

Operation Ceasefire / Lifelines to Healing Strategy

The City of Oakland is officially re-launching the Ceasefire Strategy. With new and renewed partnerships and commitments from the Mayor's Office, Oakland Police Department, Alameda County, the District Attorneys' Office, community based organizations, and state and federal law enforcement officials the City will be implementing this strategy in areas of the City most impacted by homicides and shootings. To effectively implement this strategy the City has entered into a contract with the California Partnership for Safe Communities (<http://partnershipforsafecommunities.org/>) to receive technical assistance in implementation. This re-launch is different than previous efforts because this time the *entire* strategy will be fully implemented.

Goals: (1) Reduce shootings and homicides through respectful direct communication and follow through with those at highest risk of violence (2) Decrease recidivism and incarceration rates of individuals participating in the intervention (3) Strengthen police- community relations

How this works: The Ceasefire strategy engages a broad cross-section of community stakeholders concerned with violence—including criminal justice agencies, faith leaders, community organizers, youth and their advocates, service providers, victims of violence, residents of neighborhoods affected by violence and the formerly incarcerated—to build working alliances that span the often deep divisions among criminal justice agencies, the community, and young people at highest risk of gun violence.

Through in-depth analysis of shootings and homicides, groups and individuals at highest risk of violence are identified and “called-in” to meetings with affected community members and law enforcement. At these meetings they are given the message that ***the community cares about you and wants to help you but we need the shootings and homicides to stop. If you or a member of your group continue to shoot and kill you and members of your group will receive attention from multiple law enforcement agencies.*** During the call-in services are offered to those wishing to receive help, however participation in services offered is **not** a requirement. The only requirement is that the shootings and homicides cease.

Other important components of the strategy include the **night walks that are organized by clergy and community leaders; and street outreach and social services provided by Measure Y and their community partners – all focused on those at highest risk of violence.** These walks take place in communities with the highest incident of shootings and homicides, during or as close to the times where data indicates that these events are likely to occur. To date night walks have occurred on almost every Friday night since September and will continue indefinitely.

By communicating a powerful anti-violence message from the community and law enforcement to specific individuals and groups at highest risk, the Ceasefire partnership supports these individuals to make different decisions about violence. This strategy is by no means a “pass.” Rather, it is a partnership-based violence reduction strategy involving law enforcement and the community with **proven results nationally** (see information below).

The management of the project has developed into three working groups: **The Community Work Group**¹ coordinates community support and outreach to those at highest risk of violence. The **Enforcement Operations Group**² focuses inter-agency enforcement on street groups that continue to shoot and kill in East Oakland. The **Core Coordination Team** guides strategy and coordinates Ceasefire activities across these two groups.

The Oakland Ceasefire partnership conducted an initial call-in on October 18th with members of actively violent groups in East Oakland. Community members told them that their lives matter and they are loved, but stressed that the violence must stop. They were informed that future violence will bring heightened local, state, and federal attention to entire groups for all crimes they are committing. They were offered specially tailored help through Measure Y. **While national experience indicates that it may take several rounds of these meetings, and follow through on services, outreach and enforcement, before violence declines the strategy’s launch was very promising.**

Measuring Success: The primary outcomes for Oakland Ceasefire are fatal and non-fatal shootings; and the strategy is focused for now on East Oakland (over 60% of homicides in Oakland occur east of High Street). The partners will also look to measure recidivism among participants and improvements in police-community relationships. The city is prepared to report out to community stakeholders several times a year on the development and outcomes of the strategy and is pursuing funds for a formal evaluation.

Results of Ceasefire Efforts in Other Communities

(Source: Braga, A., Weisburd, D. The effects of “pulling levers” focused deterrence strategies on crime. *Campbell Systematic Reviews* 2012.)

<u>Study</u>	<u>Main Outcome</u>
Boston Operation Ceasefire	-63% youth homicide
Indianapolis IVRP	-34% total homicide
Stockton Operation Peacekeeper	-42% gun homicide
Lowell PSN	-44% gun assaults
Cincinnati CIRV	42% GMI homicide, -21% injury shootings
Newark Ceasefire	NS reduction in gunshot wound incidents
LA Operation Ceasefire	Sig. short-term reduction in violent, gun crime
Chicago PSN	-37% homicide, -30% recidivism rate
Nashville DMI	56% reduction in drug offenses
Rockford DMI	-22% non-violent offenses
Hawaii HOPE	-26% recidivism rate

¹ Oakland Ceasefire community partners include Oakland Congregations Organizing and numerous OCO-affiliated faith congregations, City of Oakland Measure Y (a partnership of street outreach and social service organizations), Pastors of Oakland, Allen Temple, City Team and others.

² Oakland Ceasefire enforcement partners include OPD, the District Attorney, the United States Attorney’s Office, Alameda County Probation, California Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (Parole), the US Marshall’s Service, The Secret Service, the California High Patrol, the FBI, DEA and ATF and others.