



**CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***POLICE LAUNCH “PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD” TO QUELL VIOLENCE  
NEW ANTI-GUN INITIATIVE A KEY COMPONENT***

**January 19** – The City of East Palo Alto will initiate Project Safe Neighborhood in response to a recent rash of shootings. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> there have been 13 assaults with a firearm (no deaths).

The Police Department will use a \$75,000 grant from the United States Department of Justice to initiate the project. As part of the project, the Police Department has contracted with the Community Development Institute (CDI) in East Palo Alto to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the recent shootings, and will partner with numerous outside agencies to launch a series of enforcement operations based on that analysis. The enforcement activities include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Parole and probation checks and searches of persons currently on probation and parole in the City
- Undercover narcotics operations at strategic locations to arrest drug dealers and customers
- Surveillance operations of suspected gang members
- Enhanced traffic enforcement to recover guns and weapons transported by vehicles
- Enhanced narcotics and gang investigations with the District Attorney’s Office
- Continued blight and gang-graffiti removal
- Strict enforcement of curfew ordinance

In addition, the police have partnered with numerous community-based and faith-based organizations to conduct a unity march and rally in February and a youth summit in March.

**Anti-Gun Initiative**

The Police Department is also announcing the formation of the Anti-Gun Initiative. The Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers will provide up to \$1,000 (\$500 for a handgun and \$1000 for an assault rifle) to anyone who calls with information that leads to the arrest of a person illegally carrying a firearm or assault weapon in East Palo Alto – no personal questions asked, no identification required, no court testimony required.

The motto of the program: ***“Make \$1000 with one phone call”***

The Police Department will coordinate with the District Attorney and United States Attorney's Office to seek the maximum prosecution whether in state or federal court for anyone arrested with a firearm in the City. The ATF will also assist in tracing all recovered firearms in attempt to arrest gun dealers.

The Police Department has partnered with the following law enforcement agencies for this project:

- San Mateo County Sheriff's Office (Gang Task Force)
- California State Parole
- San Mateo County Probation
- California Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)
- Federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

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