



Vacaville Police Department

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Vacaville Police Department 2019-2021 Operation Goals

1. CRIME SUPPRESSION: RESPONSE TO VIOLENT CRIME AND GANGS

Community safety has been protected utilizing existing staff within Patrol and other specialized enforcement units such as CRU. The implementation of AB109 (Prison Realignment), Propositions 47 and 57, and the recent legal cases, which led to the highest level prison/street gang leaders being released from solitary confinement and placed into the general populations of prisons throughout the state, continue to present major challenges to our effort to keep Vacaville a safe city. Vacaville has seen an increase in the number of gang members and associates, gang activity, convicted criminals on county probation or PRCS, and individuals who have been released from custody with little or no supervision. The City has also seen an increase in property crimes, including large retail thefts and automotive burglaries, committed by both individuals and organized commercial theft rings. Some of these organized retail thefts rings consist of, or are done at the direction of active gangs and gang members and/associates from Vacaville and surrounding areas. Additionally, Vacaville and the surrounding areas have seen a spike in violent crime which is likely attributed to local gang activity, resulting in several incidents of violent crime.

With the dissolution of the Crime Suppression Team several years ago, the city lost a team specifically dedicated to suppressing the influence of gangs and persons on probation or parole. The Community Response Unit partially attempted to re-establish this type of mission specific response. However, due to CRU's primary duties dedicated to addressing homelessness and the outreach and advocacy for the homeless population, along with focusing on safe business and multi-housing programs, gang suppression and street enforcement have not been realized. To address the issues outlined above, and to provide our community with a high level of service, it is important to re-establish a Crime Suppression Team. The team would be responsible for actively contacting identified gang members and their associates, individuals on parole, probation, or PRCS, performing high-profile crime suppression, investigating any gang-related activity, collaborating with other similar units throughout Solano County and the region, as well as work with correctional staff at the Solano County Jail and the two CDCR prisons in Vacaville.

2. CRIME PREVENTION: QUALITY OF LIFE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Vacaville Police Department's Clinical Services Division deploys staff between the Youth Services Section (YSS) and the Family Resource Center (FRC) in order to provide clinical services to students in the VUSD, families, and victims of crime. In some instances, the Clinical Services staff also provides mental health assistance to offenders as well as other members of the community experiencing crisis or some other significant emotional event in their life. Through a wide variety of grants, the members of the Clinical Services Division provide an array of services to members of the community in need. The Department's use of social media



MEMORANDUM

(Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, Twitter, Everbridge), facilitated by the Social Media Team and our Community Engagement Specialist, allows staff to engage and partner with community members to help prevent and solve crime, as well as build trusting relationships between the Police Department and the public. The CRU staff have begun to collaborate with the business community and citizen stakeholder groups to focus on reducing the negative impact of quality of life issues created by increased crime.

CRU recently implemented the Vacaville Safe Business Program (VSBP) to business owners and managers throughout the community. The program begins with some training for our business partners on how to prevent crime, report crime, and other ways in which to make their staff and their customers feel safe while conducting business. The CRU team will continue to connect and work closely with the business community in Vacaville to ensure the VSBP has continued success.

Solano County recently purchased Everbridge, which is a community engagement tool that allows for immediate notification of emergencies, hazards, or other public safety information. Each city within Solano County has an Everbridge account that can be used in a vast number of ways to communicate both with the public as well as internally. Additional grant funding has been utilized to purchase Smart Force, a cloud-based software solution to enhance internal communication and creates a public collaboration platform, replacing many of the work flows and tasks currently being accomplished by several outdated programs.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH: RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS AND PERSONS EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

This project brings the City and other stakeholders together to continue to define and assess the issues related to homelessness and those in crisis due to mental health issues. Stakeholders involved in this project work to develop appropriate community engagement programs, enforcement directives, public education campaigns, and appropriate responses to those experiencing homelessness or a mental health crisis to reduce the adverse effects on the community, and those seeking assistance through City and other resources.

Collaboration and cooperation between the various stakeholders has produced a nationally recognized response to homelessness program that has seen success here in Vacaville. The monthly Homeless Roundtable (HRT) meeting is always well attended by those committed to reducing homelessness and improving the quality of life for those experiencing homelessness as well as the community at-large. The Community Response Unit (CRU) has discovered creative solutions to assist those with an immediate housing need to keep from becoming homeless, such as securing nightly motel rooms for those who are not in need of significant case management. Homeless individuals with more substantial needs, such as chemical dependency and/or severe mental illness, may now be placed in one of several beds at Shelter Solano designated for Vacaville's homeless.

