

PRELIMINARY
REPORT

EAST PALO ALTO
HEARING PROCEEDINGS
AND TESTIMONY
ON
DRUG SALES, USE, TRAFFICKING, AND
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

ACTION REPORT
TO
EAST PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 1987

**THE PUBLIC HEARING
AND TESTIMONY
ON DRUG SALES, USE, TRAFFICKING
AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

**ACTION REPORT
FOR EAST PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL**

**SUBMITTED BY:
SPECIAL HEARING COMMISSION
2415 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
EAST PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA 94303**

IN CONFORMANCE WITH

**"EAST PALO ALTO CITIZENS' REQUEST AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO
STUDY AND REPORT WHAT CAN BE DONE
TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE OPEN DRUG SALES
AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUGS"**

**JOHN BOSTIC, CHAIR
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**East Palo Alto Councilmember
East Palo Alto Councilmember
Public Safety Commissioner
Public Safety Commissioner
Staff**

December 1987

**PRESENTED TO
EAST PALO ALTO CITY COUNCIL
FOR ACTION**

JAMES E. BLAKEY, JR. MAYOR, CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO

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INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of open testimony, position papers, and public hearings taken by a special commission at the East Palo Alto Council Chambers on November 21st and 22nd, 1987. The proceedings were held to formulate an action plan of activities which could be presented to the City Council of East Palo Alto for implementation. These plans are directed toward reducing or eliminating drug selling and criminal activities on City streets and neighborhoods. In addition, the commission charged itself to explore short and long-range goals for prevention/intervention programs that might reverse the negative grip that drug and alcohol abuse has imposed on everyday life within the community.

The public testimony, position paper, and reports were accepted and reviewed in the spirit of fact finding. The information was then synthesized by the Commissioners, pledged into grouped components, and now reported to the East Palo Alto City Council.

The process was effective in focusing on positive and creative methods by which goals could be set to reduce or eliminate criminal and drug selling activities. The commissioners were asked to detach themselves from previous feelings, automatic reactions, emotional past experiences, and non thinking (fight or flight) instincts. From this process, action resolutions were formalized.

As Chairperson, I would like to thank contributors for their insights and comments. In addition, I and fellow commissioners applaud the courage of residents who give testimony and shared their willingness to reclaim their streets by freeing their neighborhoods of open illegal drug trafficking. It is their leadership and guidance that will pave the way for community renewal.

Population/demographics (City of East Palo Alto)

18,250/2.4 square miles	54% blacks
	23% Hispanic
	14% Whites & Others
	8% Pacific Islander
	1% Asians

Current Crime Statistics (1987)

East Palo Alto Police Department arrests	3,084
Offenses Known to Police (reported)	1,769
Burglaries	502
Drug related arrest (EPA Police Dept.)	547
Drug related arrest (SMC Crime Task Force)	145

**John Bostic, Councilmember
Chairperson**

Special Hearings on Drugs and Illegal Street Activity

COMPONENT ONE

Forming an Intra-Agency Council

In a review of an intra-agency council on drug developed by the City of Oakland in 1984, it was decided that a similar council was needed in East Palo Alto.

The intra-agency council concept is built around bringing together five levels of governmental agencies (federal, state, county, city , and schools) to meet regularly with the purpose of an all out attack on drugs. More than 30 distinct agencies and top office officials would be assembled for a 12-month commitment of regular monthly meetings. Each representative would carry the responsibility for development, education, prevention, care, enforcement, and policy making decisions affecting the residents of East Palo Alto. Additional non-governmental institutions would be invited as members to work on committees of the intra-agency council.

The intra-agency council should be chaired by the City's Mayor with membership extended to the full City Council. The assignment of a special staff person from City offices will help facilitate technical support and accountability. The City Manager should be an agency member.

