

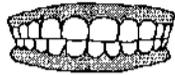


POP TALK



PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING PROJECTS & AUGUST 1996

EDITOR CHATTER



➔ CONGRATULATIONS to Alexander Smith and

Crystal Mitchell, "Students of the Month" at John Muir School. Officers Phil Cooley and Robert Mendoza treated the students to lunch at DiCicco's Restaurant. Alexander and Crystal are the first-ever "Students of the Month."



•• Members of the Southwest POP Team solved a problem of drinking, loitering, drug sales and gambling at the A & M Westside Market. A 50 percent reduction in Calls for Service (CFS) was accomplished and the officers only spent approximately ten hours of their time resolving these problems . . . THAT'S QUICK!

•* Creativity, ingenuity, and a willingness to work together causes the "positive."

EAST BUREAU

SOUTHEAST

Another Apartment Complex...
by Pam Heinzman

During December 1995, the Southeast POP/TAC Team became aware of a problem at 4242 E.

Olive. Reports indicated that people were loitering, drinking in the parking lot, and there was alleged drug dealing. From January 1995 to January 1996 there were 37 CFS. Thirty-seven CFS, not normally a large number, becomes significant when the location has only four occupied apartments in a twelve-unit complex. Officer Heinzman was assigned the project and began solving the problem.

POP Team members observed several people sitting in front of an apartment drinking beer. Officers located the apartment tenant and identified the rest of the parties. One man, in possession of rock cocaine, was arrested and taken to jail.

City Code Enforcement Officer Jack Robertson was called to the apartment because it did not have electricity. An extension cord was plugged into the apartment next door and strung along the ground to provide electricity for a floor heater. The apartment was posted for "no occupancy" and the complex owner was given a list of exterior problems which needed fixing.

The TAC Team received word that one of the three remaining occupied apartments was dealing narcotics. They watched the apartment for a short time, observing significant "traffic". They decided to ask a person walking away from the apartment what was going on inside the apartment. The person admitted entering the apartment to buy narcotics and a small quantity of rock cocaine was found in his possession. The Tac Team then visited the apartment to talk to the occupants. Upon entering the apartment, officers discovered the occupants in possession of rock cocaine for which they were arrested.

Officer Heinzman, along with Inspector Robertson, met with the owner of the complex and explained the existing code violations and the process for their resolution. Officer Heinzman inquired of the owner if he screened his tenants. He told Officer Heinzman he did not screen his tenants and

further explained that the two remaining current tenants were not paying rent. He did not realize that he could evict them for non-payment of rent.

In January 1996, Officer Heinzman received an anonymous complaint of a subject dealing narcotics from another apartment. Officers responded and found the occupant in possession of rock cocaine. He was arrested and taken to jail. In May 1996 Officer Heinzman received a complaint regarding gang activity occurring in this same apartment. The female who was renting the apartment had an arrest warrant and was subsequently taken into custody.

Jack Robertson visited the apartment complex to see if the repairs he requested had been completed. While at the complex Robertson was informed that the City of Fresno was discontinuing water service the following day.

The next day, the apartments were posted for "no occupancy" due to no water service. The complex was boarded up by the owner several days later and the property is currently for sale. Since May 5, 1996 there have been no calls for service at this complex.



Can't live without water!!!

This scenario is a typical POP Team encounter. Landlords who are unwilling or unable to maintain the premises in a lawful state of repair frequently have difficulty renting to law-abiding tenants. When the POP Team effectively deals with illegal activities of tenants, many of whom are evicted, complexes are subsequently closed and occasionally foreclosures occur. Although this occurrence is unfortunate, the elimination of drinking, loitering, drug dealing and other illegal activity is of definite benefit to the law-abiding residents of the surrounding neighborhood. Oftentimes the elimination of such problems is possible only after the POP Team, along with Code Enforcement, deals aggressively with non-compliant property owners.

PROJECT BRIEFS-SOUTHEAST

Miami/Andrews: POP Officers Bob Lincoln, Pam Heinzman and TAC Officer Rudy Ruiz contacted several residents in the area regarding various neighborhood complaints and CFS. During the investigation a subject found at 5839 E. Andrews was arrested for an outstanding felony arrest warrant.

