

GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT



S.A.R.A. | COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

BEACH AND GARDEN GROVE BLVD.



SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 - FEBRUARY 27, 2019

GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Beach and Garden Grove
Community Improvement Project
(S.A.R.A.)



September 17, 2018 – February 27, 2019

Prepared By

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Community Policing Bureau West Division Beat 1-1

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I. Introduction

The intersection of Beach and Garden Grove Boulevard is located in the west end of Garden Grove, and is near the far east end of beat 1-1. It is home to three motels, one gas station, and two shopping centers that consist of offices, restaurants, and stores. Day and night, it is a densely populated area traversed by thousands of commuting vehicles and hundreds of pedestrians each day.

Beach and Garden Grove Boulevard and the area that surrounds it is best known by the police department for being riddled with crime. The criminal activity includes, but is not limited to; Drug Offenses, Prostitution, Physical Assaults, Sexual Assaults, Thefts, Vandalism, and Weapon Offenses. The amount of criminal activity in the area places a burden on the businesses and compromises the safety of the people who frequent them on a daily basis. This, along with transients constantly loitering, trespassing, and camping at various locations in the area, drains police department manpower and time, causing the very west end of the city to be neglected, and it is an eyesore to the public, business owners, and employees who complain about it routinely.

On a routine basis, officers who work in the area of Beach and Garden Grove proactively seek out criminal activity at and around it. Several of them have conducted proactive directive enforcement details in the past in an effort to combat the crime. These details have resulted in hundreds of arrests. What officers know about these details is they work in reducing the amount of criminal activity in the area, but more often than not these details have long lasting effects, but not necessarily permanent ones. The criminal activity drops significantly in the months after the details are concluded, but it slowly starts to return and increase over time. In an effort to supplement these efforts, various officers have been in contact with a few of the businesses in the area and have worked with them to address the issues. One business in particular changed the landscaping around it and added better lighting in an effort to make the property less conducive to people loitering and committing crimes on it (i.e. eliminating crime by design).

The main attractions in the area of Beach and Garden Grove are the nearby flood control channels and the three motels that surround it. The motels are the Garden Grove Inn, the Hospitality Inn, and the Morada Inn. Violations of city ordinances, low cost rent, poor management, and a lack of enforced rules at these locations make them a hotbed for criminals.

Recognizing the problems, the Garden Grove Police Department is going to address the issues in the area of Beach and Garden Grove Boulevard by using a Community Oriented Policing format. The format will involve a Survey, Analysis, Respond, and Assessment (S.A.R.A.) model. The overall goal will be to permanently reduce the crime rate and the calls for service in the area through outreach, and street and administrative level enforcement, and to work with business owners and managers in a further attempt to, "Eliminate crime by design," on their properties.



II. Scan

The area of Beach and Garden Grove Boulevard has been riddled with crime and transient activity. Crimes such as theft, assaults, prostitution, and narcotics violations make up just some of the prevalent criminal activity in the area, and the offenders of these crimes are often attracted to the nearby flood control channels and low rate motels which they loiter at and frequent on a regular basis. Cheap motel rates, code enforcement violations, low standards and a lack of security at these locations make them a haven for criminals, and transients alike, who often seek refuge at them. This activity routinely attracts the attention of the police department, but more importantly it places a burden on the citizens and the businesses who fall victim to it on a daily basis. While street level enforcement has temporarily reduced the criminal activity at these locations, it has also fallen short of permanently stopping some of it.

III. Analysis

In order to determine the types of crimes that are committed in the area and target them best, the calls for service that are generated in the area and statistical data must also be reviewed. The data reveals drug and transient activity makes up for a large portion of the crime and calls for service in the area. What attracts this activity, is again, the low motel rates, code enforcement violations, and a lack of security and staffing at the motels and some of the local businesses. This is known by officers who are very familiar with the area. Motel rooms are occupied by drug dealers who often use the rooms and hallways to sell drugs. Thus, attracting drug users to the locations. With drug activity comes a myriad of other crimes that adversely affect the community.