The membership of East Palo Alto Intra-agency Council on Drugs:

From County or non-governmental organization

COPE
Unhooked Generation
East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce
East Palo Alto Church Alliance
Macy Foundation
Kaiser Foundation
East Palo Alto Task Force on Drugs (community-based)
Pros-For-Kids

From the City of East Palo Alto

The Mayor
City Manager
Chief of Police
City Council members

From the Public Schools

Ravenswood School District, Superintendent
Sequoia High School District, Superintendent
San Mateo County, Director

From the County of San Mateo

District Attorney
Sheriff
Chief Probation Officer
Director of Health Care Service Agency
Director of Social Services Agency

From State of California

Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement
Parole Administrator
The Assemblyman, 21st Assembly District

From the U.S. Government

The U.S. Attorney
The Special Agent in Charge - Drug Enforcement
The Special Agent in charge - F.B.I
Services U.S. Department of Justice
The Internal Revenue Service

From the Judiciary (As observers)

The Presiding Judge of Supreme Court
The Presiding Judge of Municipal Court

Recommendations:

The formation of an intra-agency council to pursue the reduction off drug sales, prevention of drug use, and intervention of criminal activity in East Palo Alto. These goals are to be pursued by shceduling 12 months of regular monthly meetings.

1. Review current levels of drug selling, use, and criminal related activity.
2. Plan for co-operation in enforcement of drug laws, making it difficult for drug dealer to operate, and court convictions of repeated offenders.
3. Support for education, prevention, and treatmen tprograms.

4. Encourage, support, and plan with community organizations activities which prevent/suppress/police the illicit trafficking of drugs; and
- 5) Give visibility and cooperation at the highest levels of governmental and community leadership to team work.

COMPONENT TWO

Enforcement

A local and professional law enforcement agency (East Palo Alto Police Department) should have top priority to City resources. At this time, public safety represents the number one service desired by a broad base of citizens and tax payers. Police protection ranks first in comparison to other services as being vital to renewal of community wellness. In selection, it was repeatedly expressed that more than just adequate police services are required. As a result of perceived increases of illegal criminal activity and drugs within the city when contracted law enforcement services were rendered, now makes a show of force mandatory to reclaim street control from drug dealers.

A greater presence of neighborhood patrolling and better police relations with residents as requested. There was suggestions that there be more police and that they be in-serviced to relating well with responding to household calls for help.

To assist the police, it was suggested that a departmental study headed by the Chief of Police and including retired Chief of Police volunteers provided through the Chief of Police Officers Association. Review of efficient and productive deployment of sworn officers for providing City law enforcement services be conducted.

Immediate needs, however, dictate the end for a special local task force team within the City's Police Department be formed. Additional monies must be identified as an on going funding to back over-time pay, call-back programs, and under cover law enforcement to fight back with new apprehension techniques. The goal should be to reduce trafficking by 70% to current levels of activity. The squad should be made up of 10 members force and assembled unannounced throughout the month to make special and drug house busts.

People arrested by this special squad, should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The extents for arrests would be directed at career criminals and repeated offenders to remove them them permanently from the City's streets.

In support, a transport/vehicle should be purchased so that prisoners can be taken to Redwood City County jails without using City police cars needed for patrol. Also, dogs for sniffing drugs, and drug monies is needed. Taking the property of drug dealers for later sale (cars, houses, other property used by drug dealers). The establishment of a 24-hour hotline to support the secret witness and neighborhood watch program be implemented. That evictions of tenants of apartments/section 8 Housing/Low Cost Housing occur when illegal drug-sales are occurring by occupants.

Recommendations

That local police services received top priority and that a police drug task force be formed. That a reduction of 70% of current open drug selling be eliminated in the next 6-month period.

COMPONENT THREE

Neighborhood Policing

The redeployment of a segment of our police force from crime-fighting back to neighborhood policing watch has been strongly recommended. Neighborhood policing, a term shared with this hearing commission by Sergeant Ron Sibley would require a strong citizen support and neighborhood watch program. Commitment from citizens, Police Department, and community agencies to making neighborhood policing is vital to success.

Recommendations

1. A strong neighborhood watch program (presently there are only six (6) which are not all active or well coordinated).
2. Organized functions in the neighborhoods designed to bring together police and citizens. (for joint efforts/clean block parties/enhance police-resident relations).
3. A central organization to act as a conduit for existing citizens organization for centering and bringing focus to our goal.
4. Program to facilitate responsibility for neighborhood clean up (eliminate junk cars, broken windows, trash, improper lighted driveways, Nuisance abatement/code enforcement.)
5. Committee to locate fund sources to maintain programs.
6. A reduction/moratorium of political difference to create an atmosphere supportive to the Program's success.
7. Experiment with citizens patrol concept.
8. Neighborhood contracts to watch out for each other.
9. Eliminating drug houses .

