



POP TALK

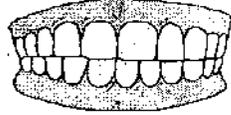


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EDITOR CHATTER



"want to wish everyone a happy holiday and prosperous new year. Together, we will continue to develop solutions to problems which plague our community. It is our energy that provides the impetus for a better quality of life."

*E. Winchester
Chief of Police*

- J3 POP TV programs continue to be a hit on Cable TV station 4. Thanks to their help, the program provides information to the public about your police department. Don't miss the next one!
- Jj Congratulations to Sergeant Tony Bennink for completing the Supervisory Leadership Institute. Sergeant Bennink was in charge of the Central POP Team before POP was expanded citywide.

WEST BUREAU

NORTHWEST
by J. H. Pryce

Quailwood Apartment Complex

On November 28, 1995 members of the Northwest POP Team, David Bunker, Officer Vicki Dellone

of CARE FRESNO, Sandi Ditommas of the Quailwood Apartment Complex, and Officials of Jane Adams School met at West McKinley Church for the Monthly Managers Meeting. The purpose of the meetings is to allow information to be exchanged by the different managers of area apartment complexes. Attending these meetings at West McKinley Church are the Northwest POP Team, Officer Vicki Dellone of CARE FRESNO, Sandi of the Quailwood Apartment Complex, and officials of Jane Addams School. During the October meeting, Jane Adams officials brought a staff worker from California State University, Fresno who had received a grant to teach low-income adults nutrition classes. Sandi immediately organized a program of classes, which now meet Wednesday Evenings at Quailwood Apartments.

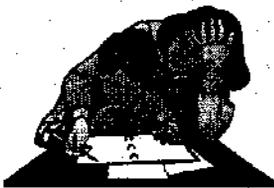
The Quailwood Apartment Complex has been a Northwest POP project since the citywide POP inception. The Quailwood Apartments have been a special problem, particularly in regards to management. Approximately three months ago a new manager was brought in by the latest property management company (Manco/Abbott). This new manager (Sandi Ditommas) immediately embraced the POP concept.

We met with Sandi when she first began to manage the complex. She declared her full support and began doing some really great things for the complex and the tenants. We assisted her with fractious tenants and she subsequently evicted the problems. She also began working in conjunction with CARE FRESNO, Jane Adams School, and the County Health Department.

Sandi was able to re-implement the lunch and snack program to include Saturdays for the children in the area. Sandi also re-opened the complex's library and CARE FRESNO assisted by supplying books and materials. Sandi continues to work with CARE FRESNO and the West McKinley Church to implement more programs for the

tenants. The partnership of the area churches and CARE FRESNO are beginning to have an impact on the community. Jane Adams School has begun assigning tutors to the complex. This had been discontinued by Officer Williamson of the Fresno Police Department because of

safety concerns as well as well as a lack of owner support at the time POP first entered the complex.



WE ARE REALLY EXCITED about the things happening at the Quailwood Apartments!

The partnership between the managers, CARE FRESNO, Jane Adams School, and the Fresno Police Department is really coming together. The most refreshing part is the attitude of the Property Management Company and, most importantly, Sandi Ditommas!



NORTHWEST

by Mark Keeney

Party Time in Northwest Fresno

Tin April of 1995, a new city park opened at 3681 West Clinton at Brawley. This was a much-anticipated addition to a new neighborhood with young families in need of an outdoor recreation area.

By July 1995, the Department had begun receiving a steady stream of complaints regarding Sunday parties at the new park. On July 30, 1995 the Northwest POP Team received information that on Sunday nights a disc jockey had been playing music to a crowd of approximately 800 people. Problems associated with this were major parking issues, traffic congestion, drinking in public, use of marijuana and possibly other drugs, excessive noise, and littering. This information was confirmed by Northwest Swing and Midnight Shift officers assigned to this area.

