



Terry Taplin
Councilmember District 2

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet **21**

Meeting Date: ~~December 5, 2023~~ January 23, 2024

Item Number: ~~13~~

Item Description: Reimagining Public Safety Status Report

Submitted by: Councilmember Taplin (**Author**) and Councilmember Bartlett (**Co-Sponsor**)

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive the Reimagining Public Safety Status Report from the City Manager's Office;
2. Refer Alternative #3 (Problem Oriented Policing ~~at Hot Spots~~ along Gun Violence Corridors+ Street Outreach Workers + SNA [Social Network Analysis] Focused Deterrence + Social Services) in 2023 Gun Violence Prevention report to the City Manager for Gun Violence Prevention implementation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Gun Violence Prevention Report (Verger 2023) recommends three Alternatives for “packaged components” in a Gun Violence Prevention Program for Berkeley. **Although the staff report includes materials that refer to “hot-spots”, it is preferable to use the term “gun violence corridors” to describe locations experiencing a concentration of gun violence and gun violence incidents identified by data analysis.** Of these alternatives, Alternative #3 is the most robust and most consistent with the Berkeley City Council’s stated policies and aims, and is also recommended by the author of the report:

“I recommend that the City of Berkeley and Berkeley Police Department implement Alternative #3: Problem Oriented Policing (POP) at Hot Spots + Street Outreach Workers + SNA [Social Network Analysis] Focused Deterrence + Social Services. As

long as the budget can make it work, I highly recommend doing the most programmatically that can be done as gun violence takes human lives.”¹

This Alternative is also consistent with the 2022 Reimagining Public Safety Final Report and Implementation Plan provided to the City of Berkeley by the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR).² The Report recommended implementing a program similar to the Advance Peace program in the City of Richmond, citing, in particular, the Peacemaker Fellowships, which include “life coaching, mentoring, connection to needed services, and cultural and educational excursions to those deemed to be the very most dangerous individuals in the city.” The NICJR Report also recommended several police reform including Highly Accountable Learning Organization (HALO) and Ethical Policing Is Courageous (EPIC) standards, Project ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement), and Early Intervention System (EIS), and Quality Assurance and Training (QAT) Bureau.

In brief, the components of Alternative #3 are:

- Problem Oriented Policing (POP) at Hot Spots along gunfire corridors: “...the [police] department would select a few (2-5) crime concentrations in specific places identified (7) in this research on which to focus. The police would need to incorporate the mapped gun violence incident data from this report but also possibly do their own crime mapping if it would be more up-to-date by the time this report is read.
- Focused Deterrence/Custom Notifications: “...If violence has just occurred, convene right away to determine the groups involved, key players, and instigating factors. Debrief all the same parties, review incident data, crosscheck lists of groups and their members, conduct criminal history reviews of active group members, perform social network analysis, and create a final list of impact players. Get input from street outreach workers and community members, and use social network analysis to focus resources strategically on those at highest risk of violence. Identify as many impact players as possible to notify.”
- Street Outreach Workers: “...identifying a CBO that is ready and willing to take on street outreach.”
- Social Services: “...identifying a CBO that is ready and willing to take on social services case management and checking with neighboring cities is the logical first step.”

Alternative #3 is consistent with the following adopted Council referrals included in the Reimagining Public Safety Process:

¹ Verger, M. (2023). Gun Violence Prevention: Berkeley, CA. *The Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley*. Retrieved Dec. 1, 2023 from <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-12-05%20Item%2013%20Reimagining%20Public%20Safety%20Status%20Report.pdf> pp. 80-151.

² Reimagining Public Safety in Berkeley: Final Report and Implementation Plan: https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BerkeleyReport_030722.pdf

- Berkeley Ceasefire: “a Gun Violence Intervention program with technical support from experienced consultants solicited by a Request For Proposals (RFP), community service providers including faith groups and violence intervention programs, hospital intervention programs, life coaching programs, Berkeley Housing Authority, Berkeley YouthWorks, Berkeley Police Department, Alameda County Workforce Development Board, Alameda County District Attorney’s Office, Alameda County Probation, California’s Office of the Attorney General, US Attorney’s Office, US Marshals Service, US Department of Justice, and other jurisdictions and agencies in the region as needed; and consider an alternate Urban Gun Violence Disruption Strategy such as the Peacemaker Fellowships program as implemented in the cities of Richmond, Stockton, and Sacramento” (November 2021)
- Community Policing: Flex Team for Problem-Oriented Policing Under the Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment (SARA) Model and Other Applicable Community Engagement Models: Refer to the City Manager the establishment of a Flexible Team for Problem-Oriented Policing in the Berkeley Police Department, following the SARA model and other applicable community engagement models, including Berkeley Ceasefire. (April 2022)
- Office of Racial Equity: Re-Entry Employment and Guaranteed Income Programs: ...Refer to the City Manager to establish evaluation processes and metrics for all social services programs recommended through the Reimaging Public Safety Process, including but not limited to violence prevention services, adult reentry programs, and mental health crisis response, and report evaluation outcome to the City Council. (December 2022)

Alternative #3 is also consistent with recommendations that the District 2 Council Office received from Subject Matter Experts in a Ceasefire Ad Hoc Advisory Group, including: “...synergizing and streamlining rather than duplicating work. The broader the scope of a program, the greater the risk of path dependencies that could hinder the efficacy of service provision (e.g. narrower pool of qualified contractors or infeasible workloads).”³

ATTACHMENTS

1. Budget Referral: Berkeley Ceasefire (2021)
2. Community Policing: Flex Team for Problem-Oriented Policing Under the Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment (SARA) Model and Other Applicable Community Engagement Models (2022)
3. Office of Racial Equity: Re-Entry Employment and Guaranteed Income Programs (2022)

³ District 2 Council Office. (2023). Memorandum: Berkeley Ceasefire Community Advisory: <https://www.terrytaplin.com/news/memorandum-berkeley-ceasefire-community-advisory/>