The following is the list of confirmed houses engaged in the sale of narcotics:

2120 Oakwood	(Cocaine-Rock and Marijuana)
2125 Addison	(Cocaine-Rock)
119 Abelia	(Cocaine-Rock and Marijuana)
2210 Ralmar	(Cocaine-Rock and Heroin)
2260 Ralmar	(Basing House)
2390 Ralmar	(Basing House)
2056 Capitol #1	(Heroin)
2000 Cooley #50 or 52	(Heroin)

1141 Alberni
1133 Jervis
1139 O'Connor

(Heroin)
(Heroin)
(Cocaine-Rock)

This list is of confirmed locations only. There are at least a half-dozen more that we have not yet been able to confirm

COMPONENT FOUR

Funding

Funding opportunities from criminal and juvenile justice area grants will be vital to successful fight against drugs for East Palo Alto. In order to facilitate a grant search from foundation, the following are listed.

1. **The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation Hosts Forum on Ending Violent Crime in America** -- An interdisciplinary group of lawyers, chiefs of police, criminologists, social workers, and elected officials met for one day in May to discuss the Eisenhower Foundation's assertion that community-based responses are the best antidotes to crime. The idea behind the Foundation's Neighborhood Anti-Crime Self-Help Program is that crime prevention begins with strengthened families who, in turn, are supported by caring neighborhoods and productive jobs. Currently, the Anti-Crime Self-Help Program provides five years of funding to 10 Eastern low income minority communities. Additionally, the Foundation is evaluating how community organizations across the nation successfully use employment and family programs to reduce crime. Contact: Eisenhower Foundation, 1725 1 Stree, N.W. , Suite 504, Washington, D.C. 20006 (202/429-0440)
2. **The Enterprise Foundation Helps Neighborhood Groups Combat Crime and Vandalism** -- In Washington, D.C. the Enterprise Foundation financed Jubilee Housing Inc., a group that acquired two rundown housing units; within 3 years, some 50,000 hours of volunteer work, made them safe and clean places in which to live. The Foundation also helped Jubilee Housing create a training program for crime-prone youth to begin a renovation and weatherization business. Today, this program is being replicated in 25 cities, with 65 neighborhood groups that learn how to acquire and rehabilitate housing, raise other necessary finances, and set up job placement centers. Contact: The Enterprise Foundation, Columbia, MD (301/964-1230).
3. **Ford Foundation Funds Several Crime Prevention Endeavors** -- In June 1986, the Ford Foundation announced its support of seven major crime prevention efforts. The Boston Fenway Project (\$60,099) brings together community groups and the police to combat teen gang crimes. The National Firehawk Federation (\$45,000) in San Francisco trains firefighters to counsel youth about fire prevention. The National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence (\$25,000) in Baltimore sponsored a national conference on racial, ethnic, and religious violence and extremism in August. The National Child Labor Committee (\$50,000) in New York is creating a teenage pregnancy prevention and youth employment program. ETR Associates (\$100,000) in Santa Cruz is creating a Family Life Education National Network to disseminate information and offer family life and sex education training. The East Palo Alto Community Law Project (\$75,000) community law program combines legal services for low income clients with clinical training for Stanford law students. The City of New York (\$40,000) is assessing the kinds of information available about neighborhood development that

may be used by citizens and public officials. Contact: Ford Foundation, 320 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017.

4. **California Community Foundation** -- supports youth , child welfare, health, and care of the disabled agencies; as well as elementary and secondary educational institutions. Does not award grants to individuals for building or endowment funds, or operating budgets. Contact the California Community Foundation, P.O.Box 54304, Terminal Annex, 333 South Hope Sterett, Los Angeles, Ca 90054 (213/613-7302).
5. **Irvine (James) Foundation** -- Supports education, health, youth services and community projects that are not receiving government support and are located primarily in Orange County and San Francisco Bay areas no grants are awarded to individuals, private secondary schools for sectarian religious activitise, normal operating expenses, or general support. Contact the Irvine Foundation at One Market Plaza, Steuart Street Tower, San Francisco, Ca. 94105 (415/777-2244).
6. **Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation** -- supports health care and medical research, as well as education and community programs in the Bay Area. Contact the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation at Two Palo Alto Square, Palo Alto 94304 (415/493-5900).
7. **San Franciso Foundation** -- supports arts, education, environment, health, humanities, recreation, social services and urban affairs projects located in the Bay Area. Does not award grants to individuals, for building funds, endowments, or operating budgets. Contact the San Francisco Foundation at 425 California Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104 (415/392--0600)
8. **Zellerbach Family Fund** -- support arts, eduction, health and welfare projects primarily in the Bay Area. Does not give grants to individuals or endowments. Contact the Zellerbach Family Fund at 260 California Street, Room 1010, San Francisco, Ca. 94111 (415/421-1247).
9. **Mid Peninsula Urban Coalition**
10. **Macy Foundation**

