

Crime Prevention Program
ONI FY 2008-09 budget planning process
Update to the Bureau Advisory Committee
 September 30th, 2007

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 15.4 FTE: thirteen geographically-assigned Crime Prevention Coordinators; a 0.4 administrative coordinator; one Events & Training Coordinator; and one Program Manager. Most of the Crime Prevention Coordinators are housed at the coalition offices and are assigned as follows.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Location</i>
North Precinct-2	Kenton Police Contact Office- 2
Northeast Precinct-3	NECN office- 2 CNN office- 1
East Precinct-3	EPNO office- 2 CNN office- 1
Southeast Precinct-2	SEUL office- 1 Southeast Precinct- 1
Central Precinct- 3	SWNI office/police contact office- 1 NW/NW office- 1 ONI City Hall office- 1

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 07-08 and their impacts on program

Administrative support

During the last budget cycle, ONI received a new, permanent administrative position that is shared between the Crime Prevention Program (.4 FTE), the Graffiti Abatement Program (.3 FTE), and the Liquor Licensing Program (.3 FTE). 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, in addition to their duties for Liquor and Graffiti. There has been some transition in staff providing this support and ONI is currently recruiting for this position (October 2007).

Events and Training Coordinator

Also during the last budget cycle, the Crime Prevention Program received a 1.0 FTE position to coordinate our major events National Night Out and Ready. Safe. Go., and to improve and standardize our educational offerings for the public. This person has been hired and will start on October 29th. We believe this position will free up the program manager and the crime prevention coordinators to enhance their services to the community.

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

Provision of crime prevention 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 was 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.

The City's technology services have started work on a database, but it is unknown when it might be completed due to competing priorities for the technology staff, and a very small amount of money allocated to the project in ONI's current budget.

Attending night and weekend events without straining personnel budget

The Crime Prevention Coordinators are members of AFSCME Local 189, whose contract requires overtime pay or comp time accrual for schedule changes. The overtime budget for the program allows only 2.5 hours of overtime per person per month, nowhere near enough to accommodate the schedule required by the staff to be responsive to the public. ONI routinely approves additional hours each month for comp time accrual, which provides more flexibility since the costs are not immediate. However, staff members have the right to cash out their accrued comp time, and if cashed out it would put an enormous strain on the overall personnel budget of the program. A larger overtime budget would help mitigate this problem.