

PANIL Meeting March 14, 2018

## Agenda

- 1) **Crime Stats Update**
- 2) **Homelessness in Oakland**

Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

Meeting opened with Anna Sanchez, the Community Resource Officer (CRO) providing an update on local crime. Anna reported that auto burglaries and thefts continue to dominate crime, particularly on Piedmont Avenue and Broadway. One resident from the Glen Echo Creek neighborhood identified break-ins and apparent drug-dealing in that area. That was identified as priority for attention for the month.

Rik Belew, who has raised the issue at previous meetings, asked the audience if the crime statistics are of value. Rik is collecting statistics and providing to PANIL and other NCPCs in the city. Bill Manley answered on behalf of PANIL that the organization is attempting to get more up-to-date and accurate info on the PANIL Web site to supplement the oral presentation at the meetings.

## Homelessness in Oakland

Joseph DeVries, the Assistant City Administrator spoke first.

He wanted to dispel two widespread rumors: that the Oakland homeless population is migrating here from San Francisco and that people are coming from many other areas to Oakland. There are estimated to be 2800-3000 homeless. 69% are categorized as unshelteredd, i.e. living on the street. The remainder are those living in formal shelters, such as the Tuff Sheds on Wood street or the SRO's (single resident occupancy) shelters that the city has supported.

86% of the homeless population lived in Alameda County before becoming homeless. He distributed a flyer from Everyonehome.org that provided a thorough breakdown of the homeless demographics in Alameda county. The survey is taken every two years in January and that last was done in 2017. What the survey confirmed is that there has been a sharp increase in the homeless population in

the last few years. The population is 2/3 single men. Less than 10% are over 60, as the conditions don't favor longevity.

One very successful shelter has been the Henry Robinson Center, an SRO that services approximately 300 people annually, with a 80% success rate in transition the residents to permanent housing. It has 170 beds but they are in the process of doubling capacity.

Meeting attendees identified trouble spots close to our area. One that has been mentioned frequently at other meetings is Mosswood Park. A temporary rec center is being set up to replace the one that burned down (which according to one attendee, caused by a homeless breakin). The rec center will host a disabled children program, so there is added incentive to clear up the homeless problems in the park. Another area that was brought up and discussed at length in an earlier PANIL meeting was the Harrison/MacArthur encampment. The sidewalk along Macarthur is now blocked by tarps and tents.

Mr. DeVries identified to levels of intervention: deep clean and closure. The first involves notifying homeless campers that the city will do a cleanup and they will remove debris at a future date and time. Residents secure their belonging, but they are not forcibly removed. A closure is when homeless are permanently removed and prohibited from returning. The second step is triggered by location or volume of complaints. Proximity to schools (but not parks) was mentioned. Removal is complicated by the involvement of Caltrans. Areas adjacent to freeways or under overpasses is most often under Caltrans jurisdiction, and the city must work with them.

Council Dan Kalb spoke next. He applauded the work of Mr. DeVries and stated the city is working very hard to find accommodations for the homeless. Development Impact Fees, assessed on the abundant new development in Oakland, is slow to trickle in. Major city mayors are making a case to the governor to allocate much more money for low-cost housing, but with limited success.