



**CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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VIOLENCE DOWN 79% PAST 3 MONTHS

In November, December and January, the City was hit with a violent crime wave that captured media headlines and generated fear within the community. The wave resulted in 6 murders and 56 firearms assaults within a three-month period. There were 3 murders and 21 firearms assaults in January alone.

These numbers were extremely alarming and reminiscent of the level of violence witnessed in 1992 when the City earned the dubious distinction of murder capital of the nation. In response to this violence, the community and police department partnered in an historic fashion to implement Project Safe Neighborhood – a comprehensive strategy designed to quell violence.

Firearm assaults were reduced 70% (from 56 to 13) and murders reduced 100% (from 6 to 0) the past three months (February thru April). Overall violence was reduced 79% the same period.

The strategy was a multi-faceted and intelligence-based program that balanced intervention, prevention and enforcement efforts. Using intelligence gathered from the Department's Criminal Investigations Division, the San Mateo County Intelligence Unit, and information obtained by the community, the Police Department quickly identified the nature of the violence.

Unlike the 90s, it was determined the violence was not necessarily street-corner based. Rather, three separate groups were involved in heated in-fighting for varying reasons. These disputes included several families fighting within the Pacific Islander community, two rival Black gangs fighting over drugs, and two notorious Hispanic gangs continuing a decade-long war. Each situation generated extreme violence in a short period of time and threatened even greater violence if not stopped. There were literally three separate "powder-kegs" waiting to explode.

This intelligence enabled the community and Police Department to tailor its enforcement response to each situation and garner community support and resources which extended well beyond arrests. The strategy equally focused on intervention, prevention and enforcement.

Intervention

Key community groups took both an aggressive and effective role in this endeavor. Community leaders hit the streets to talk to our youth and encouraged them to stop the violence. Several community and faith-based organizations met with people actually involved in the in-fighting and negotiated cease-fires that remain in place today.

Prevention

The community conducted a Unity March and Rally with over 1000 attendees.

The rally brought all segments of the community together to send a message of intolerance to violence. A Youth Summit with over 300 in attendance was also conducted. The purpose of the summit was to identify long-term solutions to violence and garner support from youth in the community.

To reinforce the stop the violence message, the Police Department partnered with “No More Tears” – a group of San Quentin inmates – and produced a “Stop the Violence” public service announcement. This video was aired on the local cable channel and can currently be viewed on YouTube.

In short, there was an overwhelming response from the community. So much so that I dare not attempt to name specific individual or groups in fear that I will fail to name them all. This community effort was one of action not rhetoric. These efforts, coupled with the strategic enforcement program listed below, have contributed greatly to our success thus far.

Enforcement

As part of Project Safe Neighborhood, the Police Department declared a “crime emergency” and implemented a multi-phased, intelligence-based enforcement program in partnership with the following agencies:

- San Mateo County Sheriff’s Department
- Menlo Park Police Department
- Palo Alto Police Department
- California Department of Justice (DOJ)
- San Mateo County Probation
- California State Parole
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- California Highway Patrol (CHP)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

The program appears to be successful and will continue throughout the summer (See attached results).

Conclusion

Our collaborative efforts demonstrate the true effectiveness of community policing. The strategy used to decrease the violence will likely serve as a national model on how to use community policing and regional collaboration to aggressively respond to violence.

However, we still face gang violence and must remain vigilant. I am confident that with your continued support and involvement, we will further reduce violence to an even lower violence rate than last year.

Thank you for your commitment to the City and support of the Police Department. I’d also like to thank the outstanding men and women of the Police Department who endured long hours and worked tirelessly to make our community safe.

Respectfully,

Chief Ronald Davis

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Phase 1

Days-off were cancelled for East Palo Alto officers for 30-days. This doubled the number of officers on the street and enhanced patrols in designated hot-spots. Officers also partnered with the Probation Department, Parole, the FBI and ATF during this period to target specific individuals suspected of violence. An additional 6 officers from the Sheriffs Office and the Palo Alto and Menlo Park Police Departments partnered with the Department during this period.

Their efforts resulted the in the following seizures:

- 84 arrests
- 10 firearms recovered
- 4 replica guns recovered
- 3.9 pounds of narcotics seized
- Over 200 parole and probation searches

The California Department of Justice also provided assistance in conducting narcotics investigations. Their work is ongoing. A report outlining their results will be provided in the near future.

Phase 2

The California Highway Patrol deployed 5 officers to the City to enhance traffic enforcement and target those transporting drugs and guns. Their efforts thus far have resulted in:

- 26 arrests (1 felony - 25 misdemeanors)
- 1 firearm
- 314 citations
- 128 verbal warnings

Total Statistics

So far the enforcement component of Project Safe Neighborhood has resulted in the following seizures:

- 110 arrests
- 11 firearms recovered
- 4 replica guns recovered
- 3.9 pounds of narcotics seized
- 200 parole and probation searches
- 314 citations – 128 verbal warnings
- 60 towed vehicles

Phase 3

The San Mateo County Gang Task Force (GTF) will activate full-deployment beginning the end of May throughout the summer. The GTF will coordinate with the Department to continue its targeting of gangs and those suspected of violence.

During this phase, the Department will also receive support from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to further target narcotics dealers.