The POP team checked into the Business Tax and Permits Section with the City of Fresno and found that no amplification permits had ever been issued for this park. They also received information that the disc jockey was associated with a local radio station and that one of the on-air disc jockeys for this station had broadcast the "party" over the air. The radio station manager was contacted regarding the problem; he was unaware that this had occurred. He listened to the radio tapes for the entire weekend broadcast and identified the disc jockey who made the announcement on the radio. He then promptly suspended the subject disc jockey.

The Team was also told that citizens and security guards had problems reporting incidents occurring at the park because the Dispatchers told them that there was no park at Clinton and Brawley. Well, in all fairness to our dispatchers, we checked the new "City" park and found it was located in the County! Annexation of the property had never been completed. The Fresno Sheriffs Department was then advised of the situation and were told that the Fresno Police Department (FPD) would assist them at the park if needed until the annexation was completed. On August 15, 1995 the FPD was informed that the park was officially annexed into the city.

The following Sunday, FPD dispatch received an anonymous call that the Modoc Boys Street Gang were planning a drive-by shooting at the park; however, this

never materialized. The Northwest TAC Team worked the park for the first time and made contact with the disc jockey, advising him of the Fresno Municipal Code sections for amplification of music. He complied immediately. TAC

officers estimated the crowd size to be at least 500 people. A strong odor of marijuana was detectible and several alcohol violations were observed. Due to the lack of personnel and the size of the crowd, the Team felt strict enforcement would be unwise at this time. They felt that without music, the crowd would probably thin in the following weeks.

On the following week, the Northwest TAC Team patrolled the park on foot. This allowed the building of rapport with the crowd and an opportunity to explain their presence. The crowd had grown to over 600 persons, even with no disc jockey present—clearly too many people to occupy this park. The traffic congestion and cruising problems were overwhelming. Two fist fights broke out in the crowd and pepper spray (O.C.) was used to mobilize those involved. The California Highway Patrol helicopter and FPD K-9 units were called to help with crowd dispersal and perimeter assistance.

The next weekend, the Northwest TAC Team and six additional officers were assigned to the park, coming with a new attitude: Zero tolerance enforcement of any and all laws. The result was a much smaller crowd of approximately 200 people and several citations, including fourteen hazardous citations, one parking citation, four misdemeanor violations, and two narcotics violations. Visitors during the evening included Council Members Mike Briggs and Dan Ronquillo, Ombudsman David Bearhart, Parks Manager Rudy Castillo, and media which included the Fresno Bee and Television Stations 47 and 30. On subsequent weekends the park patrol continued and



Turn it OFF!

attendance steadily dropped to 75-90 and finally to only about 50 people playing basketball or using the play area.



Now THIS is what a park is for!

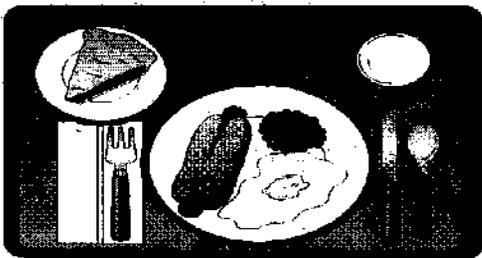
The Northwest TAC Team discontinued patrolling the area, and there has not been one response call to the park in nearly three months. This was an outstanding accomplishment considering the steady flow of complaints which were received prior to the Team's involvement. This was a high-profile tactical problem that, had it been allowed to continue, would have become a nightmare for patrol officers to handle. It is a great example of how tactical officers can make a difference in their areas!

SOUTHWEST

By George Parga

Poverello House/Rescue Mission: A Goal of a Safe, Clean Environment

FPD Poverello House/Rescue Mission is situated in a /# zone designed for residential, light manufacturing, JS and homeless assistance centers. The area is bordered by Ventura, California Avenue, C Street, and Broadway. The area is visited by day workers, patrols for the businesses in the area, and the homeless/transient population of Fresno. The Fresno Rescue Mission, Rescue the Children Family Shelter, and Poverello House are shelters where homeless/transients obtain short/long-term shelter/meals/clothing and medical/dental attention. These agencies also serve roughly over 1,000 meals per day.