IV. Response

Officers will combat the crime and problems in the area of Beach and Garden Grove Boulevard through community outreach, and street and administrative level enforcement. In order to do this, officers will offer resources to the homeless in the area. In addition to that, they will also conduct several no-tolerance directed enforcement operations. Officers will contact business owners and managers to offer suggestions and ideas to them that will deter crime and make their properties less conducive to criminal activity, resulting in increased safety. They will also work with the different city departments, i.e. Code Enforcement, Public Works, and the Fire Department to inspect businesses and gain compliance from them through the use of city ordinances and regulations. All of this will be documented under Attachment H.



V. Assessment

Approximately 55 Officers participated in the project and as a result 150 arrests were made, dozens of traffic citations were issued, several field investigation cards were completed, and over two dozen Care Packages were handed out to the homeless in the area. Special Resource Team Officers removed 11 encampments and also secured 04 trespass letters from the businesses in the area.

As a result of a single approximate 10 minute, self-initiated meeting between officers and management personnel from the Chevron gas station at Beach and Garden Grove, Chevron paid to install an approximate 100' wrought-iron fence along the west side of the property, removed a bike rack used by transients as a place to loiter, and installed a remote locking mechanism on the interior bathroom door. In addition, they installed a blue light in the interior bathroom to prevent drug users from seeing their veins when attempting to inject themselves with syringes. All of this was done in an effort to eliminate crime by design at the location. A working relationship between the employees and the officers has been established, and the employees now call the police department immediately when any problems arise.

Officers later worked with the City's Chief Building Officer to conduct an inspection warrant at the Garden Grove Inn and the Hospitality Inn. 28 rooms were red-tagged and immediately vacated due to deplorable living conditions and code enforcement violations. Officers also worked with the Chief Building Officer to remove two problematic bus benches from the intersection that were being used by transients as housing and as a place to loiter, while several social media campaigns were also launched to advertise the efforts.

The project was a success in remarkably lowering crime and transient activity in the area, making a noticeable difference. The police department has repeatedly received positive feedback from the local business owners, employees, and citizens. Calls for service at the problem locations of the Hospitality Inn, Garden Grove Inn, Chevron, Taco Bell, and Morada Inn are down 24%. Calls for service resulting in arrests are down 58% at the same locations. Calls for service in Districts 44, 54, 55, 64, 65, and 74 are down 2.8% from the exact same approximate five-month period of time last year. Calls for service resulting in arrests are down 35% in the same districts. The entire area is visibly cleaner and safer as a result.



Total Project Statistics:

Care Packages:	28
Traffic Citations:	68
Parking Citations:	08
Field Investigation Cards:	17
Trespass Letters Signed by SRT:	04
Encampments Removed by SRT:	11
Felony Arrests:	22
Misdemeanor Arrests:	128
Total Arrests:	150



SRF Arrests

Status	PRCS	CDC Parole	OC / LA Probation
Probationers Arrested	7	6	13
Case Number	18054546	18054531	18054574
Case Number	18060231	18057911	18057334
Case Number	18060246	18060408	18058547
Case Number	18061877	18060951	18060475
Case Number	18070752	18061779	18070165
Case Number	18071829	19002077	18071818
Case Number	19010684		18072854
Case Number			19001742
Case Number			19005744
Case Number			19006682
Case Number			19006698
Case Number			19007697



VI.

Special Acknowledgments

Captain Tom DaRe

Lieutenant Patrick Gildea

Sergeant Royce Wimmer

Sergeant Mark Lord

In Collaboration With:

David Dent, Chief Building Officer

Nicholas Hutchins, City Attorney

Helena Elsousou, Crime Analysis

Van Vu, Community Service Officer

Corporal Timothy Kovacs, GGPD

Officer Patrick Julienne, GGPD

Master Officer Brian Hatfield, Special Resource Team

Master Officer Bryan Meers, Special Resource Team



VII. Attachments

Attachment A: Statistics

Tables below indicate calls for service and calls for service resulting in arrests in Districts 44, 54, 55, 64, 65 and 74.

September 17, 2017 to February 15, 2018

CALLS FOR SERVICE	DISPATCHED ARRESTS
2023	113

September 17, 2018 to February 15, 2019

CALLS FOR SERVICE	DISPATCHED ARRESTS
1966	73

Tables below indicate calls for service and calls for service resulting in arrests.

