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## Introduction

When the Palmetto Police Department's Community Policing Innovation Plan was developed a little more than one year ago, there were some daunting crime statistics in the many of the neighborhoods that comprise the Palmetto CRA. Most notable was the fact that over 60% of the City's most serious crime took place within the Palmetto CRA. This startling fact alone justified the Palmetto CRA's generous and necessary allocation to the Palmetto Police Department in an effort to combat the crime in the district that was contributing to slum and blight, as well as hampering commercial investment.

The staff at the Palmetto Police Department developed a comprehensive three part plan to address these public safety issues that is an ongoing commitment today and will continue for many budget cycles to come. The seven officers assigned to the Palmetto CRA are well into the first part of the plan: *Presence and Patrol*. They have been working diligently to develop a continuing presence in the CRA in an effort to drive crime away and to make citizens and business persons working in the District feel safe. They are also working hard to develop relationships within the District's neighborhoods that foster trust and interactions. This has been realized by officers getting to know residents on a first name basis, giving citizens and business owners a person that they know and can call directly, rather than merely an anonymous police officer, and increasing the number of citizen and business person tips about suspicious persons and circumstances.

Our CRA officers are also actively working on the second part of the plan; *Intensified Problem-oriented Policing*. Through patrol, observation, and citizen tips, several locations for criminal activity have been identified and eliminated. The park patrol officer, in conjunction with other CRA officers, has conducted several targeted enforcement sweeps at City parks, reducing the number of calls for service from the parks, including drinking alcohol. The officers have also taken over and expanded proven programs like the Business Trespass Program and Project N.E.O.N. (reporting criminal activity to landlords) and are now in charge of the Department's Sexual Offender and Predator monitoring program.

The third portion of the plan, *Empowering and Partnering*, is still in its infancy. The Department has trained and deployed its first citizen volunteer patroller. It is our hope and commitment to recruit more. The Department has also sought the counsel of local church pastors in an effort to increase our accessibility to and communication with citizens in the CRA, especially minority citizens. We have also partnered with the pastors to create a Crisis Response Team to assist with violent incidents within CRA neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, there is no way to truly quantify how much the level of satisfaction and confidence that citizens have for the Department has increased in the Palmetto CRA and what

effect this has had on public safety. A look at crime statistics does give an indication that we have enjoyed success with our program since it was implemented. A comparison of Part I crime data (the most serious crimes) since the program's inception (October 2011 to May 2012) shows that crime in the CRA is down 7% from the same period, one year before (October 2010 to May 2011). When the October 2011 thru May 2012 reporting period is compared to the same reporting period two years ago (October 2009 thru May 2010), Part I crime is down 42%.

Part I Crime Data, by category, also demonstrated some decreases in crime:

| <b><u>Crime Category</u></b> | <b><u>10/2010 thru 05/2011</u></b> | <b><u>10/2011 thru 05/2012</u></b> | <b><u>Percentage Change</u></b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Murder</b>                | 0                                  | 1                                  | +50%                            |
| <b>Sexual Battery</b>        | 1                                  | 1                                  | 0%                              |
| <b>Robbery</b>               | 20                                 | 12                                 | -4%                             |
| <b>Burglary</b>              | 62                                 | 56                                 | -9%                             |
| <b>Theft</b>                 | 128                                | 120                                | -6%                             |
| <b>Theft/ Motor Vehicle</b>  | 8                                  | 14                                 | +4%                             |
| <b>Aggravated Assault</b>    | 37                                 | 33                                 | -1%                             |
| <b>Arson</b>                 | 1                                  | 1                                  | 0%                              |
| <b>Total Part I</b>          | 257                                | 238                                | -7%                             |

## 2012-2013 Community Policing Initiative Plan

### Budget Requests:

- 1. Salary Allocation** (matching last year's): This includes one quarter of the salary and benefits of the Lieutenant plus salary and benefits for the corporal and six officers of the CRA and SEU units. **\$455,073.00**
- 2. Security for special events in the CRA:** These events include: Multi-cultural Festival, Children's Parade, Fourth of July, Veteran's Parade, Christmas in the Park **\$15,952.00**
- 3. Continue Partnership with UNIDOS:**  
This innovative mentoring program that will have a positive impact on the Palmetto CRA in several ways: the program will provide direct involvement with some of the most disadvantaged young people in the Palmetto CRA; it will prepare these young people for the workforce and deter them from criminal activity; it will provide employers within the City with a future work force of prepared and motivated local young people. **\$20,000.00**
- 4. Retain Mr. Victor Woods to continue with his unique motivational speaking:**  
Mr. Woods can speak to some of the community's most at risk young people in a way that no one else can. Mr. Woods will continue to speak at local schools, youth programs, and churches. He will also be available for closed sessions with smaller groups (or individuals) who are brought t to the attention of Chief Wells, his staff, and community leaders. Like the UNIDOS Mentoring Project, it is hoped that this special motivational program will be able to reach young people who have either entered a pattern of crime or are looking for a way out of the cycle of violence and criminal behavior. **\$20,000.00**
- 5. Bring the Kingsian Conflict Resolution seminar to the Palmetto Police Department:**  
Residents throughout the Palmetto CRA have stated that they feel disenfranchised from the police department. Although the Department has made great strides towards opening those lines of communication and creating a sense of ownership between the community and its officers, more work needs to be done. This training will help advance an understanding of the perspective that many of the Palmetto CRA's minority residents may have towards the police department and better equip Palmetto Police officers to proactively create bonds with the citizens that they serve **\$6,000.00**

