

Crime Prevention Program
ONI FY 2007-08 budget planning process
Update to the Bureau Advisory Committee
 November 13, 2006

Mission and major work focus

Although community policing is normally associated only with the police bureau, ONI's Crime Prevention Program is perhaps the central partner and proponent of community policing in Portland. Evidence of this can be seen in the program's mission and vision statements. The mission of ONI's Crime Prevention Program is "to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime." The program's vision is "a strong network of community and agency partners supporting safe, proactive, and self-sustaining neighborhoods."

The Crime Prevention Program provides services to the public that fall into one or more of the following categories:

1. Community organizing: increase community participation in and stewardship of neighborhood public safety efforts.
2. Training: offer training and educational resources to address crime trends and community needs.
3. Problem-solving: facilitate community problem-solving efforts by coordinating public safety teams and resources.

FTE staffing totals

The Crime Prevention Program has a total of 12.75 FTE: eleven geographically-assigned Crime Prevention Coordinators; a 0.75 administrative coordinator; and one program manager. The Crime Prevention Coordinators are housed at the coalition offices and are assigned as follows.

NPNO-1	SEUL-2
NECN-2	SWNI-1
CNN-1	NW/NW-1
EPNO-2	DT/OT/CT-1

Additionally, the ACCESS program is part of the Crime Prevention portion of the budget (although the program is supervised by Eric King). ACCESS has a total of 1.5 FTE: a program coordinator and an administrative support person.

Programs/Services funded through ONI contract dollars or general fund

Crime prevention services to all 95 neighborhoods in the city of Portland, including:

- Neighborhood Watch and Community Foot Patrol organizing (includes Business Watch, Apartment Watch, and Park Watch)
- Assistance and advice to public safety action committees (PSACs)
- Problem-solving meetings with the public and with partner agencies
- Problem-solving advice to individuals and groups
- Participation in Inter-Bureau Task Force intensive problem-solving
- Good Neighbor Agreements and Partnership Agreements- process facilitation and technical advice

- Time, Place, Manner case management for problem liquor establishments
- Inter-agency collaboration and partnering through groups such as precinct problem-solving groups, Gang Violence Task Force, Chief's Forum, Family Violence Coordinating Council, Liquor License Team, Portland Citizen Corps Council, and Community Action to Reduce Substance Abuse
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluations
- Training and education for the public on many crime- and livability-related topics, including one-on-one training, training for groups, writing for newsletters and email groups, and educational campaigns
- Organizing two major annual citywide events: Ready. Safe. Go. and National Night Out. Ready. Safe. Go. is a public safety conference for community members involved in crime prevention and disaster preparedness volunteerism. National Night Out is a celebration of community and public safety, involving approximately 160 neighborhood parties. The two events together draw about 20,000 people

Updates on additional dollars received in FY 06-07 and their impacts on program

Administrative support

Due to savings from vacant positions (which are now filled), the program was able to create a temporary administrative support position to join the staff in April 2006. This position is currently funded only through the end of FY 06-07. The person in the position provides support to the entire Crime Prevention staff on general admin tasks, and helps plan and implement our two major annual events, Ready. Safe. Go. and National Night Out.

ACCESS

In late 2004, ONI Crime Prevention and the Portland Police Bureau partnered to provide street intervention services for the Downtown-Old Town-Chinatown Livability Pilot Project. The goal of this project, known as ACCESS, is to reduce the incidence of crimes in downtown Portland neighborhoods. Other partners in the effort are the Bureau of Housing and Community Development, Central City Concern, the Portland Business Alliance, and the Downtown Public Safety Action Committee. This program is based on a nontraditional, community-based approach that creates partnerships between government, social service, and criminal justice agencies having the resources to impact livability issues in a targeted area. This partnership utilizes the principles of Community Policing to identify and analyze neighborhood livability issues and develops programs and strategies to deal effectively with those issues.

In October 2005, the program was expanded to include the oversight of \$500,000 allocated by City Council towards Voluntary Substance Abuse Treatment (VSAT) programs in cooperation with Multnomah County. In addition to treatment dollars, the program was awarded grants from the Bureau of Housing and Community Development and the Portland Business Alliance that provided housing for approximately 40 people engaged in the program. These grants allowed a partnership to be created with Central City Concern's Community Engagement Program, which is providing both housing and wrap around support services. Since the second phase of the program began four months ago, 20 people have been moved from the jails and/or the streets into treatment; 13 people are awaiting treatment; and 24 people have been placed into housing.