4710 E. Kings Canyon Ace Liquor: Lt. Guthrie contacted TAC Officer Hahn and advised him that we had the opportunity to modify the existing CUP for this location. An on-site inspection was conducted and several modifications were made to the permit. One problem

solved concerned a sign owned by 3M Media that provides shade on the east side of the business. The transients and alcoholics were loitering in the shade. Hahn contacted the sign owner, who agreed to install a fence around the sign to prevent subjects from loitering.

CARE FRESNO: POP Officer Andree and John Clark attended a meeting at Valley Christian Church. An invitation was extended to all apartment managers and owners within Southeast's Sector "A". Andree researched the CFS to advise the managers how their complex compared with other complexes in the area. The meeting focused on how CARE FRESNO can improve the quality of life for tenants, and how proactive property management can help in lowering police calls for service. The meeting was well-received by those present and interest was expressed in monthly meetings to build positive lines of communication. A follow-up meeting ended with J.D. Properties donating an apartment and utilities to be utilized by Valley Christian Church as a reading room.

New Open Projects

- 3313 N. Maple #105
- 5839 E. Andrews
- 3334 N. Miami
- 3314 N. Miami
- 3404 N. Miami

NORTHEAST

THE STONE SOUP PARTNERSHIP: Making a Difference for El Dorado Park by Steve Coleman

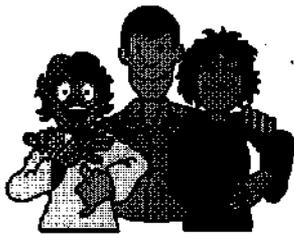
El Dorado Park is a small neighborhood located in Northeast Fresno. It consists of approximately two blocks located between Bulldog Lane and Barstow, Fourth and Sixth Streets. The neighborhood is home to more than 3,000 residents and has the highest density of Southeast Asian refugees in the nation. The area zip code, 93710, has the greatest number of children living under the poverty level. The neighborhood was prone to gang violence and criminal activity.

The Stone Soup Partnership began in the summer of 1992. A handful of volunteers worked out of a small office inside the Wesley Methodist Church at 1343 E. Barstow. Kathy Garabed, its founder, named the group after a children's folk tale that united a community. The story exemplified how much working together could accomplish. The Stone Soup philosophy is to educate and provide leadership training to families and "at-risk" youth. The hope is to

prevent them from falling into gang violence and crime. Since its beginning, Stone Soup has grown to include the 12 surrounding neighborhood churches, the neighboring residential community, the education staff of Fresno State University, and the Fresno Unified School District. In June 1994, The Northeast POP Team joined forces with the Stone Soup Partnership. Stone Soup has since provided a connection and communication with the residents that has been instrumental in pinpointing problem individuals and locations within El Dorado Park. Our most recent statistics show that, due to this partnership, crime has been reduced by 53% in the El Dorado neighborhood since 1994.

The Stone Soup Partnership incorporated as a non-profit agency and is currently negotiating to purchase four vacant office buildings in the neighborhood. Their goal is to provide health care and education services for the community. One of these buildings will be used exclusively to relocate the Northeast Police Dressing Station.

Today, Stone Soup conducts a variety of services for the neighborhood. These include language and literacy classes, youth projects, cultural training, after-school enrichment programs, and parenting skills. They are involved in adult education, job training and job fairs to



"Together we make it happen!!"

build economic self-sufficiency for the underprivileged. They work closely with the El Dorado Housing Association to improve the housing code standards and living conditions for the community. The Stone Soup Partnership was recently awarded the President's Service Award "Points of Light" Medal for outstanding achievement by a volunteer organization. "Stone Soup" is Kathy Garabed, who serves as its Program Director. She is a devoted and dedicated individual who not only had the interest and initiative to ask the difficult questions, but the courage, hope and desire to follow through and provide a hope for the future of El Dorado Park.