Recommendations

That grants be applied for foundation.

That the grants be program specific.

That grants focus on a tasks and have measurable results reported in a time specific.

COMPONENT FIVE

Prevention/Intervention

The prevention and intervention segment recognizes that drug and alcohol abuse are diseases which require both a carrot and stick approach to solutions. The stick, most definitely lies with strong and visible law enforcement activities. The carrot is the community willing to encourage outreach and the City's leadership in search of affecting treatment programs.

It is recommended that the City Council be an advocate for residential treatment center for youth and separated treatment facilities needed for women in the county. The impact of drug and alcohol abuses by women (mothers), has enormous effects on families and children.

There is need to mobilize outreach and information about drugs in the community. The Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force should redirect their efforts to this purpose.

Job careers, employment for youth must be included to represent honest opportunity and choice as an alternative to drug trafficking and criminal activity. About 400 to 500 youths openly participate in drug selling. They are often supported by adult family members all participating in illegal drug commerce. Of these numbers, a sizable group live outside East Palo Alto. For those who are residents, to work alternative must be a clear option. Thus separating felons and career criminals from youth experimenting with making fast money.

Employment must be East Palo Alto's (Marshal Plan) for recovery.

Also, improved referral systems for transfer schools, adult education, literacy program, community colleges, and career center be provided to youth counselling.

Recommendation

Re-instruct the Drug Abuse and Alcohol Task Force to:

1. Mobilize outreach/and community information on drug and alcohol abuse.
2. Develop a drug abuse prevention kit for use in schools, recreation program, youth groups, city library. The kit establish goals to convince young people that drugs/alcohol are a "waste".

SUMMARY

The Special Hearing Commission on drugs recommends that the City Council adopt an action resolution to implement the plans outlined within this report. That their adoption include the Mayor's citizen volunteers project to mobilize citizens to act as independent trained observers in their own neighborhood. That the work begun with probation and patrols agencies continue and be brought into the proposed intra-agency council on drugs and illegal drug trafficking. We also suggest that the Council review the list of suggestions made by citizens as a method to build an all-out attack against drugs and drug trafficking in East Palo Alto.

A list of some of the suggestions made and recommended:

- 1 Better lighting, cut back shrubs where drugs can be hidden.
2. Neighborhood watch sign posted.
3. Volunteers drug testing for City staff and employees, Councilmembers.
4. Educate youth about choice and the waste of drugs
5. Out-think the drug dealers
6. Separate the dealer from his drugs . Separate the Dealer from his money.
7. Police visibility and walking patrols
8. A greater church commitment/confrontation/sharing personal testimony to what drugs do to an individual and family.
9. Identify dealers/drug houses, and list of arrested buyers be published.
10. 24 hours hotline (Advice to residents about what to do/how to report crimes.
11. Go after the career criminal, and remove the individual from the community.
12. Secret witness program
13. Improved relationships with the courts, let them know we encourage full prosecution and convictions.
14. Work with Internal Revenue Services/Franchise Tax Board to report drug capital (monies).

15. **Eviction of tenants for apartments/low cost housing/and Section 8 if associated with drug sale and trafficking.**
16. **Utilize drug sniffing dogs to find/locate sellers' drugs and drug money.**
17. **Announce all-out drug attack.**
18. **Make it safe for residents and unsafe for drug dealers in East Palo Alto.**
- 19., **Sell bumper stickers (Good Neighbors) to raise money to fight crime.**
20. **Block off street/check vehicles/question non-residents/and generally harrass the dealers from the street with police enforcement supported by neighbor's groups.**