unfortunately we've had 165 people pulled out of investigation to be problem-solving officers, patrol officers or redevelopment officers. In order to do more investigation work, we need funding to add more investigation staff, which we plan to ask for in the next budget cycle. In the meantime, we've assigned some of the more minor investigations to Problem Solving Officers and have hired on some OPD retirees as well.

Does OPD use data collection to determine its priorities?

We use data collection to look for trends and patterns, to identify emerging issues and to determine where to put resources. Under the new system, Area Commanders will look at data from their Area every day.

We put together statistical portraits of homicides and victims. For instance, in 2007 we cracked down on gang activity and the homicides related to gangs went from 39% of all homicides in 2006 to only 6% in 2007.

We also know that 70% of homicides happen on streets or sidewalks and most of those happen along major arterials. In District 1, this means streets like Telegraph, MLK Jr. Way, and San Pablo. I'm concerned about making sure that we have resources where our data shows that we need it the most - along key arterials.



PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

Some crimes cannot be avoided, but the following steps can make you a tougher target for crime:

- ◆ ***In your home, keep doors and windows locked at all times.***
- ◆ ***Keep the exterior of your home well lit.***
- ◆ ***When out walking, be aware of your surroundings.***
- ◆ ***Walk in well-lit, open areas. Avoid locations obscured from public view like alleys, creeks and overgrown bushy areas.***
- ◆ ***If you notice a suspicious person in your path or believe that you are being followed, stay calm and continue walking. Cross the street, change your pace, and seek a safe place.***
- ◆ ***If you use a cell phone, program the Oakland Police Department emergency number 777-3211. Dialing 911 will NOT connect you directly to OPD.***
- ◆ ***In your car, never leave valuables in plain sight on the seat, floorboard or dash. If you must leave items in your car, always store them in the trunk.***
- ◆ ***When driving always keep the doors locked.***

Crime in Oakland (continued)

Crime Prevention

Oakland is serious about crime prevention programs. The best way to prevent crime is to have alternatives for young people. The City spends over \$9 million a year on after school programs. Additionally, Measure Y money is spent on programs for at-risk youth. Also, the City has developed job training programs for parolees. These programs are very successful. To turn lifestyles around takes time, but Oakland is committed to it.

Police Vacancies

On November 5, 2007, the Chief presented an alarming report to the City Council on police vacancies. OPD is budgeted for 803 police officers. However, in the report, it stated that the City is recruiting 5.6 officers a month but the City is losing 6 officers a month.

According to this report, even with the extra staffing and the recruitment of over 167 officers, Oakland will still be below our capacity by 36 officers in June 2009. The Chief did not present any proposals to the City Council on how he plans to recruit more officers.

This is a serious problem. In order to spend Measure Y money, Measure Y requires that there be 737 officers. To date the City has \$17 million in a bank account that cannot be spent on police officers.

Actions That Are Necessary

The City government has to make the streets safe. New York and Los Angeles are doing it, it's time for Oakland to implement all the necessary actions.



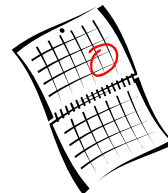
I believe it is time for the Chief, who is the professional police expert for the City, to deliver safer streets. He should present the City with his strategic plan immediately and explain to City Officials and residents how he plans to reduce crime.

The Chief must provide a plan on how he is going

to recruit more officers, (for example, it has been suggested that OPD and the Human Resource Department should recruit returning soldiers at army bases and colleges). The Chief needs to settle the contract with the Oakland Police Officers' Association. I think he should use CompStat (a daily crime data analysis system that Los Angeles uses), which would allow OPD to deploy officers more strategically. It is essential that he hire enough investigators to investigate crimes. He must work with the County and the DA's office to get more court rooms to bring cases to trial.



Although, this year, crime in Oakland has gone down slightly from last year's high. The Chief needs to present his plan to us and immediately implement it. I encourage you to join us at our next advisory meeting to present the Chief with your views and questions.



JANE BRUNNER'S Community Advisory Meeting

Saturday, February 9, 2008

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Peralta Elementary School

460 63rd Street

February's Topic

Crime in Oakland

With

Police Chief Wayne Tucker

Lenore Anderson, Mayor's Public Safety Director

Tom Rogers, Alameda DA's Office

Captain Anthony Toribio, OPD

Andrea Youngdahl, Human Services, Oakland

(Parking on Alcatraz, east of Telegraph)