

Government at Work: Keeping Young Men Alive & Free

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City of Richmond

- Northern California/Bay Area
- 18mi. NE of SF/12mi. N of Oak
- 105,000 Population
- **Demographic:**
- 31% White
- 36% Black
- 27% Hispanic/Latino

PRESENTING CHALLENGE

- **Firearm Assaults & Associated Deaths**
- Years: 1986-2005 an average of 35 firearm related homicides per year
- 2006 – 41 firearm related homicides
- 2006 – 186 firearm assaults
- 2007 – 47 firearm related homicides
- 2007 – 242 firearm assaults

**City of Richmond: Office of
Neighborhood Safety (“ONS”)**

- A non-law enforcement agency within the City Governmental Structure of the City of Richmond California – **with a sole focus to assist in interrupting/reducing firearm assaults** (November 2007).
- 2013-14 Allocation from City Gen. Fund: \$1.5M
- STAFF: 11 FTE, 12 PTE
- Total Budget including grants: \$3M per year

**City of Richmond: Office of
Neighborhood Safety (“ONS”)**

- ONS provides and coordinates targeted intervention services to and on behalf of those identified as **active firearm offenders who have avoided sustained criminal consequences.**
- **Primary Age Groups: 13 – 25 years**
(data driven)

**Office of Neighborhood Safety
 (“ONS”)**

- ONS Secures Resources for Advocacy
- ONS Secures Resources for Program Development and Implementation
- ONS Secures Resources to Build Services Capacity within NGO’s/CBO’s/FBO’s
- ONS Secures Resources to improve Services Coordination
- ONS Secures Resources for Evaluation

“ONS” RESPONSIBILITY

- Reduce Gun Violence (Shootings & Homicides)
- Reduce gun related hospital/trauma center re-entry
- Reduce retaliatory shootings between rival groups
- Establish effective link to credible and responsive social services in an effort to improve the social and emotional health & wellness of those we engage.

ONS Primary Strategies

- **STREET OUTREACH & SOCIAL SERVICE REFERRALS (April 2008)**
 - 7 Neighborhood Change Agents [NCA's]
 - 12 ONS Peacekeepers

ONS Primary Strategies

- **OPERATION PEACEMAKER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (LAUNCH - June 2010)**
 - 3 cohorts in last 43 months
 - 18-month per cohort
 - 68 (most lethal) agree to participate in Fellowship
 - 65 Fellows remain alive (95%)
 - 64 Fellows have suffered no injury related to gun violence (94%)
 - 57 Fellows remain free from custody (84%)
 - **Contribution: 50% Reduction** in firearm related homicides compared to 4 years before Fellowship was implemented.

OPERATION PEACEMAKER FELLOWSHIP

The Office of Neighborhood Safety Operation Peacemaker Fellowship is a Deliberate, Intentional and Focused outreach mechanism and services strategy directed at those thought to be the most lethal and at highest risk for perpetrating gun violence. Identified individuals are typically isolated, idle and depressed. ***[Most resistant to change, chronically unresponsive to traditional range of services offered and/or available]***

OPERATION PEACEMAKER FELLOWSHIP - Elements

- Belief/Partnership/Empowerment
- Attention Intensive Mentoring/Relationship
- LifeMAP – Life Planning
- Life Skills (CBT)/Anger Management/Conflict Resolution
- Navigation Support of Social Services
- Exposures (State/National & International)
- Achievement Incentives
- Intergenerational Mentoring
- Subsidized Internships

RICHMOND TODAY

- 66% reduction in firearm associated homicides between 2007 and 2013
- 62% reduction in firearm assaults between 2007 and 2013
- 2013 recorded the lowest number of firearm related homicides in 3 decades (15)

“ONS” VALUE

“In my opinion the impact of the ONS and the Fellowship cannot be overstated. Targeting individuals for services by category is not new...the Fellowship has taken this targeting strategy a step further and focused on the individuals who are the most likely to be catalysts or instigators of gun violence.”

“ONS” VALUE

In truth, the ONS is the only agency in this city that targets the “one percenters” for services. “One Percenters” are the individuals who create the risk for everyone else within the community. The benefits of the Fellowship can be felt everywhere, but nowhere is the impact more visible than in the overall reduction in violent crime in our city.” -Gang Commander, RPD

OPERATION PEACEMAKER FELLOWSHIP - VALUE

“...ONS engages the most dangerous young men in our community and gives them an alternative to a violent lifestyle. For every killing they prevent, human capital is preserved, negative social costs are minimized, and millions of dollars are saved... were it not for their efforts more young men would have been shot and killed in our city.” -Richmond Gang Cop

KEY MESSAGES

- ONS: **Singular Focus Data Driven** Agency – **Firearm Reduction/Targeted Strategy**
- Accurate identification of **nature of gun violence**
- **Identification** of catalysts/instigators & **ability to connect with them**
- 2009 – focus from “hotspots” to **“hot people”** (mobile)
- ONS Staff continuity

KEY DISTINCTIONS – ONS Fellowship: 18-Months

- Daily Attention Intensive Engagement/Mentoring with All Fellows;
- LifeMap/Life Planning;
- Services Referral Navigation Support;
- Intrastate, Interstate, and International Travel/Excursion Opportunities;
- Monthly LifeMap Achievement Stipends;
- Bi-Monthly Elders Circle – Intergenerational Mentoring;
- Subsidized Interest-based Internships;

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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