

# COMMUNITY POP WATCH

A newsletter for the community brought to you by the Berkeley Police Department – November 2007

## Partnership Pride

Recent months were quite busy for our partnerships with the community. Partnerships are at the heart of Problem Oriented Policing (AKA POP). Here are a few of the events that we did together.

## National Night Out

Tuesday, August 7th was **National Night Out** (NNO). Over 42 neighborhood groups participated in Berkeley's NNO. There were ice cream socials, children's parades, potlucks, BBQs, neighborhood clean ups and live music. Members of the City Council, city staff, Fire and Police visited events throughout town and as a community member remarked "fun was had by all."

## First South Berkeley Community Walk



BPD CSB Area Coordinator Casimiro Pierantoni #96 suggested the idea of starting a consistent series of neighborhood community walks with the vision that the practice would spread throughout the city. The goals are to connect, show pride and ownership of neighborhoods, pick up trash along the route as well as discuss/identify problems. The first walk happened on the evening of July 19<sup>th</sup>. Over 60 people walked. Council members Moore and Anderson, their legislative aides, members of city staff and officers of the BPD Community Services Bureau (CSB) in plain clothes were part of the group.



## Berkeley Youth Walk

During the South Berkeley Community walk, some younger participants asked if a walk for youth could be organized. Over 60 young people and adults joined in the first Berkeley Youth Walk on the evening of August 15th. The group exchanged ideas, concerns, picked up trash and engaged city staff, aides to Mayor Bates, Councilpersons Anderson and Moore's legislative aides as well as BPD Community Services Bureau (CSB) officers in plain clothes.

## Numbers Tell (Part of) The Story

Chief Hambleton presented his crime report on September 18, 2007 to City Council and the community. This table shows crime comparisons from 2004 to 2007.

Crime Category	2004 (Jan-Jun)	2005 (Jan-Jun)	2006 (Jan-Jun)	2007 (Jan-Jun)	% Change 2006 to 2007
Homicide	0	1	3	2	
Rape	9	11	10	13	
Robbery	178	167	171	213	
Agg Assault	72	89	91	88	
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>+14.91%</b>
Burglary	635	594	545	494	
Theft	3145	2603	2730	2723	
Auto Theft	551	688	636	451	
Arson	20	11	13	12	
<b>Total Property Crime</b>	<b>4351</b>	<b>3896</b>	<b>3924</b>	<b>3680</b>	<b>-6.22%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Crime</b>	<b>4610</b>	<b>4164</b>	<b>4199</b>	<b>3996</b>	<b>-5.17%</b>

Although the violent crime numbers are troubling, in particular the robbery statistics, we will not know the full impact until year's end. Most Bay Area cities have also reported a rise in violent crime.

BPD Robbery detectives coordinate and work closely with patrol officers and their detective counterparts in other law enforcement agencies. In August, detectives closed (made arrests/identified suspects/secured arrest warrants) for over 40% of Berkeley robbery cases. In September, the closure rate was over 30%.



Robbery	2007	2006
July	25	48
August	48	26 closed
September	33	13 closed
October	34	64

## Making a Difference with Robbery Prevention

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings, particularly if you are alone or it is dark.
- Refrain from using cell phones and I-Pods in public, as they significantly limit your awareness and can attract a robber's attention.
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend or group.
- Walk confidently and at a steady pace.
- If you sense trouble, move to a populated, well-lit area.



- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys where criminals can hide.
- Program the local direct 911 – emergency number into your cell phone. **In Berkeley - dial (510) 981-5911**
- If you are the victim of a robbery, provide as much detail as you recall to the police officer. Robbers usually operate in the same areas each time and employ the same methods. The smallest details can often lead to arrests.
- **Do not** resist a robber.

## COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTERS WANTED

Thanks for working with us to prevent and reduce crime. Calls from you describing suspects, offering license plate numbers, reporting suspicious people, activity, cars and drug dealing very often lead to further investigation, surveillances and arrests. Your involvement is very important to making Berkeley even better.

### IDENTITY OF BANK ROBBER NEEDED



On October 9, 2007, at 9:12 a.m. the suspect in the photographs robbed the Bank of America at 1536 Shattuck Avenue. He was described by witnesses as a white male 35-45, approximately 5'10", 185, medium build, dark colored baseball cap, dark colored hooded sweatshirt & dark sunglasses. If you recognize this suspect, call BPD Robbery detail at (510) 981-5742 or (510) 981-5900 (24-hour dispatch line)

## SOUTH BERKELEY FOCUSED PATROL PROJECT

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, between about 3 pm to 2 am, BPD Community Services Bureau (CSB) and the Patrol Division collaborated in the second South Berkeley Focused Patrol Project Operation. The project, conceived by Officers Pierantoni #96 and Frankel #25, BPD Area Coordinators, uses Problem Oriented Policing (POP) concepts and was designed in response to ongoing community concerns regarding violent crime and activity in South Berkeley. The team of seven officers set out using creative means - several officers on bicycles during hours when bike patrol is not ordinarily seen, two person cars with knowledgeable beat officers as well as two beat officers after their shifts were done at 9 pm. The goal of the project was to participate in pro-active focused enforcement, targeting identified problem locations and individuals.

In addition to enforcement action, the team was committed to actively engaging the community they saw and met. These special projects are on an overtime basis and will be organized periodically as budgets allow.

### RESULTS OF THE OCT 18 PROJECT

**25+** detentions with **15+** parolee/probationers contacted  
**Five** citations for assorted Vehicle Code (CVC) and Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) violations.  
**Two** cars towed

### arrests

- ⇒ **3 warrant arrests**
- ⇒ **1 felony drug arrest**
- ⇒ **3 arrests for 211 PC / Robbery via gun\***

*\*The three bicycle officers involved in the project witnessed three suspects fleeing from the scene of an armed robbery. One officer stayed with the victim while the other two officers gave chase to the suspects. Bicycle officers took two of the suspects into custody and patrol officers caught the third suspect. One of the suspects discarded the pistol used in the robbery while fleeing the scene. The pistol discharged when the suspect threw it to the ground.*



Officers that have participated in the project so far...

**Bike Officers** Marin, Mathis and Waite

**Patrol Officers** Castle, Jones, Salas, Golden, Coats, Turner, P. Lee, Luna, Dozier, Ledoux and Diaz

and **Area Coordinators** Frankel and Pierantoni.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING BEHIND THE SCENES

Working with the community and the information you provide, BPD is able to do many things that you may not notice or know about. They include surveillances, drug buy operations, search warrants related to a variety of property and violent crimes, in addition to drugs and weapons offenses. Members of the BPD detective details – Homicide, Robbery, Property Crimes and Youth Services as well as the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) are involved in search warrants each week. Many of these warrants involve places in the City of Berkeley, although some investigations take BPD to neighboring cities.



Search warrant of Berkeley drug dealer – 4.5 oz. of crack cocaine hidden in a vacuum cleaner



Found in south Berkeley dealer's home- Cash, crack and marijuana.



45 caliber pistol, 38 revolver and cocaine found in a car stop in south Berkeley border with Oakland.



**WANTED  
ARMED &  
DANGEROUS**

**LUTHER JOHNNIE SWEET**

Black Male, 31, 5'10", 160, black hair, brown eyes.

Sweet was arrested for the armed takeover robbery of the Berkeley AAA office on August 10, 2007. Sweet was released on bail from Santa Rita County Jail but failed to appear in court. He is wanted for a number of warrants including robbery, a Parolee at Large and a \$1 million dollar warrant issued by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. Sweet should be considered armed & dangerous and may be disguising his appearance. If you spot him, call 911. If you know his where a bouts, please call the BPD Robbery detail at (510) 981-5742 or (510) 981-5900 - 24 hours

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Between January - June BPD communications center dispatchers handled....**

**911 calls** - 14,758 avg. of 2,108 calls per month (cpm)  
**Priority 1** - 9,073 avg. of 1,297 calls per month

**PRIORITY 1:** Life threatening, crime of violence, in progress felonies, missing juveniles (under 12 yrs), accidents w/injuries. These calls shall be dispatched immediately.

**Total Calls** - 911+5911+5900 = 111,041, 15,863 cpm  
Dispatched Priority 1 calls in: 2:14



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