



CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
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SUMMER VIOLENCE PROGRAM IS WORKING

POLICE DEPARTMENT TO LAUNCH "OPERATION 4TH QUARTER"

Overall crime and violence have been on a steady and dramatic decline for the past three years. In 2010 murders dropped by 50% and Assaults with a Firearm (shootings) dropped by 55%. From January to the end of May of this year (2011) violence continued to notably drop: murders were down 75% and shootings were down by over 50%.

However, that trend was violently interrupted in June and July when the city experienced five (5) murders in just two months, including the murder of a 3 month old infant.

In response to this spike in violence, the police department, city, and community rallied together and implemented the "*Summer Violence Reduction Plan*". The plan called for cancelling officers' days off to increase enforcement, intervention, and prevention efforts and the continuation of Operation Ceasefire. The plan was successfully implemented and appears to be working.

There have been no murders and only one shooting in August, and overall crime is down 16%. In fact, shootings are down 48% so far this year (January - August) even amid the spike in murders.

Despite this success, however, the Department remains concerned about the threat of future violence as we near the last quarter of the year - also known as the 4th Quarter. It is during this period (October – December) that we historically face the highest levels of violence. Adding to this concern is the Department's belief that the majority of the violence committed in June and July were gang-related and linked, which exposes the city to retaliatory violence.

Operation 4th Quarter

Effective October 1, 2011, the Police Department will launch "*Operation 4th Quarter*". As part of this operation, the Department will work in partnership with the community and our law enforcement partners to implement the following.

Enforcement

- Operation Ceasefire
The Department will continue its implementation of Operation Ceasefire and conduct two additional call-ins during this quarter. Program counselors and mentors will continue to provide services to those participants that are already in the program.
- Enhance enforcement programs targeting street gangs and drug dealers
Officers will continue patrols in "hotspot" and target specific gang members suspected of violence. The Department is conducting comprehensive gang and drug investigations and coordinating its efforts with the San Mateo Gang Task Force, the Narcotics Task Force, and other state and federal agencies.

- Increase Parole & Probation Accountability
The Department will continue its partnership with state parole and county probation and increase the current operations in which officers and agents conduct home visits, searches and drug testing.
- Nuisance Abatement
The Department will work with the community to focus on trash, blight, graffiti, and abandoned cars. The Department will also target specific gang and drug houses using the nuisance-abatement process against property owners who refuse to clean their property.

Prevention & Intervention

- Police Activities League (PAL)
The newly formed Police Activities League (PAL) will provide services to an estimated 100 youth during this period in programs such as basketball and golfing.
- Youth Summit
The Police Department will host a "Youth and Parent Summit" on October 1, 2011, to address issues facing our youth such as gangs, violence and the "stop-snitching" culture. Over 200 youth and parents are expected to attend this event (which is funded by the United States Department of Justice).
- "Make the Call" Cable-Television Show
The Department and the Media Channel will host its fifth Episode of the "Make the Call" television show which will profile two unsolved murders, highlight the show's website and anonymous text-a-tip program, and provide a community discussion on crime and violence in our community.
- Anti-Violence Campaign
The Police Department and the Media Center are working with youth to develop an anti-violence slogan, campaign and PSA that counters the "Stop Snitching" phenomena and encourages all residents to get involved in making our community safer.

Closing

The periodic spikes in crime and violence that occur in our community suggest the root causes of crime still exist and pose an ongoing threat to public safety. If we are to achieve even greater and sustainable crime and violence reductions in the future, the police and community must continue to work together and advance our community policing efforts despite challenging fiscal times.

Respectfully,

Chief Ronald Davis