As one can see, the high concentration of people accounts for a call for the Department's resources on a daily basis. In 1994-95, over 300 calls for service were handled. The calls involved domestic disturbances, intoxicated transients, drug dealing, prostitution and, during the colder months, bonfires. In analyzing the calls for service, it was

discovered that there were 127 calls in regards to disturbances during the past two years. This year, 26 less disturbance calls were handled. Overall, there have been 62 less calls for service. This is attributed to aggressive tactical planning on the part of several officers.

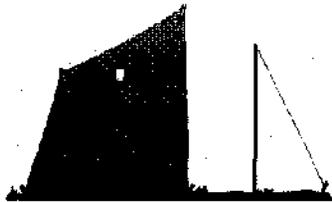
The first officer to undertake the project was Officer Frank Meraz. Upon surveying the area, he found open, "hand to hand" drug dealing and prostitution occurring in the oleander bushes along Golden State Boulevard, C, E, F, and G Streets, and the ponding basin and alleys in the immediate area. He also found transients living in the bushes and underpass at Freeways 41 and 99. Officer Meraz completed a tactical plan to address the above problems. He planned a sweep of the area with the assistance of the U.S. Border Patrol, State Parole, and the entire Southwest POP Team. The sweep was a success, as several parolees and prostitutes were arrested. But he did not stop there! He then contacted the Poverello/Rescue Mission Directors to obtain their views on how the FPD could help them create a safe, clean environment for the families being treated and/or living in the area. Short and long-term goals were established and at this time they are still being addressed.

✓ Short-term goals addressed to date are :

Bi-monthly clean-up days, using the City sanitation crews. Jess Garcia, the City Sanitation Supervisor, has assisted tremendously with clean-up efforts. Officers phone his office reporting debris and dumping and their response is immediate. *Shopping-cart retrieval Companies* were contacted by Officer Andrew Mercado. The carts, valued at over \$300, were continually being lost or stolen from various businesses. It had been discovered that homeless/transients were using the shopping carts to transport stolen goods, debris, cans, and bottles. They were also being used to build shelters in open lots and underpasses. Shopping cart retrieval days are now conducted, netting 15-20 carts each day. *Buy-bust operations and prostitution operations* had a definite effect on the number of subjects hanging out and conducting their trade at Santa Clara/F Street. *Property owners in the area* were contacted by person, mail, or phone to solicit their cooperation in helping to rid the area of blight. Officer Frazier, who was assigned to the project for a time, contacted the City Zoning Department and obtained the zoning map and list of property owners for each zone. This effort was quite successful, as he was able to obtain their trust and cooperation. The owners now contact the FPD when in need of assistance.

The above-listed tactics have allowed the Team to have an immediate effect on this project. The area is safer, quieter, and Directors of the Poverello House/Rescue Mission say

that their clients and staff see and feel the difference. The area residents also state the same. These tactics continue at present, resulting in a decrease in calls-for-service this year. Long-term goals are now being addressed. The Poverello House is expanding their operation, the area South of Santa Clara and F Street will be enclosed sometime in the near future, and the Rescue Mission has built a small park just north of their main building. Hopefully, the park will be used by the area transients for next summer. Concern over the area's homeless and transient population establishing "houses" on public or private property will always be a concern. At this time, other than a trespassing violation, there is no ordinance in place to control illegal housing (shanty-towns encampments) from being built within our City limits.



Officer Parga of the Team contacted the San Francisco, Sacramento, Santa Ana, and Santa Monica Police Departments regarding such an ordinance. Santa Ana replied immediately by mailing a copy of their city ordinance specifically addressing the issue. At this time, implementation of a similar ordinance for our City is being evaluated.

