



## THE ONS QUARTERLY

*3rd Edition Volume I*

(January 2014– March 2014)

*“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 first quarter of 2014 (January – March), **624** outreach contacts were made with **69** individuals identified as being at considerable risk for being involved in gun violence in Richmond, of which **28** individuals contacted were first time contacts with ONS in 2014. NCA’s made **24** referrals where the individual referred was walked into and through a support services opportunity (hard referral) facilitated by a local/regional non-governmental organization. The ONS also made **59** general referrals where individuals referred were directed to a support services opportunity (soft referral) facilitated by a local or regional non-governmental organization.

Additionally, between January – March 2014 the ONS supported **17** formerly incarcerated individuals who were charged with firearm related offenses with receiving community based social service opportunities. **28** individuals received attention intensive support and mentoring by ONS staff during this period.

### 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  
440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804-1630

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. **All Fellow stipends, supportive services and exposures costs associated with the Fellowship are funded by grant and private resources.**

Currently, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort of the Fellowship is operational (13/18 months). During this quarter three additional individuals were identified and accepted the Fellowship opportunity. Of the 40 active Fellows enrolled, since becoming a Fellow:

Of the 40 Fellows enrolled (over the past 13 months):

39 are alive;

37 have no new firearm related injuries (92%);

38 have no new firearm related arrests (95%);

**Additional ONS and/or Fellowship highlights:**

**Office of Neighborhood Safety Director Participates as a Panelist for the National League of Cities 'Cities United' Webinar**

Cities United's vision is that mayors and other city leaders across the country will form partnerships with other local government officials, community leaders, families, youth, philanthropies, and other stakeholders within their respective cities dedicated to reducing violence and violence related deaths among African American men and boys. The webinar focused on how cities can develop or enhance their "on-the-ground", community-based efforts to reduce violence and violent deaths among African American men and boys.

The Office of Neighborhood Safety Operation Peacemaker Fellowship was a featured program as a promising and emerging practice for restoring and developing healthy African American men and boys involved in gun violence. During the webinar, Richmond ONS Director DeVone Boggan was asked to provide insight as to how other agencies could implement similar programs in their communities. The audience participating in this webinar were staff liaisons and/or designees from mayor's offices from around the country who represent participating cities in the Cities United Initiative. More than 100 people registered for the webinar.

The Cities United Initiative is a strategy of the National League of Cities Youth Violence Prevention Institute for Youth, Education, and Families in Washington DC. Two other panelists included Ms. Lisa Early who serves as Director for Families, Parks and Recreation for the City of Orlando Florida's Kidzone, and Dr. Gary Slutkin who is the founder of Cure Violence in Chicago Illinois.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director Participates as Speaker at the OCCUR and San Francisco Foundation FAITHS Program 'A Model Built on Faith and Community: Series VII – Taking the Lead to Transform Communities'

Each Year the San Francisco Foundation FAITHS Initiative in partnership with OCCUR provide a series of training sessions aimed at helping people of faith to assess community needs, make critical and credible contributions to their communities, build their skills and resources, and enhance their governance. The Model Built on Faith Program this year (its 7<sup>th</sup> Year) will continue to support faith community efforts to engage their congregations more effectively, broaden their impact, pool their resources, and identify the next generation of advocates.

Richmond's Neighborhood Safety Director DeVone Boggan was asked to provide encouragement and guidance to faith leaders towards enhancing their congregations and communities involvement in their missions. Director Boggan provided information about the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) Operation Peacemaker Fellowship model and how to increase youth involvement in one's mission to bring about a social justice "tipping point" for the transformative changes we wish to see.

Two other speakers included Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO and Founder of PolicyLink, and Pastor Patrick Kiteley, Senior Pastor at Shiloh Church in Oakland California.

Office of Neighborhood Safety Director participates in White House sponsored sessions on the 'My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Initiative'.

In his recent State of the Union address, President Obama promised "a new initiative to help more young men of color facing tough odds stay on track and reach their full potential." Today, he will unveil "My Brother's Keeper," a partnership between the White House, foundations, businesses, and other institutions that will help young men of color stay on track and gain opportunities to reach their full potential.

Director Boggan was invited to join several discussions with key policy staff from the White House to learn more about the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, specifically related to Criminal Justice and Violent Crime Interaction and Mentoring and Support Networks.

## **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 first quarter of this year, ONS staff participated in the following trainings:

**Monthly ONS Trauma Protocol;**

**2-part workshop examining Neurobiology, Complex Trauma, and Community Healing sponsored by the RYSE Center 'Trauma & Healing Training Series';**

**Brotherhood of Elders: 'Art of being a Black Man Curriculum training';**