



CITY HALL • 04 JUN 10 PM 1:40 • FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

JANE BRUNNER  
Councilmember  
District 1

(510) 238-7001  
FAX (510) 238-6910  
TDD: (510) 238-7413

**TO:** Council President Ignacio De La Fuente and Members of the Oakland City Council  
**FROM:** Councilmember Jane Brunner, District 1  
**DATE:** June 15, 2004  
**SUBJECT:** Violence Prevention Ballot Measure

Dear Colleagues,

Last summer, when North Oakland's murder rate increased by 71%, my office began researching models of violence reduction that have brought down the rate of violent crime in other cities. We presented this research at a North Oakland community meeting and have continued to work with the Police Department to reduce crime. Our rates of burglary, robbery and rape have been significantly reduced and there has not been a murder in North Oakland since September 2003.

The Best Practices research we conducted shows that the following strategies work. I believe these strategies must be a part of any violence prevention measure we put on the ballot in November.

***Community policing in a priority setting.*** Directed patrolling in "hot spots" has been repeatedly shown to reduce violent crime levels in studies conducted in 1971, 1975, 1978, and 1995 by Lawrence W. Sherman, Director of the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania. Sherman showed a direct link between focused "problem-oriented" patrolling and reducing crime levels.

In studies presented to Congress in 1997, researchers found that more police officers meant less crime. However, other studies confirmed that the most significant reductions in crime occurred when officers targeted crime hot spots, and not when they conducted random patrols.

Oakland's Crime Reduction Teams (CRT) have adopted this form of directed patrolling. CRT's efforts in my district are a key component of North Oakland's improved public safety. Having officers focused on specific tasks in specific locations, free from responding to calls for service, is essential.

S-15.1  
ORA/COUNCIL  
JUN 15 2004

***Sustained proactive traffic enforcement-*** Proactive drunk driving arrests are the most cost-effective way that police can save lives, as drunk driving causes more deaths than homicide.

The partnership between the Oakland Police Department and the California Highway Patrol during “Operation Impact” is a perfect example of what can happen when this strategy is adopted. Since its inception in September 2003, Operation Impact has resulted in the arrest or citation of 545 Drivers Under the Influence (DUI), 74 felony arrests, 200 misdemeanor arrests, 1,335 towed vehicles, over 2,200 citations for various offenses, 15 stolen cars have been recovered and seven guns were removed from the streets. This is a program that is showing the kind of results that are good for Oakland.

***Door to door visits to probationers-*** Boston Police and State Probation Officers make nightly visits to 10-15 pre-selected youth on probation. The purpose of these visits is to enforce the terms of probation placed on youthful offenders, including curfews, geographical restrictions, and other constraints. This focused attention is critical as a deterrent to engaging in further illegal activity and to connect these young people to available services.

***Boston Street Outreach Workers-*** The City of Boston’s strategies for violence reduction are a national model. From 1996 to 1998 there were no killings of young adults in Boston. In particular, their focus on reaching out to at-risk adolescents and young adults who have been incarcerated, by providing services and employment opportunities where these young people actually are, is key. It is difficult to put your life on a different track—we should make it easier by taking pro-active steps to reach these young people in their homes and neighborhoods.

***Truancy Intervention-*** Studies indicate that truancy is one of the most significant predictors of juvenile delinquency, and there is a direct correlation between truancy rates and daytime crime rates. According to the San Bernardino District Attorney’s Office, 78% of prison inmates had truancy as the first entry on their arrest records and 57% of violent crimes committed by juveniles occur on school days. Programs that work directly with juveniles to reduce and prevent truancy will keep young people in school and have clear public safety impacts.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Therefore my recommendation is to fund the following, which I have classified as either Prevention, Intervention or Suppression strategies. At whatever level is chosen by the Council, I recommend that 50% of the available funds be allocated to the Prevention and Intervention pieces below, and 50% be allocated to the Suppression strategies.

### **PREVENTION**

City, County, State, and community-based organizations will be invited to compete for funds that are set-aside to support specific violence prevention programs. A committee of qualified community members, who are appointed by City Councilmembers, will review applications and make recommendations to the City Council. This same committee will serve as a standing Violence Prevention Advisory Committee, which will make policy recommendations to the City Council and City agencies.

Violence Prevention dollars should be focused on programs that can clearly show the connection between their efforts and the reduction of crime in specific areas or locations. Accountability is essential—we should not ask Oaklanders to pay more in taxes for violence prevention without being able to demonstrate what their dollars are accomplishing. At the same time, however, I do not believe we should name specific programs for funding in the measure because we need the flexibility to do away with programs that are not working and to pursue new directions if more effective strategies present themselves.

## **INTERVENTION**

- **Street Outreach Workers:** Street Outreach workers will work with previously incarcerated at-risk youth and young adults to provide personalized and intensive case management services. Additionally, a Street Outreach Worker program would have specific dollars available to provide wage subsidies to businesses that employ the program's participants.
- **Truancy Centers:** Reducing truancy is an effective strategy for keeping young people in school and out of trouble. However, Truancy Centers funded by this measure cannot be just holding pens for young people who are caught out of school. These centers need to provide case management to get at the root causes of chronic truancy.
- **Parole Services:** Parolees are particularly vulnerable to repeated criminal activity and recidivism. Oakland is playing an important leadership role in addressing the needs of these individuals. We need to continue that leadership by providing funding for case management and support services to serve 500 pre- and post release parolees.
- **Pathways to Change:** To reduce violence in the long term, we need to focus early on young people caught up in the justice system. Safe Passages' Pathways to Change is an effective program with a proven track record of reducing the recidivism of young offenders by as much as 45%, and decreasing the proportion of violent offenses by as much as 32%. The individualized case management services Pathways to Change participants receive are very effective and are based on programs in other cities that have been shown to work.

## **SUPPRESSION**

- **Crime Reduction Teams:** As stated above, CRTs are an effective investment. Any crime reduction measure should serve as a dedicated revenue source for the full funding of all CRTs. This will insulate them from budget cuts while also freeing up money in the General Fund. At the very least, the measure should provide the funding necessary to get CRTs up to their current authorized strength.
- **Traffic Enforcement:** Any measure should fund officers exclusively dedicated to proactive and targeted traffic enforcement activities.

## **CONCLUSION**

Only a combination of Prevention, Intervention and Suppression strategies will truly reduce violent crime in Oakland. We need more than just more officers, but we also cannot rely solely on social programs whose impacts are often gradual and are realized in the long-term. Additionally, it has been shown that the voters of the City of Oakland will only support a measure that balances the need for more day-to-day police activity with programs that provide real opportunities to individuals who want to turn their lives in a positive direction.

S-15.1  
ORACOUNCIL  
JUN 15 2004