**6. Other beneficial partnership opportunities that may come to the attention of the Mayor, Police Department, or Staff:**

On more than one occasion during the past budget year, unique opportunities for positive partnerships have come up that have benefitted the Department's Community Policing Program. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, staff has been forced to re-allocate portions of the budget. This allocation would budget funds for unforeseen programs and opportunities that may afford themselves during the next budget year.

**\$10,000.00**

- 7. Video Surveillance Systems:** The Palmetto Police Department is currently investigating several high profile, violent crimes in which witnesses are reluctant to come forward. In each of these investigations, video surveillance of the crimes, as well as persons or vehicles entering and leaving the area, would have been critical. The staff at the Police Department has identified several areas where a web-based video surveillance system could be installed to provide intelligence on persons entering and leaving the City (north end of the Green Bridge, north end of the DeSoto Bridge, 2600 Blk 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, 1600 Blk 10<sup>th</sup> Street East, 200 Blk 17<sup>th</sup> Street West). In addition, staff suggests a sixth camera at 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West and 17<sup>th</sup> Street West, to monitor this area because of its high incidence of criminal activity. This allocation request is still being researched. This estimate takes into account the cost of the equipment and installation for the six locations, plus associated legal review.

**\$40,000.00**

- 8. Equipping Additional Citizen Volunteers:** During this budget year, the Department launched its Citizen Volunteer Program. In spite of recruiting efforts, the Department has only been able to deploy one citizen patroller, to date. The Department will continue with its efforts to recruit additional volunteers and requests this allocation to equip them.

**\$2,000.00**

- 9. Additional Training for CRA Officers:** The Department's four CRA officers will require additional specialized training. This training will encompass CPTED and Spanish courses and the requested allocation includes travel and per-diem expenses.

**\$4,000.00**

- 10. Crime Prevention Materials:** Quality printed materials on a wide variety of topics that the CRA officers could distribute at meetings and events. This allocation would also include popular children's items, such as badge stickers, erasers, and activity books. All materials would be in English and Spanish.

**\$5,000.00**

**11. Signage for Park Regulations:** The majority of the City's parks are located in the CRA. The City continues to host more and more activities in its parks and to promote citizens to use them. One of the cornerstones to encouraging citizens to use the parks is keeping visitors safe and discouraging crime, even when officers are not present. The CPTED concept of territorial reinforcement is critical to promoting safe parks. Territorial reinforcement is merely showing where a space begins and ends and demonstrating that the space is cared for and will be defended. Posting rules at our parks is a key component to not only territorial reinforcement, but to good policing. These decorative signs will clearly spell out conduct that is expected within the parks and the hours of operation, while maintaining the City's style and theme (please note; this is also an estimate)

**\$10,000.00**

**12. Park Patrol Officers:** Two part-time park patrol officers

**\$53,040.00**

**13. Cell Phone Service for Four CRA Officer Cell Phones:**

**\$2,400.00**

**14. Continuing Partnership with Manatee Crime Stoppers:** This is an ongoing commitment to match, dollar for dollar, any monetary rewards paid by the manatee County Crime Stoppers for tips on crimes that occur within the CRA and that lead to arrests within the CRA. This partnership would utilize the existing Crime Stoppers network.

**\$10,000.00**

**15. Gun Buy Back Events:** The palmetto Police Department would like to host or co-host gun buy back events in the City. This allocation would be used to purchase gift certificates that would be given in exchange for working firearms turned in during the event.

**\$5,000.00**

**16. Vehicle Fuel, Repair, & Maintenance:** This calculation is based on the following presumptions:

7 CRA vehicles driving 100 miles/shift X 14 shifts/months X 12 Months= 117,600 miles/yr

Patrol cars averaging 10 MPG= 11,760 gallons of fuel @ \$4.00/ gallon= \$47,040.00 (fuel)

Oil change every 4500 miles = 4 oil changes/ yr X 7 cars= 28 oil changes @ \$32.00 = \$896.00 for maintenance

Projected maintenance for 7 patrol cars (including tires) \$4,000.00

**\$51,936.00**

**Total Allocation: \$710,401.00**