



## NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PREVENTION COUNCILS

### **What is an NCPC?**

- A Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council is made up of you and your neighbors working together and in partnership with the Oakland Police Department (OPD) and other city agencies to address ongoing problems in your neighborhood.
- Each NCPC is organized and run by the neighbors who attend the meetings. Every household in the beat is notified of a beat-wide NCPC meeting once a year, where officers are elected.
- Meetings are generally held monthly; but some are held bi-monthly or quarterly, depending on the level of interest and the problems that need addressing.
- OPD works with the NCPC to develop strategies and allocate resources to address problems. OPD also reports back to the NCPC about progress on specific issues.

### **How Are NCPCs Organized?**

- NCPCs are inclusive, transparent, independent, democratic institutions, run by neighbors and open to the public. They are supported—but not controlled—by the police department.
- Each NCPC defines its own structure, as long as it is open, democratic, inclusive and transparent.
- Each NCPC sets up standing and project committees to work on issues.
- Each NCPC has written rules, individually determined the group.

### **What Are the Top Three Priorities?**

- NCPC's generally choose three priorities for the Oakland Police Department or other City agencies.
- The Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Problem-Solving Officer, beat Officer, Sergeant's, Lieutenant, OPD special units and other City agencies work together and with the NCPC to develop and implement a strategy for addressing the priorities.
- Regular updates about the priorities are shared with NCPCs and the OPD until the problems are resolved or changed.
- A system of accountability up and down the chain of command assures that the problems which are defined by the NCPCs are addressed.

### **What Are Beats and Police Service Areas (PSAs)?**

- The City of Oakland is divided into 57 beats of approximately 5000 people each. Each beat has an NCPC.

### **What are NSCs, and PSOs**

- Each NCPC is staffed by a Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC). The role of the NSC is to work with the leaders of the NCPC to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities so they can learn how to strategically solve problems.

- NSCs help residents work together and in partnership with the Police and other City departments.
- Many NCPCs include a Problem Solving Officer (PSO) trained in the philosophy and practice of community policing.

## **What is City Council Resolution 79235 and Community Policing?**

- Resolution 79235 outlines the City's community policing strategy. It was originally adopted by the City Council in June, 1996 and revised in May, 2004.
- Community policing "creates a working partnership between the community and the police...to analyze neighborhood problems, set priorities, develop strategies, and work together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods".
  1. Oakland's community policing strategy consists of a three-pronged approach. The Neighborhood Watch program organizes residents block-by-block by helping them get to know each other and work together to keep their neighborhoods safe. The Merchant Watch program is the business equivalent of the Neighborhood Watch program.
  2. Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils organize residents by neighborhood or beat to work together and in partnership with the police department to solve chronic problems.
  3. Residents come together at the annual Community Summit to network, celebrate success, and discuss city-wide issues.
- Community policing combines the forces of all city departments and community members. In this approach, neighborhoods are empowered when community members organize to identify problems, prioritize concerns and develop solutions.

## **What is the Underlying Philosophy of the NCPCs?**

- The NCPCs are part of Community Policing –redefining the relationship between the city and the police department.
- The NCPCs identify the top police priorities for each neighborhood.
- The NCPCs provide a place for citizens to participate with the police department to solve their own problems. Together they develop strategies to resolve public safety, health, and other concerns.
- The NCPCs provide forums for all individuals and neighborhood groups (including block clubs, neighborhood watch programs, community based organizations, merchant associations, citizen associations, houses of worship), to participate in making their communities, better, safer, and stronger. NCPCS strive to create nurturing, supportive communities.

## **How Can I Get Involved?**

- Come to an NCPC meeting in your neighborhood!
- Your Neighborhood Services Coordinator can tell you when your next meeting is, put you on a mailing list, and give you any public contact info (such as e-mails, Yahoo groups, or websites).
- To find out which beat you live in and who your Neighborhood Services Coordinator is, use this [map of the City](#) to find what area and beat you live in. Then, find your [NCPC](#).
- Many NCPCs send out meeting notices, agendas, minutes, alerts, newsletters, and all kinds of useful information.