

Herman Goldstein Award



2012 Project Submission



Reclaiming Sayonara Drive

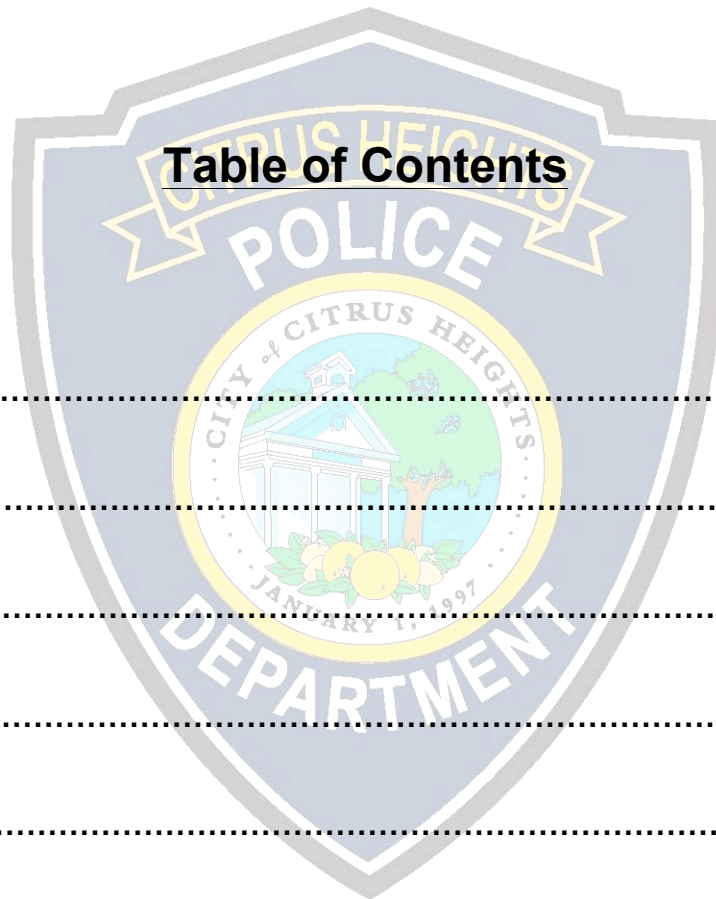


Chief of Police Christopher Boyd
Section Lt. Gina Anderson
Unit Supervisor Sgt. David Moranz
Project Submission Lead Ofc. Seth Dexter

Additional Community Partnerships:

Sayonara Youth and Children's Center
Campus Life Connection
Citrus Heights Police Volunteers
Citrus Heights Police Activities League
Citrus Heights Code Enforcement

Citizen's of Sayonara Drive
Allied Waste
The City of Citrus Heights
Walmart
Citrus Heights Collaborative



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Reclaiming Sayonara Drive

Sayonara Drive was declared by citizens and police to be the most crime ridden street within Citrus Heights. The street had more calls for service on an annual basis than in any other part of the city. Gang activity was prolific, with drive by shootings and deadly assaults being commonplace. Narcotics were purchased and sold out in the open, while neighborhood citizens stayed in their homes too fearful to report crime. Slumlords let their rentals fall into poor condition and disrepair. Trash piled into the gutters and graffiti marking the walls completed the picture of a street desperately needing to be reclaimed from crime and disrepair. Neighborhood kids became collateral damage, straddling the fence and in danger of falling into the “gangster lifestyle.”

With this bleak picture hanging before them, the Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD) researched the history of Sayonara Drive. Prior police response included high impact patrols and probation/parole sweeps. Building and municipal code enforcement was difficult and compliance from landlords was mediocre.

CHPD officers set up meetings with neighborhood citizens and listened to what the citizens wanted for their neighborhood. The neighborhood wanted to partner with CHPD and take back their streets.

Police worked hard to build trust with citizens of the neighborhood. When trust grew neighborhood citizens began picking up their phones and reporting criminal activity as it occurred. With real time information, officers targeted those responsible for criminal activity. Landlords started catching the vision of a crime free neighborhood and began evicting troublemakers from their rentals.

Along with the focus on crime reduction, the city began infrastructure improvements. Street improvements were made and lighting on the street upgraded. City officials orchestrated the purchase of several substandard four-plexes on Sayonara Drive. Identified as the most run down of the buildings, the vacant four-plexes were torn down.

A new Children and Youth Center was built to augment the work a local church was doing in mentoring and tutoring kids who lived in the Sayonara Neighborhood. Through the Children and Youth Center, neighborhood kids assisted with the planning and design of their very own neighborhood park.

