Sgt. Alex Turcotte,
Officer Scott Farnsworth
Citrus Heights Police Department

GOODBYE SAYONARA
Citrus Heights, CA

- Incorporated as a city in 1997
- Population: 88,000
- Police services originally contracted with Sacramento Sheriff’s Department
- Citrus Heights Police Department began 2006
- CHPD POP Unit started 2007
Citrus Heights Police Department

- 80 sworn
- 130 police employees
- 3 POP officers
- 3 Code enforcement officers
- 4 Special Investigation Detectives
- 6 Traffic officers
Sayonara Dr
3 Blocks

- 3 blocks long, *all* multi-family housing
- 32 times the number of calls for service than the *entire* city when the Citrus Heights Police took over
- Open air drug markets, shootings, stabbings, numerous felonies in progress
- Gangland
  - Various gang members made this their home
Early City Efforts

- Mayor Bill Hughes pushes for development of Property Owners Association
- Community workshops conducted
- Social service providers met with officials to offer their resources
- Housing/Redevelopment offers assistance
- Property owners encouraged to engage in management control including:
  - CC&R
  - Rental agreements
Citizen Concerns

- Overall dilapidated appearance of neighborhood
- Inadequate street lighting
- Traffic violations
- Code Enforcement issues
- Overcrowding and Housing issues
- Unsafe for children to play in neighborhood
City Goals

- Improve overall appearance of the neighborhood
- Increase lighting in the area
- Traffic calming measures
- High impact enforcement of state laws, muni codes, building codes, and nuisance abatement
- Creation of a city park in the area.
Citrus Height’s Vision of Sayonara Dr
Previous Strategies

- Sacramento Sheriff’s Department responded with High Impact patrols and zero tolerance enforcement
- Their results were temporary and cyclical
- No lasting impact
Citrus Heights Police Department
2006, Chief Christopher Boyd and his department are sworn in and immediately take over policing the city.

The department adopted Community Policing as a corporate philosophy.

Sayonara Dr is in the top three priorities for the department.

Special Investigations Unit is formed to focus on gangs, drugs, and Sayonara project.
POP Is Introduced

- By 2007, it was clear the department needed a dedicated unit to deal with quality of life issues
- Chief Boyd creates Citrus Heights Police Department’s first Problem Oriented Policing (POP) unit
- Sayonara project became top priority of this unit
Information Gathering

- POP Officers reviewed case history, field contacts, and began door to door contacts with residents
- Identified actual residents of the street
- Tenants vs. Visitors
- Talked to Property Owners/Management companies to educate them on abatement, premise liability
- Worked closely with SIU, Traffic, and Code Enforcement for information sharing and enforcement strategies
Community Survey

- POP collaborated with local community members and a neighborhood church to produce an area survey.
- The survey focused on quality of life concerns in the neighborhood.
- The questions covered topics including: Safety concerns, Police response, housing issues, and social services.
- These questions were analyzed to assist with the development of further strategies.
Neighborhood Survey
Raising Community Awareness
YOUR OPINION COUNTS
Youth Activities
Crime Reduction
Adult Community Services
- Traffic Calming
- Cleaner Streets
- Neighborhood Watch
- Recreational Areas
- Improved Safety
- Police Response
- Landscaping
- Improved Housing

What Matters Most to You!
1. How safe do you feel living on Sayonara Drive?

- Extremely Unsafe: 13%
- Mostly Unsafe: 6%
- Somewhat Unsafe: 15%
- Mostly Safe: 34%
- Extremely Safe: 32%
2. How fearful are you of becoming a victim of crime?

- Extremely Afraid: 33%
- Mostly Afraid: 28%
- Somewhat Afraid: 20%
- Slightly Afraid: 9%
- Not Afraid At All: 10%
4. What do you feel 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
5. What is your primary concern regarding criminal activity in your neighborhood?

![Bar Chart]

Legend:
- Red: Drug Use
- Blue: Drug Sales
- Green: Auto Theft
- Orange: Gang Activity
- Purple: Vandalism
- Yellow: Graffiti
- Blue: Violent Crimes
- Light Green: Home Burglary
- Light Blue: Other
7. What Problem would you like to see solved first in your neighborhood?

Top Five Responses:
- Gangs
- Drugs
- Child Safety
- Traffic
- Street Clean-up
2. Renter or Owner?

- Out of 47 responses
- 98% are renters
- 2% owner-occupied
4. Do you have concerns regarding the exterior of the building where you live?
7. What do you feel the City could do to help improve the condition of housing on Sayonara Dr?

Top Five Responses:
- Playground
- Landlord Accountability
- Police Substation/Surveillance
- Housing Issues
- NEP notifications
1. Would you be willing to participate in any of the following?

- Neighborhood Watch: 63%
- Neighborhood Associations: 14%
- Citizen Police Academy: 5%
- Emergency Response Team: 7%
- Police Task Force: 11%
2. Would you be willing to work with Police and City Staff on any of the following?

- Town Hall Meeting: 25%
- Neighborhood BBQ: 22%
- Neighborhood Fair: 20%
- Community Center: 10%
- Youth Outreach: 23%
RESPONSE
City

- Applied for and received $1 Million Federal grants for street improvement
- Street Lights were installed
- Rubberized Asphalt and Textured crosswalks were laid
- Bulb-Outs and Stop Signs were installed
- Code Enforcement activity increased
- Community Development began seeking funding for new park
City

- Community Development began seeking funding for new park
- City holds a meeting with neighborhood children to design the park.
- Interdepartmental meetings
Police

- TOPPS programs
- Probation and parole searches
- Undercover narcotic investigations
- High impact proactive patrols
POP Unit

- Helped form the area’s first neighborhood watch program
- Conduit of information from community members to SIU/ Patrol
- Collaborated with Code Enforcement/ Fair Housing regarding landlord-tenant issues
- Accountability/ mediation meetings with absentee landlords
  - Found that landlords were afraid
  - Emphasis on abatement
- Established a strong partnership with after school community center staff and children.
Community Groups

- Neighborhood Watch
- Active 20/30 club
- Salvation Army
- Sayonara Community Center
ASSESSMENT
Project Impact

- FY07-08 compared to FY 09-10
- Crime Trending down
  - Assaults -57%
  - Calls for service -74%
  - Disturbances -70%
  - Domestic violence -64%
  - Rape -50%
  - Stolen vehicles -33%
  - Thefts -71%
  - Vehicle accidents +20%
- Residents report feeling safer and more willing to seek police assistance
- Increased sense of community ownership
The positive side to economic downturn

“THE KICKER”
Redevelopment

- 2008, the city council allocates $1.78 million to purchase properties on Sayonara.
- To date, 15 properties were purchased.
- Properties with the most severe building violations were demolished and families were relocated.
Moving Forward

- The POP unit maintains a strong presence on the street and with the community.
- The target date for construction of the new park is Spring 2011.
- The city is partnering with developers and groups like Habitat for Humanity to rebuild the street in a fashion that improves aesthetics and promotes pride of ownership.
- The city will likely change the name of the street as it moves forward to leave the “Sayonara” stigma in the past.
So, Goodbye Sayonara. Hello...

Farnsworth Dr.

Turcotte Ln.
Thank You

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