September 17, 2017 to February 15, 2018

LOCATION	CALLS FOR SERVICE	DISPATCHED ARRESTS
7900 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; HOSPITALITY INN	82	8
7912 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; GARDEN GROVE INN	178	16
8032 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; CHEVRON	66	20
8042 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; TACO BELL	24	7
8062 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; MORADA INN	61	8
GRAND TOTAL	411	52

September 17, 2018 to February 15, 2019

LOCATION	CALLS FOR SERVICE	DISPATCHED ARRESTS
7900 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; HOSPITALITY INN	41	1
7912 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; GARDEN GROVE INN	119	8
8032 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; CHEVRON	73	8
8042 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; TACO BELL	21	1
8062 GARDEN GROVE BLVD; MORADA INN	58	4
GRAND TOTAL	312	22



Attachment B: Aerial Map of Beach and Garden Grove Boulevard



Attachment C: Garden Grove Inn Yelp Reviews

01/27/17

"it's gross, EVERY room is infested with COCKROACHES DISGUSTING I can't believe it

They won't even exterminate atleast lower the price you can't have bugs and 70\$ for a single bedroom."

09/11/16

"Very disappointed in this place Carpet was dirty and was not vacuumed. Air Conditioner did not work well. And a lot of foot traffic and car traffic throughout the night. Would not recommend to anyone to stay there."

12/23/15

"This location lets people stay long term and basically move in for periods of time. As a mover, I was hired to move someone out of the location due to them not being able to pay the bill. When I first pulled up in my truck, I was pretty sketched by the people wondering around the parking lot. As its been mentioned before, it appears to be a hot spot for druggies and prostitutes. I even saw the manager chasing a guy out who was high as a kite, wondering around the hotel parking lot talking to himself (a crazy I assume). He didn't leave the first time, so the manager had to force him out by hand. The neighboring hotel doesn't look in better in terms of people staying there. But you get what you pay for.

The employees working (I assume an Asian family) were all very nice and welcoming. Despite the lack of a suitable look, they gave it a warm welcome with their good attitudes. The rooms are decent size, kept up and clean (any mess is most likely made by the person renting the room), and come at a good price... While I may never stay here, I suppose if you are on a budget and can keep to yourself, you can handle this spot."



Attachment D: Hospitality Inn Yelp Reviews

08/03/17

"At first glance this place looks just how it truly is; a dump. The outside of the building as well as the interior of the rooms are not maintained at all. The people that stay here are all homeless or living out of this motel. I even saw several used needles used for shooting up drugs on the ground outside my first hotel room. The rooms are musty & smell like a dog or cigarettes. I actually changed rooms thinking it would make a difference in smell but it didn't. All the rooms smell the same. It's disgusting. The staff are rude. I will NEVER stay here EVER. & if you have any self respect, don't stay here yourself."

06/27/16

"The filth and despair here is unbearable to my eyes.

Majority of tenants are hard drug users (meth,heroin).

When the sun goes down people begin to roam/crawl the premise of this hotel and the one next door. Fights between neighbors, men and women alike flare up.

Inside the rooms I saw total disaster and disgusting conditions. A heroin addict lay in bed near death while the hotel staff did well checks on him periodically due to the fact he hadn't left the room in a month.

Not sure how the city/health depts don't shut these places down?

If you are a normal healthy law abiding person please stay far away."

11/01/15

"My light in my room didn't work, air conditioning didn't work, no microwaves or fridges, 2 towels 1 wash cloth for a two bed room with 4 occupants. The Wi-Fi didn't work because I was the furthest away from the office and that's my fault! Called to ask check out time, told "anytime" then was told at 1050 if I'm not out by 11 they're putting all our stuff outside our door and we can collect it. (tweaker motel) yeah, right! Ice costs money, staff is rude. Yes you get what you pay for but there is better places for cheaper in Anaheim. If you don't mind tweakers, drug and prostitution activity and all around drama. you could hang. But if you're looking for something cheap and comfortable, don't stay here!"



Attachment E: Pre-Project Photographs





















Attachment F: During-Project Photographs















Attachment G: Post-Project Photographs