The end result marked a 59% decrease in calls for police services to the street. Dangerous buildings were taken down. Neighborhood children now have a safe place to play and adults regularly provide mentoring and diversion of kids out of the gang lifestyle. The street has undergone a complete transformation and the changes still continue to this day.

Scanning:

Citrus Heights is a city of approximately 88,000 people, located in the county of Sacramento. The city incorporated in 1997 and encompasses an urban area of 14 square miles. For the first nine years of cityhood, Citrus Heights contracted with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department for police services.

Crime and police services were of major concern. The Sheriff's Department found the bulk of their calls for service were to a crime ridden, three block multi-family housing area called Sayonara Drive. Calls for police services to Sayonara Drive were, on average, 32 times higher than anywhere else in the city. Open air drug markets, shootings, felony assaults, and multiple gang sets plagued this street. Four-plexes were owned by absentee landlords, who didn't seem interested in the behavior of their tenants.

The greatest strength of the neighborhood is the non-profit Sayonara Children and Youth Center (The Center). Comprised of church and community volunteers, the Center provides after-school tutoring and support to neighborhood children and the 45 low income families who live on Sayonara Drive. Approximately 105 students benefit from the Center which includes free meals that are served daily to neighborhood families in need. The Center was housed in the bottom story of a run down four-plex in a building that was much too small to accommodate the numerous children and families

who were cared for. Yet workers at the Center pressed ahead without complaint, finding ways to continue helping neighborhood families. They worked despite the criminal activity and gangs that beckoned to many of the low income boys who were part of the Center's activities.

Analysis:

Historical studies and informal interviews with former deputies who worked in Citrus Heights revealed that the Sheriff's Department responded to crime on Sayonara Drive with high impact patrols and targeted enforcement. Numerous arrests were made, but criminals were eventually released and they came back to the street. Crime would calm for a short time, but skyrocket again when resources were inevitably allocated elsewhere. The problems were a never ending drain on City and Sheriff's Department resources.

Citrus Heights City officials collaborated with various stakeholders to address issues on Sayonara Drive. Keeping with the idea of community involvement and partnerships, city officials proctored multiple workshops and held brainstorming meetings with social service providers, Housing and Redevelopment agencies and landlords.

The City of Citrus Heights, in partnership with the Sayonara Drive community, began taking initial steps to address some of the citizens' concerns. First, the City installed streetlights, rubberized asphalt paving, textured crosswalks, stop signs and other traffic calming measures; limited landscape modifications were also introduced. But the major changes in criminal activity began with the birth of the Citrus Heights Police Department.

In 2006, the City created their own Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD). A painstaking search began and finally ended with the hiring of the first employee of the Citrus Heights Police Department, Chief Christopher Boyd. Chief Boyd endeavored to build CHPD with a strong philosophy of community and problem oriented policing. He believed partnership with the community is vital to sustained efforts in law enforcement and quality of life issues within neighborhoods. Chief Boyd hired employees who believe strongly in community policing. He began building a police department from the

ground up; a department that would be innovative in its problem solving efforts and not restricted or afraid to try new concepts in policing and problem solving. This philosophy has greatly assisted in paving the way for success on Sayonara Drive.

It was immediately apparent that Sayonara Dr. was the biggest resource drain for the new police department and the crime needed to be addressed. Officers began aggressive and proactive enforcement. Numerous arrests were made and residents quickly realized CHPD was serious about reducing crime. In 2008, Chief Boyd instituted the Problem Oriented Policing Unit (POP). POP officers were assigned the task of addressing crime trends specific to Sayonara Drive, in order to improve the quality of life for its residents. A strong belief in community and problem oriented policing would be the foundation for any work to be done on Sayonara Drive.

POP officers created a neighborhood survey and partnered with Citrus Heights Police volunteers, local church members and Citrus Heights Police Cadets to go door-to-door on Sayonara Drive. Each household was contacted and questioned about their primary concerns pertaining to Sayonara Drive and how they felt those concerns could be addressed. The result was a considerable amount of insightful, viable feedback, providing the city a compass for further response efforts. The surveys revealed residents were concerned about a myriad of problems including lack of aesthetic improvements, poor lighting, crime, gang activity, traffic concerns, the need for better property management, overcrowding and sub-standard housing conditions. Notably, 98% of survey responders were renters.