As one can see, there are several Federal, State, County, and City agencies' resources being used to impact this area project. Southwest POP officers continue to address the problem so that the community will have a safe, clean, drug-free environment. The Team will be researching the need for temporary housing resembling Los Angeles's "Domed City." There is also a need for a location away from City streets for homeless and transients. Sacramento has a park named "Freedom Park" which is used for housing by their homeless. In San Francisco, there is a program called "Matrix" in which the Police Department works with social agencies to handle their homeless. Such efforts will provide positive models for Fresno's future response to the temporary housing dilemma.



The key to our success is our involvement.

EAST BUREAU

NORTHEAST

by KenDodd

Dance Permit Revocation

The Northeast POP Team received complaints from patrol personnel of continued disturbances by patrons at Baja's Restaurant and Cantina located at 1440 E. Shaw. These complaints consisted of a taco truck illegally parked at the location after the restaurant closed as well as disturbances generated by intoxicated patrons who had attended the dance held nightly at the restaurant.

A check of the calls-for-service at the location showed that there had been 56 calls for service over the last year. Of these calls, there were 16 zero priority, in-progress, life-threatening calls. In reviewing these complaints and the calls for service, Officers Dodd and Hartman went to City Hall and met with Leon Molina. Mr. Molina maintains a file on all locations that possess dance permits which contain conditions and restrictions. Baja's dance permit, which was originally issued On June 25, 1993, contained a condition listed by then Lieutenant Button that *if the location has problems with patrons and/or increased police presence, then it will necessitate revocation of the permit.* With this condition placed on the original dance permit and Baja's increase in calls for service, the license was subject to revocation.

Officers Dodd and Hartman then drafted a letter to the Controller of the City, Mr. Andrew Souza. In this letter, the officers documented the concerns of the FPD and the propensity of a continued increase of calls for police service. The letter also stated that the Police Department supported the operation of a bona fide restaurant but were opposing the dance area. The officers also documented in this letter the amount of calls for service and therefore the establishment's violation of the original dance permit. Officers Dodd and Hartman also cited Muni Code Section 7-310(b)(1). This section stated that any permit granted under the provisions of this article may be revoked or suspended by the Controller when it appears that the public dance is, or dances at the public dance hall are, conducted in a disorderly, riotous or improper manner, or in violation of any statute or ordinance.

After the Controller received this letter, it was his decision to support the Police Department and a letter was drafted from his office and sent via certified mail to the Director of Operations of the restaurant, notifying him of the revocation of the dance permit. The establishment has 15 days to appeal the revocation. Once the establishment appeals, the City then reissues a dance permit until the

matter is heard before the hearing officer. This occurs to reduce the liability placed on the City.

The Baja's Restaurant and Cantina case is entering the appeal stage; therefore, the outcome has not been reached. In the event the permit is not permanently revoked, perhaps the Department will be successful in placing conditions on the establishment similar to those of Bisla's which are very restrictive, but help the business owner succeed in operating a safe, successful business.

SOUTHEAST

by John Pinedo and Pam Heinzman

Officer Pinedo was assigned to the area of Clovis off XI Avenue and King Canyon Road and the Bristol Apartments, located at 5630 E. Huntington. This area contained a high number of calls for service. From January through December 1994 there were 368 calls for service at this apartment complex which consists of 48 units. Most of the calls were for disturbances and suspicious activity.

Officer Pinedo employed the traditional policing methods inside this apartment complex. There were several search warrants served as well as a parole sweep utilizing our area parole officers. During the next couple of months he received numerous calls from anonymous callers telling him one of the managers was using drugs and stealing items from the tenants. Even though the manager had tested positive for drug use, his federal parole officer would not violate his parole. Officer Pinedo requested and received the parole officer's help to alleviate the problems the manager was causing.

