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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

By the City Council
Office of the City Clerk

May 16, 1980

REF: 5-40

City Council
Sacramento, California

MAY 27 1980

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT OF POLICE CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT, FLEX, AND YOUTH SECTION

SUMMARY

Last year, the Police Department was authorized the addition of several personnel to establish a Crime Suppression Unit (CSU), a Flex Team, and a Status Offender Unit. The Council has requested a progress report regarding the performance of these new teams. I am pleased to report that the teams are fully staffed and operational and are proving to be most successful in their prescribed functions, each contributing substantially to the law enforcement effort.

BACKGROUND

Last year, the Police Department was authorized additional personnel to form three specialized units--a Crime Suppression Unit in the Office of Operations, a Flex Team in the Office of Investigations, and a Status Offender Unit also in the Office of Investigations. New officers were not hired until September, and it was January before they graduated from the academy. Therefore, the specialized teams could not be formed and in full operation until February, only three months ago. A summary of achievements follow:

1. The new Crime Suppression Unit added to the Selective Enforcement Section has been implemented and is operating successfully. All members of the team have received 40 hours of special community relations training. The initial assignment for the team was to work residential burglary and truancy problems within the City. Assigned to work in uniform and in marked patrol cars for high visibility, the officers have contacted over 275 school age persons who come within the guidelines of the truancy program.

The number of residential burglaries are substantially reduced in those areas in which the officers were assigned. The Selective Enforcement Section, including the additional C.S.U. team, has shown a 19% increase in arrests from February-March, 1979, to February-March, 1980, with 158 and 188 felony arrests for the respective periods. Misdemeanor arrests for the same periods show a 7% increase.

2. The Flex Team was designed to provide a priority evaluation strategy for the Office of Investigations. The first priority of the team is to assist section investigators in the identification and apprehension of subjects responsible for identified crimes, specifically in the area of burglary, rape, and robbery. The second priority is to identify and investigate known professional criminals. Finally, the team is to assist in major investigations, particularly with homicides, which require an immediate pull of manpower to handle the situation.

The Flex Team has successfully participated in the arrest of 55 subjects for such crimes as murder, robbery, rape, and kidnapping.

3. The Status Offender Unit of the Youth Section, Office of Investigations, has been functional for three months. The purpose of the unit is to investigate offenses that occur in City schools or surrounding property. The officers assigned have developed liaison with school administrators, students, and juvenile probation personnel. The Status Offender Unit has investigated 60 batteries, 10 disturbances, and 21 miscellaneous offenses. The investigations have resulted in 20 arrests.

The unit has also performed over 56 follow-up investigations of returned missing persons. An attempt is made to determine why the juveniles ran away and what his activities were while away. These investigations have provided valuable information and, in some cases, resulted in adult arrests for child abuse and neglect, drug offenses, prostitution, and stolen property crimes.

C.S.U., Flex, and the Status Offender Unit have been successful in accomplishing their goals and have contributed significantly to the overall department objectives of quality law enforcement.


RECOMMENDATION:

None, for information only.

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


WALTER J. SLUPE
CITY MANAGER

JPK:RHS:jt