Recent case law decisions and new legislation present challenges to the CRU staff who must adjust tactics and practices to both comply with the law and to provide the best service possible to all community members. This need to focus on important quality of life issues is a primary responsibility of the CRU staff made more challenging with the added tasks of low level case management of individuals experiencing homelessness.

The continued challenges and struggles to effectively and peacefully resolve conflicts with those in our community experiencing a mental health crisis will be a focus of the police



department. Officers are called to help de-escalate and defuse persons experiencing a mental health crisis, which sometimes manifest in violent or criminal behavior. The frequency of these types of calls for service has increased substantially over the last decade. The need for a mobile crisis unit made up of trained mental health professionals has never been greater. The mobile crisis unit concept has been discussed for many years, however a viable program has not yet been put in place. The assistance of the County of Solano's Health and Social Services Department is crucial. An RFP is in progress for a county-wide mobile crisis program.

4. WORKFORCE READINESS: HIRING AND TRAINING

One of the greatest challenges in public safety today is recruiting, hiring, and training our first responders. Innovation in the recruiting and hiring process requires strategic candidate preparation utilizing our police and fire cadet programs as well as the city intern program. Longer term strategies need to be explored to improve the hiring and retention of first responders, including police/fire dispatchers. The length of time required to fully certify these first responders from the time of recruitment can be up to 18 months. Understanding that first responders often face "high risk" high liability events, training is paramount. This is especially true as experienced staff retire and new employees with limited experience are hired. Pre-academy training will improve initial training. Newer field training techniques, along with virtual reality and force option simulation are necessary.

Police and Fire Departments are also determining the feasibility of operating a citywide training facility. The site should be large enough to accommodate joint training needs to include but not limited to classroom facilities, a fire training tower to conduct live burn simulations, mat rooms for defensive tactics training, and force option/virtual simulation training. Additional consideration should include the need to provide training in all city departments, and be a center for regional training that could positively impact the local economy. This off-site facility would reduce the impact on regular business activities at the main city hall campus. Special operations vehicles and equipment would be able to be stored in a secured facility protected from the elements to prolong service life. The site would also be able to provide fee based training to regional police and fire personnel to assist in offsetting costs. Opportunities to financially partner with other Solano County agencies should be examined.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY: VIDEO MONITORING, LPR, AERIAL TECHNOLOGY, AND REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER

Technology is always evolving and can be used by law enforcement to investigate crimes, deter crimes, and even prevent crimes and provide the community with a feeling of safety and security. The use of cameras placed at intersections and critical locations has been very successful in solving crimes in progress. In 2017, the police department received a grant to purchase and install a limited number of surveillance cameras to be deployed at certain locations and intersections near the Downtown section of Vacaville. Over the course of time, the department began to see increased success with identifying and capturing criminal suspects with the use of these cameras to capture license plates and even digital images of the suspects themselves.

Another grant allowed Solano County to outfit four of our patrol vehicles with Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) which capture numerous license plate images each day/night they are deployed. ALPR technology allows the law enforcement user enter in license plate information for a number of purposes, including stolen vehicle notification and wanted suspect vehicles. A vendor has been selected for the I-80 Corridor/Retail Camera Project, which will



eventually place ALPR-capable cameras at key locations leading into Vacaville along Interstate 80.

The department has four members who are licensed Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAV) pilots responsible for deploying drone technology when the need arises. These drones have been used in the field while searching for wanted subjects, missing persons, and to photograph scenes of critical incidents or major traffic collisions. The drones are also used on tactical (SWAT) operations to provide critical information to the Tactical Commander and others making decisions about the operation. These drones provide a great deal of officer-safety protection when airborne and scanning an area of interest.

Implementing a Real-Time Crime Center will allow a crime analyst and other staff to immediately respond to criminal acts in progress. A critical component is to be able to have skilled staff able to effectively look at digital information obtained or available, and identify, extract, and put into an easily readable or understandable format in real time. An investment toward intelligence-gathering software with Artificial Intelligence capabilities will allow for more innovative and effective crime-fighting strategies to be implemented.

