

COMMUNITY POLICING ADVISORY BOARD – ACTION FORMS

1. Redefine Community Policing using the definitions provided by the U. S. Department of Justice Office of Community-Oriented Policing (COPS) so that it is a responsibility of every citizen and officer – not just a few Community Service Officers.

This will include all police officers in implementing the community relations concept. Currently, most members of the Department and many in the community shortsightedly view community policing as being solely Measure Y activities.

According to the Office of Community Oriented Policing in the Department of Justice, the core elements of community policing involve organizational transformation, problem solving and community partnerships. The key factor in successful community policing is involvement with the community, in every neighborhood, in matters that impact the safety and security of the neighborhood. The concept of community policing is misunderstood among many in Oakland and in the Police Department. Community policing cannot only be a few officers who work on problem solving; every Officer in the Department must be responsible for policing in this manner. Every police contact is an opportunity to engage with the community, increase police legitimacy, and be responsive to neighborhood concerns. Police working in a neighborhood must have a felt presence, not just walk or drive through the area without interacting with many whom they pass. Likewise, the community is responsible for participating, in coordination with the police, in the safety of themselves and their neighbors.

	PRIORITY ACTIONS	Implementation Time Frame	Assignment of Responsibility
1	<p>Help advise and direct police legitimacy training The city and the community should strongly support the Police Department’s efforts in training officers in police legitimacy issues, where officers come to understand community perspectives and how police interactions with the community can build relationships of trust. The training will be based on modules developed at Yale University, but will require the participation of the CPAB and community members to create a program that teaches officers about Oakland communities and their unique issues.</p>		
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2. Revise the evaluation criteria for the implementation of community policing to focus on outcomes rather than activities

Currently, the evaluation criteria for community policing is based on activities rather than outcomes, which does not measure the success or failure of community policing. Factors such as community perception of problems being addressed, the quality of the community relationship with the police assigned to the area and other factors need to become the evaluative criteria.

	PRIORITY ACTIONS	Implementation Time Frame	Assignment of Responsibility
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3. Use the CPAB to strengthen the functionality of the Advisory Councils to each District Commander by supporting the linkages with other City agencies.

CPAB can be used as a mechanism to help strengthen cooperation between other city agencies and the Police Department toward creating a more safe and secure community. The CPAB must become a powerful advocate for coordinated efforts by all city agencies in sustaining a true partnership between police, other city agencies, NGOs and the neighborhoods.

	PRIORITY ACTIONS	Implementation Time Frame	Assignment of Responsibility
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4. Draft a “Quality of Life Issues” Priority List to be submitted to the Oakland City Government and Police Department

Community policing is inherently “service-oriented,” meaning that the police are to respond to those concerns raised by community members. When community members sense that police are not responsive to their concerns, they are less willing to work with police on other objectives. Additionally, lingering quality of life issues (in the most famous example, broken windows, but also open air drug dealing and use, prostitution, graffiti, and more) generate an impression of disorder, allowing more serious crime to gain a foothold in a neighborhood. For both of these reasons, it is critical that the community and police work together to solve the most pressing quality of life issues according to community members. The Police Department and City Government cannot know community concerns unless the community brings it to their attention on a regular basis.

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Support neighborhood residents and business people signing certificates of commitment to engage in activities that will reduce the level of crime and disorder in Oakland

*This Action Item to be referred to the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee.