



## THE ONS QUARTERLY

(April 2012 – June 2012)

*"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process – gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And however un-dramatic the pursuit of peace, that pursuit must go on." – JFK*

**STREET OUTREACH**

The primary strategy of the Office of Neighborhood Safety ("ONS") is its **Street Outreach Strategy**. Each day the city's street outreach team (Neighborhood Change Agents or "NCA's") directly engages those on a face-to-face basis who are most likely to commit gun violence in Richmond (aka -"the ONS population"). NCA's work to build healthy and consistent relationships with identified individuals, serving as their mentors and credible messengers who provide examples of healthy lifestyles. The ONS also works to expand access to quality opportunities, exposures, resources, and services that build on the identified populations strengths in an effort to reduce their involvement in gun violence.

In the Second quarter of 2012 (April –June), **862** outreach contacts were made with **89** individuals identified as being at highest risk for being involved in gun violence in Richmond. NCA's walked **39** of these individuals into and through a support services opportunity (hard referral) facilitated by a local/regional non-governmental organization. The ONS made **77** referrals to a support services opportunity (soft referral) facilitated by a local or regional non-governmental organization.

Fiscal Year 2011/12 Totals: [3,110 Contacts]

Percent increase/decrease of outreach contacts this quarter (2012) compared to this quarter 2011: [+60%]

Additionally, the ONS facilitated the delivery of social services to **62** formerly incarcerated individuals who were charged with firearm related offenses between April and June 2012. **49** of the individuals contacted received attention intensive support and mentoring by ONS staff this quarter.

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## **OPERATION PEACEMAKER FELLOWSHIP**

An extension of the ONS street outreach strategy is the **Operation Peacemaker Fellowship program**. "The Fellowship" is a Transformative Mentoring Intervention designed for those most likely to be involved in gun violence. This intervention works to transform the attitudes and behaviors that have given rise to the selected individual's involvement in gun violence. The Fellowship is representative of those individuals who are most resistant to change and/or are chronically unresponsive to the traditional range of services offered or available in the Richmond community. In addition to the public safety concerns that these individuals pose, they are among the most expensive population to serve in policing, incarceration, hospitalization and social services. Enabling them to right their life trajectory will have a collateral and positive effect on their communities, families and peers, in addition to saving tax payer dollars.

The Fellowship provides program incentives for participation and positive behavior as a gateway to developing intrinsic motivation that arises from internal and not external rewards. **Financial support/stipends, supportive services and costs for educational/career/life exposures associated with the Fellowship are funded by grants and private resources.**

In April the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) staff and Peacemaker Fellows attended and presented at the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) Forum 2012 Conference at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The NFBPA Forum 2012 brought together some of the most successful and high profile members of its organization, including city managers, administrators, planners, and policymakers from across the nation.

More than 125 of the 1,000+ conference attendees attended the ONS workshop entitled ***City Government at Work: Keeping Young Men of Color Alive and Free***. The workshop stressed that **"it is not ok for black and brown boys and young men to die in American streets at the hand of a firearm"**. The workshop and presenters highlighted the innovative and promising work of the City of Richmond's Street Outreach efforts and the Operation Peacemaker Fellowship. Staff and five Fellows representing North, Central and South Richmond spoke on how the Fellowship creates a real alternative to gun violence and viable support opportunities for those most likely to be perpetrators of gun violence. Fellows emphasized how the Fellowship prepares and allows them to contribute to building and sustaining community peace, health and well-being. The presentation provided examples of the program's impact on the lives of a group of Fellows and on the Richmond community.

Conference participants were able to choose from five conference workshop tracks. The ONS workshop was included in the "Engaging Your Community, The New Normal" track. This track identified current community issues and provided powerful ways to transform and ultimately build healthy neighborhoods through non-traditional strategies.

The more than 3,000 members of NFBPA represent a community of professional administrators and policy makers whose jobs range from federal, state, and local policy leaders to city managers and top administrators in public transit, employment and training, finance, planning, education, public safety, public works, information technology, housing and recreation.

NFBPA is America's premier association for black public leadership. NFBPA's overall mission is to strengthen the capacity of state and local government manager's through intensive training, professional development programs, and the resources of a powerful network of members and supporters.

There was a flood of appreciation for the ONS Street Outreach work and the Peacemaker Fellowship described in Virginia Beach, Virginia by those who attended the ONS workshop. As a result of this expression, NFBPA Bay Area Chapter President Harry Le Grande, requested that in June the city of Richmond host the NFBPA Bay Area Chapter General Membership meeting and provide a similar workshop session for its bay area members. The session was moderated by Brotherhood of Elders, Elder Arnold Perkins. The NFBPA General Membership meeting was held in Richmond on June 20, 2012 and was well attended by public administrators from several Bay Area cities.

### **Additional Highlights**

Members of the current cohort of Operation Peacemaker Fellows participated in meetings in May with City Manager Bill Lindsay and Council member Tom Butt. Over the summer months of 2012, Fellows will continue to be engaged in various life skills development trainings, employment and vocational training opportunities, and a myriad of peacemaking activities with ONS staff and volunteers.

### **LIFE SKILLS COMMUNITY TRAINING**

This Life Skills Community Training opportunity is sponsored by the Office of Neighborhood Safety and the Community Presbyterian Counseling Center of Danville California. The last training hosted thirty-three (33) individuals representing city staff, community advocates and clergy who work closely and intimately with crisis and trauma related situations. The eight (8) week training curriculum facilitated a skills building, trust building, emotional healing and reflection process that enhances skill sets in the areas of negotiating trauma, working effectively with those who are grieving or dealing with anger, abuse, domestic violence, mood disorders, addictions, and personality disorders. This training session concluded in May 2012. We anticipate the facilitation of the next Life skills community training cohort to begin in September 2012.

### **ONS SUMMERTIME GUN VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION INITIATIVE ("SG7")**

In June 2012 ONS launched its Summertime Gun Violence Interruption Initiative (SG7). During the months of June thru August 2012 ONS will focus most of its street outreach activities and resources in North Richmond. The goal is to intervene/interrupt more directly the ongoing firearm related feuding between North and Central Richmond

personalities and rival groups. ONS will deploy Neighborhood Change Agents and Peacekeepers around the clock into North Richmond in an effort to reduce summertime gun related homicides in 2012 as compared to 2011 by 75%-100% (see communication sheet included in this report for more information).

### **ONS STAFF TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING**

The Office of Neighborhood Safety staff members are provided ongoing training opportunities that allow them to increase their knowledge base and skill levels associated with the work they facilitate in order to maximize their output and increase their effectiveness.

In the second quarter of this year, ONS staff participated in the following trainings:

Los Angeles Gang Prevention Conference Training

Edward Anderson Anger Management Certification Training [3]

Meyers Briggs Training Instrument Training

Chicago Ceasefire Street Outreach Training

OMEGA INSTITUTE - Alive & Free Training

Life Skills Community Training – Reunion Training

**ONS staff also participated in the following activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter:**

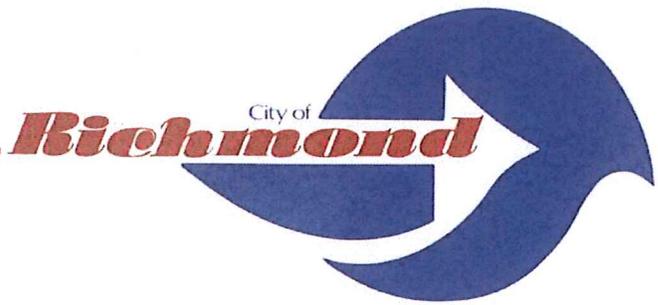
Alive, Free & United Action to save lives & keep families united hosted by the Safe Return Project, CCISCO and Pacific Institute;

Monthly PACT meetings and Reentry Solutions Group meetings;

The Eastbay Community Foundation 'Bring me a Book' Program;

**SPECIAL ONS STAFF RECOGNITION:** ONS Neighborhood Change Agent **Diane Gatewood** was nominated for recognition during Victims Rights Week (April 2012) in the Community category for superior service and dedication to victims of crime in our community. The Victims Assistance Center of the Contra Costa County Office of the District Attorney made the nomination – see nomination letter [copy] included in this report.

**COMING SOON!!! - IN AUGUST 2012 LOOK FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual "Celebration of Life" Talent Show sponsored by the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) and Richmond Police Activities League (RPAL) – See Flyer included in this report.**



OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY (ONS)  
SUMMERTIME GUN VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION INITIATIVE (SG7)  
2012

COMMUNICATION SHEET

**STRATEGY NAME:** 'Occupy North Richmond'

**BACKGROUND:**

Summertime, for many, means that school's out, vacations start and the festivities begin. However, as the temperature rises, so does the possibility for gun violence, and subsequently, the homicide rate. The simple fact that warm weather brings more people outside plays a vital role in a common uptick in summer injuries or murders related to gun violence. According to Roseanna Ander, executive director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab "The warm weather obviously just creates the opportunity for there to be more people to be outdoors and more potential for that impulsive violence to happen, and guns to be involved."

Most gun related homicides are retaliatory in nature and many gun related homicides result from some sort of altercation.

For example, in 2011 the City of Richmond experienced 26 homicides. 18 of 26 of these homicides occurred between the months of June and August 2011. It is widely speculated and was commonly communicated that most shootings during this period and many of the resulting homicides recorded were a product of ongoing conflicts/feuds and/or retaliatory acts between North and Central Richmond personalities.

**ACTION:**

ONS will intensify its street outreach presence, increase ONS street outreach assets, and work to stimulate a heightened level of community engagement in North Richmond during the summer of 2012 (June 1 – August 31) in an effort to create conditions that reduce conflicts that produce or fuels increased gun violence during summertime months between and within North and Central Richmond areas and personalities.

**THEORY OF CHANGE:**

ONS believes that establishing a stronger street outreach presence, working to attract additional resource opportunities and encouraging a spot light towards North Richmond during this period will make a healthy contribution and play an important role in reducing the opportunity for gun play generated by North/Central Richmond conflicts.

Although 'Occupy North Richmond' will require a shift in the limited resources currently available to ONS, the ONS will simultaneously and in tandem with the focal point of this strategy, reinforce our engagement with those individuals from other neighborhoods of Richmond identified as **the most likely** to instigate and/or serve as catalysts to provoking gun violence between and within North and Central Richmond areas and personalities.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
Office of the District Attorney

*Mark A. Peterson*  
District Attorney



April 21, 2011

Diane Gatewood  
Office of Neighborhood Safety  
440 Civic Center Drive  
Richmond, CA 94804

Dear Ms. Gatewood:

I am pleased to let you know that you were nominated for recognition during Victims' Rights Week. This process is highly competitive and nominations are submitted by Victim Assistance Program Specialists. The nominations are forwarded to the Victims' Rights Selection Committee. This committee is composed of victims of crime who review the nominations and make one selection in each of the four categories.

You were nominated in the Community category for superior service and dedication to victims of crime in our community. Even though you were not selected in your category, your commitment to victims has not gone unnoticed. It is important for you to know how much your work is appreciated.

I want you to know the difference you make in the lives of victims is so important. The victims or the families do not choose to be part of the system and you have made a difference in making the experience more tolerable.

It has been a pleasure for my staff to work with you and look forward to continuing that relationship in the future.

Sincerely,

Eileen Dowell  
Victim Assistance Center  
Program Coordinator



# THE CITY OF RICHMOND'S

## Office of Neighborhood Safety

### PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL "CELEBRATION OF LIFE" TALENT SHOW

**When:** Sat August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Time:** Doors open 1pm start 2pm to 6pm

**Where:** RPAL 2200 Macdonald Ave. Richmond, Ca.

Age Groups:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<u>4-8-</u>	Prize: \$150.00	\$75.00	\$50.00
9-12-	Prize: \$250.00	\$125.00	\$75.00
13-17-	Prize: \$400.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
18-22-	Prize: \$450.00	\$225.00	\$125.00

Auditions will be held June 29 & July 13, 20, 27 & August 3 & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at RPAL 2200 Macdonald Ave. Auditions will be private and by scheduled appointments only. 1 GUEST per contestant! All acts must be clean & tasteful or you will be disqualified. Applicants must be a proven Richmond Resident. Applicants must submit an application in writing to RPAL 2200 Macdonald Ave. Richmond or Crescent Park Multicultural Resource Center @ 5004 Hartnett Ave. Richmond, by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Forms also available there. Special Guest, Raffles, Music, Food & Much more!

Tickets will be available at RPAL 2200 Macdonald Ave. or

[www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) For More info contact: Ms. Lana @

[elanabolds@gmail.com](mailto:elanabolds@gmail.com) / or Mark Torres @ 510-621-1227 [mtorres@rpal.org](mailto:mtorres@rpal.org)