The door-to-door survey demonstrated to the residents that they mattered; that the police department was committed to working with them toward a common goal of a safe, friendly neighborhood in which to live. A few of the answers provided clear direction as to what the citizens wanted. Following are a sample of the questions and responses:

1. What do you think the police department should do to improve their effectiveness in your neighborhood?

Top five responses:

- Extra Patrol
- Gang Suppression
- Faster Response Time
- Constant Surveillance
- Children Safety

2. What problems would you like to see solved first in your neighborhood?

Top five responses:

- Gangs
- Drugs
- Child Safety
- Traffic
- Street Clean Up

3. What do you feel the City could do to help improve the condition of housing on Sayonara Drive?

Top five responses:

- Playground
- Landlord Accountability
- Police Substation/Surveillance
- Housing Issues
- NEP (neighborhood enhancement program) Notifications

Response:

Initially, one of the toughest elements officers faced was breaking down the walls which prevented citizens from communicating with police and reporting crime. An unintentional, adversarial relationship developed when past efforts by other law enforcement agencies brought targeted enforcement to the street. Several arrests were made, but it unfortunately left the citizens feeling mistrustful of law enforcement. With this in mind, the first two POP officers set about rebuilding this bridge by making contact through the Center. POP officers frequently stopped by to visit children in the after-school tutoring programs and many times wound up on the basketball court, in full uniform, playing with the kids. The effect of that simple act was far reaching; a fledgling relationship between law enforcement and the children began to develop. As adults in the neighborhood watched these officers take interest in and interact with their children, they were drawn in as well. Slowly, trust grew and before long, a solid and strong partnership had taken root.

When the initial community collaboration with the Sayonara Community Center was firmly in place, POP officers began forming a second collaboration in the form of a neighborhood watch group. Having spent time building a relationship with the neighborhood, POP officers moved to educate residents as to how they could make a difference in their own right. As a result, several citizens stood up, taking ownership and responsibility for the quality of life on their street. They formed a neighborhood watch group and began proactively reporting crime, where before there had been only stonewalled silence. Residents began consistently calling the POP officers, inquiring about crime prevention measures, reporting crime tips, and requesting help with contacting social service agencies. As tips came in, officers were able to arrest problem criminals who lived on the street. Landlords finally began to partner with the police department and the city to hold tenants accountable for criminal activity in their rentals. If there was a problem tenant who continued engaging in criminal activity, some landlords began issuing formal evictions to permanently solve the problem.

The police department also partnered with the City Code Enforcement Division. Code officers adopted a zero tolerance policy when it came to substandard building issues,

garbage or discarded furniture/appliances on the street, and neglected landscape. With the broken window theory in mind, cleaning the street up was an important step in having the citizens take pride in their neighborhood. Allied Waste Management became an important partner in the revitalization, sometimes responding several times a week to pick up heaps of garbage that had been discarded on the street in front of apartment buildings. Citizens began to see and appreciate how much better their street looked when it was clean of trash and debris.

The next wave of revitalization involved the Citrus Heights City Council authorizing the City Manager to begin purchasing foreclosed and vacant properties on Sayonara Drive. As the market turned, many of the four-plexes were put up for sale and the city made offers using redevelopment agency funds. Since that date, 15 properties have been purchased and the dilapidated, substandard buildings were torn down. Future plans include re-building the neighborhood with low income, single family homes which residents can purchase with pride.

Another victory in the area of infrastructure improvement occurred when the City of Citrus Heights was awarded a Federal grant to build a new children and youth center in the neighborhood. After years of being in an old and failing building, ground was broken in April of 2012 and construction began on a beautiful 2700 square foot facility. The new Center would serve the children and families on Sayonara Drive much more effectively. Quality and quantity of services are enhanced, and more people and families can be assisted. Neighborhood citizens have expressed they feel valued that a new building was constructed to serve their needs. It's a tangible reminder to them that the city and police department are committed to this neighborhood. The new Children and Youth Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and opened its doors in August of 2012. It is already a very busy place. Kids are tutored after school, crafts are taught, food is served and volunteers express their love for the neighborhood families in a very real way.

As the vision for a new Children and Youth Center was developing, another dream for the neighborhood was developing. City Officials and partners at the Center realized a safe place for neighborhood kids to play needed to be available. Another grant was

sought to fund construction of a park which would be located across the street from the proposed Children and Youth Center.

