

Mayor's Town Hall Meeting Series

Spring 2014

Overview

Town Hall Structure:

- Similar to 2013, there was one Town Hall Meeting per Police Area
- In 2013 the focus was strictly to discuss Crime in Oakland and provide valuable public input for the Strategic Partners Policy Team to develop their recommended reforms. After the Plenary Session, participants broke into smaller groups based on their Police Beat.
- This year the focus was three pronged: **Public Safety, Education, and Jobs** and after the Plenary Session there were breakout sessions on these three items.

Public Safety:

- The Chief presented the major changes within the department that were based on the input received in 2013 including:
 - ✓ The Geographic Policing Model
 - ✓ Expansion of the Ceasefire Initiative
 - ✓ Community involvement in the Police Academy
 - ✓ Overall Crime Update
 - ✓ Compliance with the NSA
- During the breakout session the Area Captains gave a localized crime update and discussed the Area Advisory Committees.
- City Staff discussed the upcoming plan to create Area Response Teams that involve other City Departments to work in partnership with OPD on complex public safety and quality of life concerns.
- Staff fielded questions and concerns from participants. Some repeating themes included:
 - ✓ General support for and acknowledgment of the effectiveness of the new geographic model
 - ✓ Ongoing concerns about response time
 - ✓ A need to continue strengthening the relationship between Officers and the community through accountability and better communication (especially in neighborhoods most affected by violence)
 - ✓ Continue and increase the focus on quality of life concerns (illegal dumping, graffiti, homeless encampments)
 - ✓ The need to increase resident involvement and training (especially on issues such as home safety and security, and how to access other City Services)

Education:

- During the Plenary Session representatives from OUSD (either the Superintendent or a Board Member) discussed programs designed improve student achievement and increase graduation rates, and creative partnerships with other agencies including:
 - ✓ Pipeline project for cadets to go to Laney and then join the Police Academy
 - ✓ The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Program at McClymonds
 - ✓ Reduction in Student Suspensions and Expulsions, diverting students to positive mentoring to keep them in school
- During the breakout session participants raised concerns and discussed:
 - ✓ The importance of parent participation
 - ✓ Early Childhood Literacy Programs
 - ✓ Expanding Career days at schools
 - ✓ The importance of bi-lingual programs for students AND parents with the changing demographic in Oakland

Jobs:

- During the Plenary Session, the City's Workforce Development Director discussed ways in which the City is working to ensure more employment opportunities for Oaklanders including:
 - ✓ The West Oakland Job Resource Center, a training center that is a pipeline for Oaklanders directly into jobs at the Army Base
 - ✓ 50% Local Hire requirement that ensures half of the jobs at the base are filled by Oaklanders
 - ✓ The Mayor's Summer Job Program which has a goal of employing 2000 Oakland teenagers this summer
- During the breakout session participants learned more about summer opportunities for youth including the Parks and Recreation opportunities, Port internships, and the requirements to qualify for the West Oakland Job Resource Center
- Participants also raised concerns about:
 - ✓ Outreach to young people about these opportunities
 - ✓ Encouraging Oakland businesses to "Ban the Box" on job applications that asks about prior arrests (to ensure formerly incarcerated individuals have a chance at a job)
 - ✓ Making sure future developments in East Oakland (such as Oak Knoll) also encourage local hiring similar to the requirements at the Army Base.