Over the next couple of months the calls for service continued to increase. Officer Pinedo talked to the management company regarding the problems, and the company assured him that the problems would be addressed. Officer Pinedo attempted to obtain the owners' phone number; however, the management company refused to give it to him. Officer Pinedo was beginning to think he either had property owners who did not care what happened at their property (because they live out of town) or that he had owners who were uninformed regarding what was happening with their property. He eventually obtained the owners' phone number and contacted them.

The management company gave the owners the impression that there were no problems occurring at the Bristol Apartments, which was contrary to the information Officer Pinedo had provided. He informed the owners of the problems on the property. The owners, surprised at this information, told Officer Pinedo that they had only been to

their property once since purchased. Officer Pinedo requested they meet him at the property on May 12, 1995.

Officer Pinedo learned that the complex manager was taking the Bristol Apartments petty cash fund money to buy drugs. He relayed the information to the parole officer who said he could not act despite an admission from the manager that he was stealing money from the apartment complex. In early May, the manager and his wife were accused of embezzling money from the apartments and were subsequently fired.

The owners met with Officer Pinedo and, in examining the records, identified that the outstanding rent due was \$14,654.51. This prompted Pinedo to initiate an investigation on the managers and management company for embezzlement. A grand theft report was written and submitted.

The owners fired the management company and began to live at the complex. They asked the tenants to pay their rent; however, the tenants did not respond and continued to live in the complex. Officer Pinedo and the POP Team served two search warrants and the owners initiated several evictions. When the number of tenants started to decrease, the calls for service decreased as well. Unfortunately, the owners' actions were too late and on August 3, 1995 the bank took possession of the property. As of mid-November, the Bristol has only 8 tenants. There were only six calls for service from July-September 1995 while there had been 50 from April-June 1995.

The loss to the owners and subsequent foreclosure may have been prevented if POP had received greater cooperation from the parties involved at an earlier point in time. While it is unfortunate that the owners lost the property, the call for service problem has been radically reduced. This case demonstrates that the management concerns identified by POP are serious matters for property owners. Calls for service are often an indicator of serious mismanagement which can have disastrous results to owners, legitimate tenants, banks, and other involved parties.



TOO LATE !

CENTRAL BUREAU

CENTRAL AREA

by J. P. Ferretti

Sexual Predator Profiling

During the first nine months of 1995, there were 21 forcible rapes committed in Central Fresno alone. Citywide, there were over 200 arrests for sex-related offenses. Many of these suspects can be categorized as psychologically disturbed predators. According to psychologists, these types of offenders have a high potential to repeat their offenses. Often, due to a victim's request, many of these convicted predators are removed from the county in which they committed their original offense. Therefore, this places a high-risk suspect in an environment where they become just another face in the crowd.

One way to minimize this anonymity is to place the predator in a Law Enforcement/Sex Offender Meeting, as a condition of their parole. For the past year and a half, POP officers have attended monthly Law Enforcement/Sex Offender Meetings. During these encounters, selected parolees are characterized by their parole agent. This profile includes the subject's history, method of operation, criminal behavior pattern, mental/psychological problems, special conditions of parole and present concerns to the community.

These sessions last about an hour for each parolee predator. Frequently, the suspect fails to take responsibility for his criminal actions. This is one of the stumbling blocks to rehabilitation. Although police officers are encouraged to attend these meetings, calls for service or evening work hours prohibit them from participating. As a result, headquarter-as signed detectives and POP officers are mostly in attendance.

With the cooperation of State Parole, the Central area has adopted a smaller-scale version of the predator program that takes place in the briefing room. A predator parolee voluntarily attends a patrol briefing. A brief description of the suspect's criminal history and his conditions of parole are discussed. Officers are then allowed to ask the suspect questions.

The problem-solving goal is to minimize the chances of repeat offenses through a face-to-face discussion between the beat cop and the sexual predator. The patrol officer now has a better chance of recognizing a suspect in an area where he is likely to re-offend. More importantly, the suspect fears that officers patrolling his area might personally recognize him.



HERE'S TO A GREAT 1996 !

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