In 2011, the Sayonara Drive neighborhood was awarded a grant to construct a new park. It would be a neighborhood park, with no parking for vehicles, making it a place mostly dedicated to families within walking distance. City and police personnel met with the kids on Sayonara Drive and they were able to help plan what their new park would look like. The result incorporated a half-size basketball court, a small tot's half basketball court, a children's playground, a two tetherball play area, picnic tables, benches, a drinking fountain and solar lighting. Two months after the new Sayonara Children and Youth Center was opened, construction of the neighborhood park was completed. Neighborhood kids excitedly stood by as another ribbon cutting ceremony took place and the park was officially opened.

Assessment:

Changes in infrastructure, collaboration with various community groups and citizens of Sayonara, high police visibility, and proactive enforcement have all come together to bring change to Sayonara Drive. An analysis of calls for police response to Sayonara Drive revealed the following: during the first full year Citrus Heights Police Department was live (2007), there were 480 calls for police services to the street. The total dropped to 379 calls for service in 2008 (a 21% decrease). Between 2007 through 2012, there was a 46% decrease in violent crimes (assaults, robberies, domestic assaults, etc). Citizens feel safer on Sayonara Drive. They can now stay outside and enjoy the summer evenings instead of feeling the need to hide out in their own homes.

Property crime has drastically dropped on Sayonara Drive as well. In 2007 there were 56 reported thefts (burglary, grand theft, etc.). There were only 11 reported thefts on the entire street in 2012, a decrease of 85% (see attachment A).

Calls for service continue to decrease each year. To date there has been a 59% decrease in calls for service to Sayonara Drive from 2007. The street no longer has the highest volume of calls for service in the city. Many citizens who live outside of the Sayonara Drive neighborhood comment on how much the street is improved.

At the end of 2012, there were 193 calls for service to Sayonara Drive. This number represents a 60% decrease in calls for police services from 2007 (see attachment A).

Bridges continue to be built with citizens and families from Sayonara Drive in an effort to sustain the work that has been done. The police department involves children from Sayonara Drive in the Shop-with-a-Cop-Program annually sponsored by Walmart. Children from low-income families are partnered with Citrus Heights police officers and given a \$100 gift card to shop at Walmart. Along with their parent(s) and a police officer, the delighted kids often choose necessities such as clothing, school supplies for the coming school year, or gifts for siblings.

CHPD has an active Police Activities League (PAL), which hosts a myriad of activities in which children can participate. Officers and volunteers from the police department act as coaches for sports teams, guides for hiking and instructors for the leadership academy. The program affords kids the opportunity to interact with positive role models who mentor them toward making good choices and building character. The cost is extremely minimal (\$5.00 per year), and children are never turned away because they can't afford it. Police Activities League leaders conduct presentations at the Sayonara Community Center to continue to build momentum for the program and keep neighborhood kids involved in something that will help divert them from a life of crime.

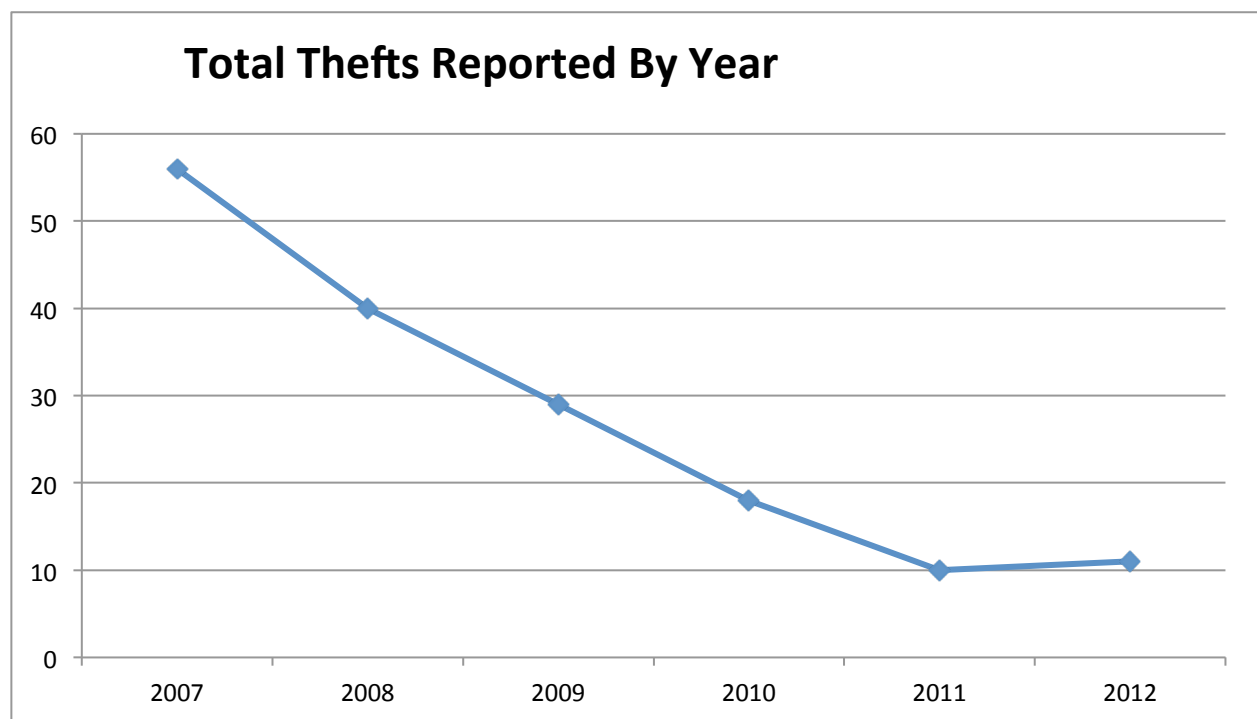
After enduring years of problems on Sayonara Drive, the residents are finally realizing a vastly improved quality of life. Violence is down, infrastructure and façade issues are being corrected, and the citizens are feeling much safer. Construction of the new Sayonara Children and Youth Center along with a new park are complete, and in full swing with activities impacting entire families