Arrest data for the period of December 1, 2004 thru June 1, 2005, shows a significant decrease in the number of arrests for those individuals being case managed by the ACCESS and included in Central Precinct's Neighborhood Livability Crime Enforcement Program. ONI data shows that the intervention services provided by ACCESS have resulted in an estimated \$40,320 savings to the criminal justice system in just 6 months. Based upon this initial data, and ongoing trends in the program effectiveness, it appears that the program is self-sustaining. Current data projects that the cost savings for a given fiscal year would be near or above \$150,000 in resources that would've been spent in the criminal justice system (jail time, arrests, court system, etc.).

By diverting chronic repeat offenders from the criminal justice system into social services and housing, we can maximize resources - which translates into fewer arrests and less time spent in jail; and, at the same time improve neighborhood livability.

Communication dollars

The additional communications dollars received by coalitions this fiscal year are likely to help Crime Prevention staff with their outreach efforts when the money is used to produce newsletters into which crime prevention information can be placed.

Small Neighborhood Grants

If any of the small neighborhood grants that are approved are focused on crime issues, Crime Prevention staff will be involved in helping the community implement these projects.

In an ideal world what services or programs you would be implementing

City-wide promotion of the Enhanced Safety Properties program

ESP is a program designed to reduce crime in rental properties. There are three steps to the certification process: (1) All managers go through the City's Landlord Training program; (2) The property is brought up to minimum standards for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design; and (3) The residents of the property are given crime prevention information and given the opportunity to organize into a Neighborhood Watch. Once a property has been certified in each of these steps, they are considered an ESP property. ESP property owners are automatically notified when there is any police activity on their property, and they are given permission to use the ESP logo in their advertising and signage.

We are currently piloting the ESP program in North Portland, where it has been found to be very successful in reducing crime on ESP certified properties, but also time-intensive for Crime Prevention staff.

We would like to implement the program city-wide and have it be a cornerstone of Crime Prevention, just like Neighborhood Watch. It will be difficult to bring ESP to every property as soon as a request is made given the current number of staff, and the program will spread fairly slowly.

Provision of services in other languages, especially Spanish

We have many requests for our services to be provided in other languages, particularly Spanish, which is the most common language spoken in Portland after English. Currently, the program only has one Spanish-speaker. There is a much higher demand for services in Spanish than the one employee can accommodate. Most of the staff is interested in learning Spanish so they can meet the demand.

A web-based, centralized case management system

There is no standardized way that the Crime Prevention staff tracks their cases. A centralized database in use a few years ago became unusable by staff in coalition offices due to inferior connectivity that is the result of being outside the City's firewall. Since then, staff members keep a combination of paper and electronic files to track their cases. This makes the retrieval and sharing of information among staff very labor-intensive and inefficient.

If staff shared a web-based, centralized database, the problem would be eliminated and staff would have much more time to spend on actual problem-solving and organizing as opposed to filing and searching for historic information.

More support for and promotion of Ready. Safe. Go. and National Night Out

There are two times of year when the already-busy staff becomes even busier—the times before RSG and NNO. In addition to their year-round duties, the staff must spend large

amounts of time promoting these events, preparing trainings, soliciting donations, registering participants, and distributing materials. The staff views these events as central to their mission, and yet the events make it difficult to deliver the other services of the program in a timely fashion due to workloads.

Any permanent form of help with the events would be welcomed. More dollars in the budget would mean the staff would spend less time soliciting donations to get printing done and giveaways made. An additional staff person devoted to planning these events year-round would remove most of the preparation for the events from the staff's already long list of duties, and would ensure high-quality events.

Coordinated city-wide prevention campaigns

The staff has often wanted to do city-wide campaigns on specific problems common to many people, such as residential burglary. A campaign might involve outreach through the media, flyering, emails, billboards, and the like to educate the community about the problem, as well as targeted missions by police. A well-coordinated city-wide campaign can have a significant impact on the crime rate, but also requires extensive coordination, and consumes so many hours that we have never had the staff to realize this desire.

City vehicles for staff

This is not something that would have a direct impact on the public, but is more a matter of equity for our employees. The Crime Prevention staff is, to our knowledge, the only group of field workers in the City without assigned vehicles. Crime Prevention staff use their own vehicles to travel to all of their appointments. They are reimbursed for the mileage, but the amount of reimbursement does not make up for the wear and tear on the vehicles. There is also somewhat of a safety issue with the staff using their own vehicles. It is not hard to trace where someone lives via their license plate, and staff does from time to time encounter members of the public who are irrationally angry with them.