6. CYBERCRIME: DIGITAL INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

Nearly every criminal act can have some connection to technology whether through the use of a smart device, a computer, a camera, or countless other means. The use of technology by criminals is becoming increasingly sophisticated and more difficult to investigate. In order to properly and effectively investigate, prevent, and deter crimes, the right equipment, i.e. software and hardware, must be obtained, and fully trained cybercrime investigators must be assigned. Law enforcement agencies across the country are launching cyber-crime units and retooling, retraining their investigators to have the ability to locate and seize critical digital evidence and intelligence. A Digital Investigations Unit (DIU) within the Investigative Services Section (ISS) will allow us to more effectively investigate cyber-crimes and crimes involving digital evidence.

The police department recently assigned a Lead Detective position to serve as the coordinator of a future Digital Investigations Unit (DIU). There is currently one detective that meets the qualifications for this lead detective position and that detective would be able to review the cases coming in to ISS, determine what needed to be done with the piece of technology or information, and then assign the detail to one of three detectives who have gained the knowledge and experience to properly investigate these crimes: (1) The department currently has an investigator assigned to the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force (NC3TF); (2) An additional detective has received extensive training, computer hardware and software provided by the U.S. Secret Service. (3) Recently, a Vice detective has become a recognized expert in conducting Human Trafficking and cases involving covert social media accounts.

7. REGIONAL INTEROPERABILITY: PUBLIC SAFETY COLLABORATION

Improved interoperability remains a key focus for all Public Safety and a top priority for Vacaville Police and Fire. The ability to share information seamlessly and efficiently improves situational awareness, safety and response times, improving service and safety for the citizens of Vacaville. The radio communication/interoperability public safety replacement radio system is well underway with planned implementation in January of 2020. This project creates compatibility with existing State and Federal radio/data interoperability projects currently being



implemented throughout the Bay Area and Sacramento. Upon completion agencies sharing the radio system will be able to communicate directly with each other, reducing communication downtime, miscommunication and overall improve collaboration.

The radio project has been the gateway to the development of regional relationships, policies and collaboration. Several other technology projects are underway at this time. All Solano county agencies have agreed to, and are in the implementation process, with Sun Ridge RIMS for a countywide CAD/RMS (Computer Aided Dispatch & Records Management System). This countywide system will greatly improve communication, information sharing, situational awareness, and response times for all agencies and allow “view only” access to shared information. Further, the expanded use of shared systems is also likely to occur with the implementation of a redundant audio logger solution with Fairfield PD.

Overall, the leveraging of compatible technology systems allows for seamless support and redundancy between all PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point) within the county. The ability to backfill during catastrophic incidents via virtual communications centers becomes a possibility with the implementation of NG911 (Next Generation 911) technologies. Vacaville is in the process of upgrading our CPE (call taker processing equipment) which includes next generation compatibility. Some features include integrated Text to 911, as well as improved mapping and location services for wireless callers experiencing an emergency. The ongoing cultivation of regional relationships, partnerships and the development of technology systems, as well as policies to support overall collaboration should continue to be a primary goal.

The VESTA CPE upgrade is underway and anticipated implementation is November, 2019. The Joint Fairfield/Vacaville Audio logger project anticipated implementation is December, 2019. Regional P25 Radio project anticipated implementation January, 2020. Sun Ridge Rims CAD/RMS planned implementation March, 2020. The participating agency MOU development will be ongoing as areas of need are identified.

8. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION: PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM UPGRADE

The existing Fairfield/Vacaville Radio System became end-of-life in December of 2018 as portions of the infrastructure will no longer be serviceable. This required upgrading and/or replacing legacy equipment, including mobile/portable radios, repeaters, hardware, and other related technologies that currently provide radio communication/interoperability for public safety. In addition, a new radio tower will be constructed at Drake’s Peak in the northern portion of the city, allowing for enhanced radio clarity throughout the city and the region.

Significant progress has been made with the P-25 Compliant Radio System Upgrade and the primary municipalities involved in the project: Solano County, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Suisun City, have worked closely to make certain that the project is as efficient, cost-effective, collaborative, and best serves the needs of each of the communities serviced by these agencies. The cooperation and teamwork exhibited by all of the agencies involved is unprecedented in Solano County. The radio tower at Drake’s Peak is nearing completion and will be fully operational by the time the radio system comes online in late 2019 or early 2020.

The regional cooperation allowed for a bulk purchase of new Motorola P-25 compliant mobile and portable radios providing a 35% discount from the vendor. Vacaville is currently collaborating with Motorola and the other stakeholders. Solano County is upgrading the Motorola core allowing for all county-wide agencies to utilize this integral piece of technology. As a result of this purchase and upgrade, Current discussions are underway to adopt a memorandum of understanding regarding shared technology and use agreements.