The last analysis of calls for service to Sayonara showed that "911" calls and proactive contacts have increased two-fold, the result of citizens reporting more crimes to police. The collaborative efforts of city government, police, community members, and various interest groups have proven to be highly effective in improving the quality of life for residents on Sayonara Drive. Clearly, a partnership between law enforcement and the community is a powerful force when working together to make a significant difference.

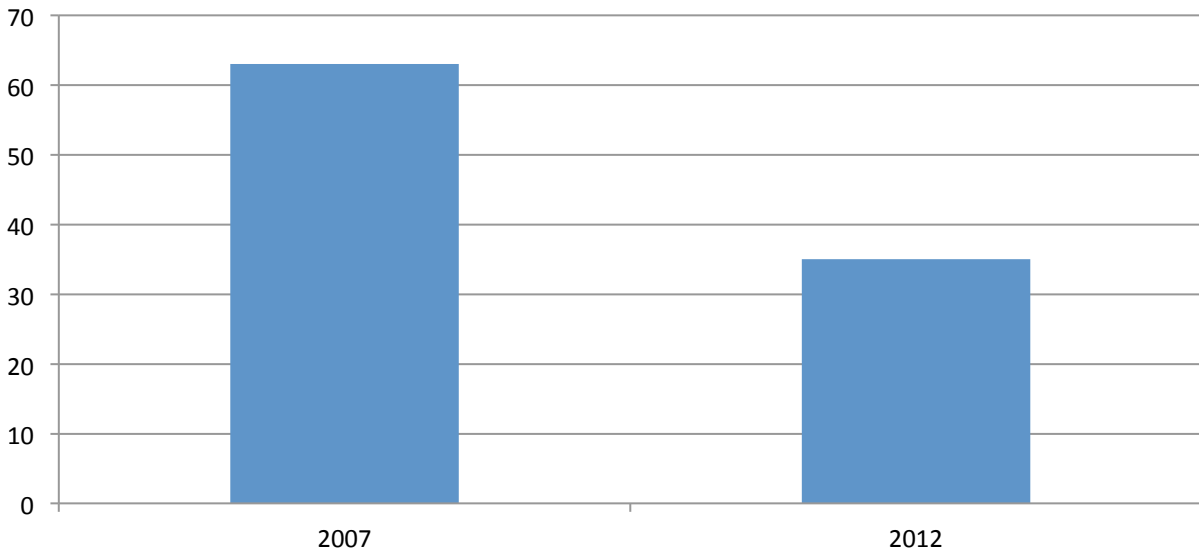
Sayonara Drive has transformed into a safer, more peaceful place for residents to live, work and play.

The transformation of an entire neighborhood would not be possible without a citywide dedication to community and policing. This philosophy is a common thread that ties together everyone from the Citrus Heights Police Department, to City Council and city staffers. Partnership and a common community policing philosophy have resulted in radical change in the Sayonara Drive neighborhood. Youth and children are helped, families are touched and lives are changed. The work continues in other distressed parts of the city, but we are certain the foundational lessons learned from Sayonara Drive will continue to change our city.