POP SHORTS

POP Officer Coleman made use of the Juvenile Offender Retribution Program and arranged for 25 juvenile offenders to clean up the alleys of El Dorado Park. The alleys looked so good after they were completed that he convinced the Probation Department to return the following day to pick up the rest of the neighborhood. The event was a success and well-covered by the media. It was truly refreshing to see these youths give something back to the community in a positive way.

The Northeast POP/TAC Team conducted an operation in El Dorado Park to address some recent problems. There has

been an increase in late-night activity by the youth and gang-type loitering and walking through the area. The operation resulted in two arrests and provided a positive presence to the residents and neighborhood.

The Northeast POP/TAC Team conducted a prostitution sting on North Blackstone. The operation resulted in 10 arrests for attempting to proposition an undercover police officer for money.

New Open Projects

- 2900 N. Second
- 3000 E Clinton
- 4520 E Sierra Madre
- 1900 E Sussex
- 3025-3049 E Gettysburg
- 3651-3673 N Cedar
- 1639 N Sixth

WEST BUREAU

NORTHWEST

A CARE FRESNO Impact Case by Larry McIntyre

Mhe Casa San Pablo Apartment complex is one of the largest site POP Projects in the Northwest policing area. This project has combined both traditional and non-traditional approaches to dealing with policing problems. It became a project due to high calls for police service, a request for assistance from the management, and complaints from patrol officers that the complex was a haven for drug addicts, dealers, robbery suspects and other violent felons.

Officer Lamb first opened the project in the Spring of 1995. He helped the management eliminate problem tenants by arranging arrests for under the influence and drug sales. In Fall 1995, Officer Terry became involved in the project. The POP Team provided support by making warrant arrests, parole/probation searches, Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) referrals, and narcotics-related arrests. Additionally, the Violent Crime Suppression Unit (VCSU) has assisted when needed by making sweeps of the complex to cut down on public drinking and alcohol-related disturbances. The Fresno Sheriff's Department "Operation Goldstar" has also assisted in impacting the criminal element.

The managers were very supportive of the POP concept. Work continued with them to clean up the problems in the complex. The real boon to the project began in November 1995 when Calvary Church of the Nazarene joined CARE FRESNO to adopt the complex as their project. Several dedicated volunteers began spending a time in the complex and developed relationships with the children and their parents. They arranged a Christmas party for the kids which included a puppet show, and a visit from Santa with gifts for each child. In January, they began a tutoring program for the kids on Tuesday nights. A media center was built with donated books and shelving that was obtained from the Fresno Unified School District, Fresno County Library, and private donations. Other activities have included an Easter Egg Hunt, monthly skating trips with Police Activities League (PAL), nutrition classes, parenting classes, and other activities sponsored by the church.



"Reading is fun."

Large projects seem to fall prey to setbacks and, at times, progress is slow. The managers recently resigned, leaving a temporary manager who does not live on site. CFS have increased slightly in the absence of managers living on site to monitor the behavior of problem residents. As yet, attempts to recruit parent volunteers from the residents to become involved on a regular basis with tutoring or special events has failed. This is a priority goal for the future, as most successful projects need resident involvement for lasting change and stability. However, in spite of such problems, the project has all the potential for success with the combined efforts of complex management, a strong dedicated church, and law enforcement support from Northwest POP.

New Open POP Projects

- 5478 N Aurora
- 4222 N. Pleasant
- 2444 W Alamos
- 5655 N Marty
- 1216 W Cortland
- 920 W Griffith
- 3239 W Vassar
- 4227 W Weldon
- 4507 N Woodson
- 4218 N Kavanaugh
- 1791 W Birch
- 3420 N Van Ness

SOUTHWEST

California Hotel by Rene Martin

The California Hotel became a POP Project in July 1994. During a CFS review, the hotel was found to have 307 CFS between July 1993 and July 1994. This appeared to be excessively high for this area. The hotel is a multi-story downtown structure that was converted into low income apartments. Most of the tenants are low-income elderly people who cannot afford to reside in convalescent homes. The hotel is also required to provide housing for disabled persons, including those on disability for alcohol and drug abuse. Such tenants began preying on the elderly tenants for drug and alcohol money. Also, the unsecured access into the building allowed people off the street to enter the building without being noticed.

