

Community Task Force Workshop #1

8:30 am-11:30 am at the Ethiopian Community Center, 8323 Rainier Ave S.

Orig. date: Saturday, December 7th 2013

Hotspot: ***Rose Street***

Facilitators:

- Charlotte Gill & Raphael Mondesir

A. Best Time to meet

- **Saturday:**
 - is tough for most people -- but could work as long as it's 1/2 day
 - anytime before 11:00 am or noon is best
- *** Monday & Tuesday evenings*:**
 - *these are the BEST times for most people in this group*
- **Wednesday and Thursday evenings:**
 - not good times to meet because most after school activities take place on those days.
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B. General Issues and Concerns from Looking at the Data

1. support / mentorship of youth
2. how does crime affect opportunities for local development / commerce
 - a. dealing with crime problems will open up more opportunities
3. how do we keep the youth both busy AND connected to the community?

C. What's missing from the *Rose Street* data?

- **Crimes that are underreported:**
 - ◆ what about crimes that people are afraid to report?
 - ◆ what about crimes that people are too complacent to report?
 - ◆ what kinds of property are being stolen?
 - phones get snatched on the bus / trains all the time but these are not necessarily part of the data we're seeing

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- technology theft in general
 - ◆ language barriers to reporting
 - one can ask 9-1-1 for an interpreter -- just call and state what your native language is (** *most of us did not know this!* **)
 - ◆ Communication:
 - sometimes children are the only household members who speak English, so there serious challenges to reporting crimes accurately.
 - ◆ domestic violence:
 - this problem is related to youth homelessness
 - and this relates directly to the problem of crimes on Rose Street
 - ◆ we see a lot of differences by month, time, etc... but are there differences based on types of crime?
- **The role of culture:**
- ◆ some cultures encourage members to keep serious criminal matters private
 - ◆ families keep to themselves and struggle
 - ◆ lack of trust in police
 - ◆ fear
- **General fear of reporting crimes**
- ◆ fear of retaliation if you call the police -- “snitching” -- kids may be even more concerned about this!
 - ◆ this can also be connected to culture
- **Are we tracking changes in offending?**
- ◆ if we focus on men only, will crimes committed by women change?
 - ◆ what about youth-on-youth crimes?
 - ◆ how many of the youth involved in a crime were actually following the lead of an adult?
 - statement of arrestee would be useful here
- **person crimes:**
- ◆ how many were committed with a weapon (handgun, knife, other weapons...)
- **What about Crimes from outside/transitory perpetrators?**
- ◆ gangs and people from other neighborhoods bringing their criminal activities to Rainier Beach (example: gangs from Tacoma)
- **what is the rate of recidivism?**
- ◆ repeat offenders
 - ◆ the community’s role is important

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- ◆ recidivism is more likely if we don't support them!
- **what about drug use/drug dealing?**
 - ◆ it's a problem but is not always in the police data
 - ◆ maybe we should cross-check across agencies (e.g. city attorney)
 - ◆ how have changes in drug laws affected crime types at this location
- **what about break-ins at businesses?**
 - ◆ the data does not show much business victimization... but we know that businesses are experiencing crime -- "every business is affected"
 - ◆ businesses don't call the police because the same kids will return a few days later
 - ◆ suspects might threaten residents/patrons -- then they are scared to go to businesses
 - ◆ there is an understanding among business owners that they must protect themselves

D. Other Important Concerns

- **what do our kids want/need? we just don't know!**
 - ◆ can we bring them to the table -- to this conversation?
 - ◆ we should also invite the police to be part of that same conversation
- **the garbage/littering issue:**
 - ◆ this is a sensitive matter because it involves cultural differences -- we need to be mindful of cultural differences!
 - ◆ in some cultures littering is the norm.. but it still poses public health issues
 - ◆ we should document these incidents of littering by taking a photo and sharing it via e-mail

E. Summary: How do we get the additional data that we need?

- 1. The crux of the problem on Rose Street:**
 - a. we need information on WHY people and businesses fail to report crime (we need to survey them!)
 - b. this issue is directly connected to the drug issue -- which is also connected to the thefts in the transit system. (we could use some transit data)

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2. What do the kids want / need?

- a. let's survey them too...
- b. How many crimes involved youths acting under the influence of adults?
- c. youth on youth violence

3. Which crimes are not reported to the police?

- a. we could start sharing intelligence between police and community -- to build cases against problematic adults
- b. we could survey people
- c. we could organize a neighborhood watch to improve reporting -- use online reports!
- d. talk to middle school teachers -- survey schools and build a partnership with them to increase reporting!
- e. men vs. women
- f. recidivism -- repeat offenders
- g. gangs / outsiders committing crime in Rainier Beach (bringing the crime to our neighborhood)

F. Action Plan

What	Who	Where/When
share contact info and start a mailing list to increase reporting among members of the Rose Street Team	Raphael	December 23
start discussing the formation of a Neighborhood Watch Team as a means to gather more info and complement the police reports	Raphael & Charlotte	January 25th
Get business owners to talk about their experiences with crime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● educate and involve core group of business owners ● what questions do they need to ask? ● get business owners to interview each other 	Raphael & Charlotte	January 25th (next Workshop)