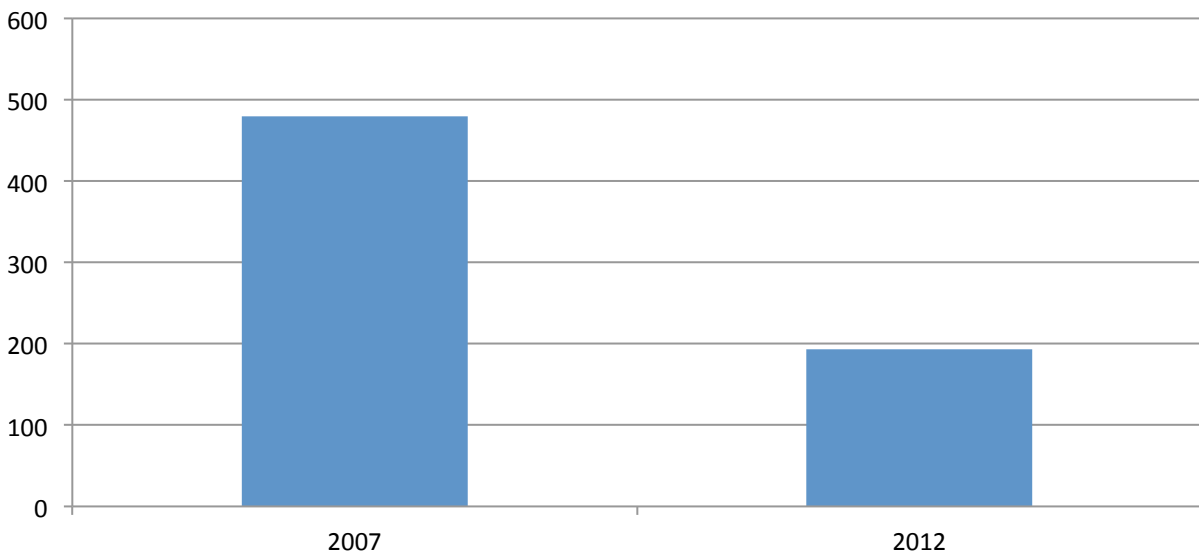
Appendix A:



Total Violent Crimes By Year



Total Calls For Service



Appendix B:

Sayonara Drive before photographs:



Demolition of old buildings and Sayonara Community Center Construction:





Groundbreaking of Sayonara Community Center with Citrus Heights Mayor Steve Miller



Completion of The new Sayonara Youth and Children's Center





Sayonara Community Park (across the street from the Youth and Children's Center)







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For years, the Sayonara Drive neighborhood in Citrus Heights lived up to its Japanese namesake:

Posted 04/01/2013 10:57 am

Goodbye.

Residents seemed to have given up on the three-block, multi-family housing area in the city of 88,000 in Sacramento County as open-air drug markets, shootings, felony assaults, and gang activity sadly became routine.

Many tenants took advantage of absentee landlords by discarding garbage or old furniture and appliances on the street, and neglecting landscaping.



Cops would swoop in regularly to make arrests with targeted law enforcement sweeps, but the crackdowns often would leave many residents feeling mistrustful and afraid to communicate with officers and report crime.

In a dramatic turnaround since Chief of Police Christopher Boyd came aboard with the creation of Citrus Heights' own police department in 2006, the Sayonara Drive neighborhood has undergone a remarkable transformation, with a new

Children and Youth Center and new park, and a stunning 78 percent overall decrease in calls for service from 2007 through 2011.

For its efforts, the Citrus Heights P.D. was named the 2013 recipient of the James Q. Wilson Award for Excellence in Community Policing. The award is presented annually by the California chapter of the Regional Community Policing Institute and is sponsored by the American Military University and the state Attorney General's Office.

A strong philosophy of community and problem-oriented-policing is at the heart of Sayonara Drive's dramatic turnaround, Boyd says.

"I believe a partnership with the community is vital to sustained efforts in law enforcement and quality-of-life issues within neighborhoods," Boyd says. "And this philosophy has greatly assisted in paving the way for success on Sayonara Drive."

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Division Lieutenant Gina Anderson, unit supervisor Sergeant Eric Mattke and project lead Officer Seth Dexter shared the award with Boyd.

The revitalization effort involved partnerships with various community stakeholders, including the Sayonara Youth and Children's Center, Campus Life Connection, Citizens of Sayonara Drive, and several other entities.

Citrus Heights was incorporated in 1997, and until Boyd and his department assumed law enforcement duties from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department in 2006, calls for police service to Sayonara Drive were, on average, 32 times higher than anywhere else in the city.