Officer Eric Hodge began cultivating a working relationship with State Parole and the management of the hotel. This enabled the Southwest POP/TAC teams to arrest drug users and drug sellers inside of the building. Management implemented a policy disallowed entry into the building after 10:00 p.m. A policy for evicting problem tenants was also developed. The management's aggressive approach also included the installation of video cameras in the common areas of the building.

Once the Southwest POP/TAC Team established a foundation in the building, the resources from CARE FRESNO were deployed. Volunteers began working with the tenants in an attempt to address their long-term needs. This dedication, along with the remodeling of the building, has decreased CFS by 20 percent! Most of the CFS were for acts of violence that were associated with the sales and usage of drugs. The project is being continually monitored to ensure that these prior efforts are not in vain.



We are tough to beat
when together!!!

New Open POP Projects

- Calwa-Clara residential area
- 1206 E. Calwa
- 1546 C St
- Needle Park (San Benito at G St.)

PROJECT BRIEFS - SOUTHWEST

4603 E Heaton: Officers Greg Rayburn and Dan Wolfe have been working diligently with the occupants at this address. Numerous reported incidents of juvenile

vandalism by neighborhood youths over the past few months were received. Officers Rayburn and Wolfe contacted many of the juveniles responsible for the acts of vandalism which ranged from the breaking of planks in fences to random acts of graffiti.

The Graffiti Enforcement Team was contacted and the parents of the problem juveniles were advised of the public nuisance order. The occupants of 4603 E. Heaton have commended Officers Rayburn and Wolfe for their professionalism and dedication to duty. The occupants also said that there have been no further acts of vandalism, since Officers Raybura and Wolfe took on this project.

CENTRAL

The Power of a Unified Front by Sergeant Robert Nevarez

Qn January 1995, a triple homicide occurred behind the Me N Ed's Pizza Parlor located at Clinton/Weber. The suspects were identified as gang members and two of the victims were members of a rival gang. In the days that followed, intense media attention focused on gang activity and other dangers in the area. As a result, local merchants noticed an immediate decrease in business.

John N. Moushigian, the property owner of Me N Ed's, elected to get involved and become part of the solution. This path would require hard work and personal sacrifice for all. Mr. Moushigian recognized that it was his responsibility to help lead this problem-solving effort and he looked at other areas within the city that had fallen to urban decay. He often considered getting acquainted with his neighbors and something always surfaced. Mr. Moushigian allowed this tragedy be the catalyst for positive change. He identified and contacted all of those with a vested interest in local business and organized the Homan Neighbors Association.

A meeting was arranged to discuss factors which were leading to the deterioration of the neighborhood. In attendance was Mayor Patterson, Police Chief Ed Winchester, and Councilmember Michael Briggs. Mr. Moushigian felt that the meeting was positive in that he knew he could look to these city leaders for their guidance and help when necessary. True success, however, could only be obtained through the involvement of local citizens. Other property owners such as Dominico Santeufemia (owner of DiCiccios Italian Restaurant) and Tom

Ferdinande (owner of Me N Ed's Pizza) were eager to band together and reclaim their neighborhood.

Almost immediately, these merchants began to impact the problem. Within a week of the shooting, Me N Ed's removed all of their video games. They realized that the games were only contributing to area gang presence. A scan of the area by the merchants left them with the realization that there were numerous other factors that needed to be addressed. The newly-formed alliance decided to meet on a weekly basis until they could stabilize the area.



We love it when a plan comes together!

POP Officer John Ferretti and CSO Ron Hults attended these meetings. They provided police service when necessary and acted as facilitators for other private and public services. The focus of the group was to renew the faith of potential customers and residents in the safety of this area. The following issues were addressed:

Lighting: Area lighting was twenty years old and in poor working order. DiCiccios, Me N Ed's, and several other businesses replaced their lighting with state-of-the-art equipment which they hoped would discourage illegal activity. In addition, the City of Fresno agreed to increase the power of street lights to 100 watts.