One bright spot was the non-profit Sayonara Children and Youth Center, but it was too small and located in a run-down four-plex, making it challenging for volunteers to provide after-school tutoring and support to children and the 45 low-income families who live on Sayonara Drive.

Enter Chief Boyd and the Citrus Heights P.D.

To address specific problems on Sayonara Drive, Boyd formed the Problem Oriented Policing Unit, which included officers working to mend relationships with residents by assisting at the children and youth center. The cops, in full uniform, often played basketball with the kids.



Slowly, surely, trust grew, and a stronger relationship between cops and the locals blossomed.

Police then conducted door-to-door surveys of residents, a neighborhood watch group was formed with adult volunteers, landlords began to hold tenants accountable for criminal activity in their rental units, code enforcement officers cracked down, and Sayonara Drive began to undergo a renaissance.

Other key developments followed.

The city of Citrus Heights purchased 15 dilapidated apartment buildings and razed them for future low-income, single-family homes. And a federal grant paved the way for a brand-new, 2,700-square-foot Children and Youth Center, which opened in August 2012.

The opening of the center was followed, two months later, with the opening of a neighborhood park across from the center that includes a half-sized basketball court, children's playground, picnic tables and other elements.



Boyd says the turnaround of Sayonara Drive can serve as a template for other police agencies that are committed to cleaning up blighted and crime-ridden neighborhoods through similar community and problem-oriented-policing.

"The transformation of an entire neighborhood would not be possible without a citywide dedication to

community and policing,” Boyd says.

“After enduring years of problems on Sayonara Drive, residents are finally realizing a vastly improved quality of life,” he adds. “Violence is down, infrastructure and façade issues are being corrected, and the citizens are feeling much safer.”

Captions:
(in order: 1. Before the Sayonara Neighborhood Revitalization Project – Dream Out Loud
2. Sayonara Community Park (across the street from the Youth and Children's Center)
3. Chief of Police Christopher Boyd
4. The new Sayonara Youth and Children's Center
5. Inside the Sayonara Youth and Children's Center)



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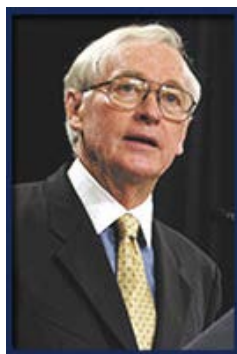
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Regional Community Policing Institute - California

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James Q. Wilson Award



Congratulations to the
Winners of the 2013
James Q. Wilson Award
for Excellence in
Community Policing

Recipient:

Citrus Heights Police Department
Chief Christopher Boyd
"Sayonara Drive Revitalization Project"

Finalist:

Arcata Police Department
Chief Thomas Chapman
"Youth and Family Services Program"

Finalist:

Sausalito Police Department
Chief Jennifer Tejada
"Homeless Advocacy Program"

The 2013 James Q. Wilson Award for Excellence in Community Policing is presented by the **Regional Community Policing Institute - California (RCPI-CA)**, and sponsored by the **Office of the Attorney General - State of California**. The purpose of this award is to recognize California law enforcement agencies that have successfully institutionalized the Community Policing philosophy. One agency each year is chosen as the recipient of the award and two others receive recognition as finalists. The selections will be

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made by a panel of experts who have no affiliation with any of the nominated agencies. The judging will be coordinated by the Director of the RCPI-CA.

Judging Will Be Based on the Following Topics

- **Problem Solving** - The level of agency commitment to solving public safety and disorder issues.
- **Partnership with the Community** - The level of agency collaboration with the community while addressing public safety and disorder issues.
- **Partnership with Public and Private Organizations/Agencies** - The level of agency collaboration with other public and private organizations/ agencies while addressing public safety and disorder issues.
- **Institutionalization** - The extent that the Community Policing philosophy has been integrated throughout the agency (e.g. percentage of personnel involved, training, relationship to promotional processes, etc.).
- **Results** - What have been the positive outcomes that can be linked to the chosen Community Policing Strategy and how were they determined?

Eligibility

All California law enforcement agencies are eligible. Multiple nominations from agencies with more than one patrol station or division will be accepted provided each nominated station is the functional equivalent of an independent police agency with a clearly defined command structure and geographic area of responsibility. The final determination of eligibility will be made by the judging panel. The awards was presented during the **California Police Chiefs Association Annual Training Symposium Luncheon, Monday February 25, 2013**, at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel and the Palm Springs Convention Center.
www.californiapolicechiefs.org.

Selected agencies must be willing to send a representative to accept the award.
Travel and lodging costs for a maximum of two representatives of the agency's choice will be covered by the RCPI-CA.

Nominating Procedure

To nominate an agency, please go to the RCPI-CA web site at www.rcpi-ca.org to download the application and instructions. Complete the application and submit it with a narrative of no more than five typewritten pages (one-sided, 12 point type, single spaced, one inch margins top, bottom, sides) describing the agency's success regarding the five judging criteria. Also include a one page abstract (one-sided, 12 point type, single spaced, one inch margins top, bottom, sides) which summarizes the five page document. It is requested that the abstract also be submitted on a CD since all award nominations will be provided to the conference attendees. Each submission may be supported by an unlimited number of attachments such as letters of support and newspaper clippings and videos. Mail the original packet and five complete copies to the

address listed on the application.

Additional Information

All entries become the property of the RCPI-CA and will not be returned. Decisions of the judges are final and, due to the anticipated volume of nominations, the RCPI-CA will not be able to respond to individual questions about the judging process and status of nominations. Final judging may require site visits which will be coordinated by the Director of the RCPI-CA.

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2013 Recipients
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Citrus Heights Police Department



Citrus Heights Police Department



Arcata Police Department



Arcata Police Department



Sausalito Police Department



Sausalito Police Department



2013 James Q. Wilson Award



California Police Chiefs Association



Citrus Heights targets blighted Sayonara Drive



CITY'S REDEVELOPMENT PUSH AIMS TO QUELL TAGGING, GANG ACTIVITY

By David Richie

Published 12:00 am PDT Friday, October 10, 2008
Story appeared in OUR REGION section, Page B3

Citrus Heights officials are trying to tighten their grip on one of this city's most crime-plagued and blighted streets – Sayonara Drive – as trouble spills out into a nearby neighborhood.

Residents of San Simeon Drive went outside earlier this week to discover freshly spray-painted street-gang graffiti on fences and vehicles parked in driveways. The tagging occurred at several locations along Sayonara Drive and on San Simeon Drive where Sayonara's fourplex and duplex rental units give way to single-family homes.

The mix of gang references, obscenities and challenges on the fences was still visible Wednesday afternoon. Mothers pushed babies in strollers along the sidewalk and young men in loud cars twisted around to view the scrawls as they blew by.

By Thursday, a painter was covering the graffiti as officers in two police cars stood guard.

One homeowner, who asked not to be identified for fear of being targeted by gang members, said the vandalism on the fences happens often. He said the attacks on the vehicles are more troubling because the vandals are encroaching even further into people's lives.

"First it was the fences, and now they are on the cars. What's next? Are they just kids acting stupid or something we really have to worry about?"

He said his family mostly lives toward the back of their home because everything out front on San Simeon Drive is "ugly."

Lt. Jeff Mackanin, who supervises the Police Department's community policing efforts, said the tagging appeared to be the work of members of a street gang or individuals who would like to be associated with that group. A problem-oriented policing officer is investigating, he said.

Citrus Heights does not have large populations of gang members, police said. Most of the city's gang-related activity seems to come out of the Sayonara Drive area, Mackanin said.

Sayonara Drive is considered one of the most blighted and crime-plagued streets in this city of about 90,000.

That is why the city is putting so much effort into finally turning things around.

"We had our first Neighborhood Watch meeting out there recently," Mackanin said, noting that 15 to 20 residents attended that first session.

James Lynch, manager of the city's Community Enhancement Division, said



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California Department of Corrections once allowed gang colors



PHOTOS: Mexican Mafia members from Southern California



The

city officials are moving ahead with redevelopment plans for the Sayonara Drive area that are more far-reaching than any can of spray paint.

Community development staff members will seek authorization from the City Council to purchase another boarded-up fourplex in the 7800 block of Sayonara Drive. The purchase is expected to cost just over \$200,000.

The city has already purchased one fourplex on Sayonara Drive. Long-range plans may involve restoration of the properties. They also may be demolished to decrease the overall density along Sayonara Drive.

Demolition could provide space for a playground or similar use in the area, which is considered a community development nightmare, Lynch said. There has never been a play space for the dozens of children who live along Sayonara Drive, so they end up in the street or in the driveways.

The city has already made several improvements in the area, including street repaving, implementation of traffic calming strategies and introduction of streetlights.

“It is now one of the best illuminated streets in the county,” Lynch said.

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