Security: Since March, Burns Security has been contracted to provide patrols dining evening hours. They realized that this would both deter criminal activity and provide a feeling of safety.

Graffiti: Merchants worked closely with Neighborhood Revitalization and Graffiti Enforcement Team Officers to quickly identify graffiti and ensure it's removal in a timely manner. This has caused many taggers to go elsewhere.

Area Juveniles: Homan Elementary, just north of Clinton/Weber, serves most children who live in the area. Recently, a "Student of the Month" program was created. It is a collaborative effort that unites the school with local business. DiCiccios graciously agreed to provide free meals to students who receive this award.

Pay Phones: This area originally had a high concentration of pay phones. With the assistance of all property owners, most have been removed. This has caused criminals, who use pay phones to conduct their business, (i.e., drug dealers, prostitutes, etc), to go elsewhere.

Future Plans: Mr. Moushigian states that this association is not finished with improvements. He realized such work would become an ongoing process. Although the area has been stabilized, business owners still meet on a monthly basis. Their next step is working with the City to install center dividers with planter boxes on Clinton Avenue. He feels that this will "soften" the appearance of the street and cause it to be more inviting to potential customers.

On June 1, the Homan Street Faire was organized as a testament that conditions have dramatically improved in the area. Large numbers of people, including area children, homeowners and customers, attended. It was considered a success and Homan Elementary is planning a carnival in the near future to further promote a feeling of community. According to Dominico Santeufemia, there is still room for change; however, he has noticed a definite improvement. He states that vagrants have left the area and graffiti has been virtually eliminated.

John N. Moushigian and his leadership abilities led to the formation of the Homan Neighbors Association. Rather than just become an entity full of promises and unfulfilled rhetoric, he steered the efforts of his peers in a positive direction and ensured success. During a critical stage in the history of this neighborhood, Mr. Moushigian stepped forward and showed that he really cared. This has been consistently demonstrated through his actions; he has truly made a difference.

POP SHORTS

Demand Created by "Johns" results in Large Numbers of Prostitutes

On any given evening, up to 12 scantily clad women can be found on Parkway Drive. In the past, they would be discouraged after being arrested once or twice. This year, however, has produced aggressive prostitutes willing to sacrifice jail time in order to make money. One reason appears to be the huge volume of "Johns" coming into the area. "John" operations have shown that most men arrested are not residents of Fresno. Because of this, operations designed to impact prostitution will continue, with a shift in priority toward the demand part of the business equation.

On July 25, Officer Sheila Chandler assisted the POP Team by posing as our "hooker". This was her second operation. Her acting skills resulted in a successful operation. Twelve arrests were made for agreeing to an act of prostitution. Six of the "Johns" drove into the area and promptly had their vehicles towed. The other six walked into the area. Curiously, only two of the arrestees were from Fresno. Also present during this detail was Channel 26 (KMPH). The purpose of their presence was to publicize the operation as a deterrent to other potential "Johns".

Store Employee Arrested for Selling Marijuana from Convenience Store

On July 2, a clerk at Belmont Super Save (825 E. Belmont) was arrested after selling marijuana to police operator. While being taken into custody, 13 baggies of marijuana were found beneath his register. Next to the marijuana, officers located a loaded .22 caliber handgun. Officer Mike Gomez was told of this clerk by a confidential informant who advised the suspect had been hired two weeks prior and immediately turned to drug sales. He quickly established a large number of customers from word-of-mouth advertising. All transactions were conducted from behind the sales counter. The clerk was charged with sales of marijuana, possession of marijuana for sales and possession of a firearm while in commission of a felony.

Central POP Teams Up with Fresno County Probation

On July 19, several probationers were served with early morning greetings, compliments of Fresno P.D. and Fresno County Adult Probation.

A total of ten residences were inspected. Two searches led to the discovery of drugs. New felony charges were brought against these probationers, in addition to having their probation violated. An additional subject was found to be in violation of felony probation.

New Area POP Projects:

- First/Tulare
- 417 E. Weldon
- 938 N. Wilson
- 327 W. Olive

