Seattle Youth Commission

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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City of Seattle
Mike McGinn, Mayor

BRIEFING MEMO

To:	Seattle City Council
From:	Youth-Police Relations Subgroup Policy Aide: Adrian Diaz, Seattle Police Department
Subject:	Youth-Police Relations
Date:	3/24/10

Briefing Objective:

To brief the Mayor on the proposal of the Youth Police Relations sub group of the 2009-2010 Seattle Youth Commission

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Policy Objectives:

- Bridge the communication gap between Seattle's youth and Seattle Police Department
- Broaden youth understanding of Seattle Police Department techniques and procedures
- Foster better interaction between Seattle Police Department and Seattle youth
- Initiate and maintain long-term relationships between Seattle Police Department and Seattle youth

Issue Statement: A lack of communication between police and youth has created tension and violence between the two groups. This communication gap needs to be bridged in order to foster better relations between police and the youth community they serve

Background: By in large, the Seattle Police Department is negatively perceived by Seattle's youth. Seattle's history is peppered with examples of negative interactions between youth and Police officers, ranging from accidental police shootings of youth to youth attacks on police. Acts of violence between the two groups have admittedly gone both ways. Today's youth continue to express these concerns. Surveys distributed to Seattle's youth by the Youth Police Relations Group show that various factors perpetuate these feelings; only 16% of youth surveyed felt that they knew police officers while 51% felt that police confronted them in aggressive ways. In addition, close to 52% felt that police officers did not effectively prevent violence or make their community safer. Many of these issues stem from the lack of communication between police and youth, which has created the most significant problems.

In the past year, there have been a number of cases of violence between police and the communities they serve. The Halloween shooting of Seattle Officer Tim Brenton by Christopher John Monfort, and the shooting of four police officers in Lakewood by Maurice Clemmons, both serve as very important reminders that tensions between police and the Seattle area communities continue to rise. These problems have existed for decades, and as long as there is such a general and persistent lack of communication between police and the communities they serve, these problems will continue.

The Seattle Police Department has attempted to bridge this communication gap (specifically the one between police and youth) using innovative techniques. They have implemented several programs such as Options, Choices, and Consequences, a program designed to explain the legal and judicial options that youth have. Additionally, Life Choices in Law and Westside Story are two nationally recognized programs that use creative techniques to inspire discussion and dialogue among youth. But perhaps most effectively, the Seattle Police Department has held role reversal workshops, known as "Doughnut Dialogues," aimed at building ongoing trust between the police and the youth community. This program has been replicated in Boston, White Plains, NY, Toronto, Los Angeles and New York City. The results have been overwhelmingly positive and the program has clearly been successful in reaching out to youth.

Recommendation: The goal of this proposal is to help foster better understanding and interaction between youth and police in the Seattle area, by engaging them in active discussions, and providing each of them the opportunity to gain insight into the other's perspective. To accomplish the above objectives, the Youth Police Relations group recommends the implementation of the following:

- Development of two Youth/Police role reversal workshops at a precinct level, and the
- Funding of ten six-month long youth internships

Two Youth/Police Role Reversal Workshops

These workshops would be similar to the doughnut dialogues, and would be held twice a year in each of the five city precincts. They would consist of 20 – 30 youth, and 5 police officers, with a youth facilitator. These forums would consist of a set of introductory questions designed to initiate serious discussion between the youth and police on their mutual interactions, a series of role reversal skits, in which the youth would play the police officers and act out the scenario after the police officers had instructed the youth on how they would act in certain situations, and a final set of follow-up questions, designed to recap the meeting and instill a lasting impression on all present.

Note: Info on donut dialogues (sample agenda, scenarios, questions, evaluation) attached

Ten six-month long youth internships

This proposal calls for the funding of two interns at each precinct, each working for a staggered period of six months for a stipend of $599 for an estimated 80 hours of work. In total, the proposal would fund ten youth internships for the entire year providing one youth intern in each precinct at all times. Each intern would have the following responsibilities:

1) Plan, organize, and facilitate a youth-police forum every six months;

2) Conduct two follow up meetings with the Captain of their assigned precinct and all the School Emphasis Officers within the precinct boundaries;

3) Conducting all outreach to youth-based organizations and other youth who are interested in participating in the program;

** Note: Returning interns, as well as youth who have participated in past workshops, would be given priority when choosing interns **

Pilot Program: As part of our research and to further back up our assumptions, we conducted a pilot role reversal workshop on March 18th. Thirty-five Seattle youth and six Seattle police officers attended the meeting, and filled out evaluations afterwards which measured their experiences. The responses collected showed a couple things: as predicted, the youth all benefited directly from the interactions, but on top of that, the police officers all said the experience was an amazing learning opportunity for them in ways to better engage youth. Moreover, the majority of evaluations collected showed that youth left the workshops with a better opinion of police officers then when they went in. This shows that little by little, the communication gap can by bridged simply by pushing this type of friendly and honest interaction.

It is important to track the success of these programs and these interactions by more than just anecdotal feedback. Youth interns would be responsible for administering and tracking evaluations of the program, and providing regular updates of youth and police opinions.

Implementation: To successfully implement the above recommendations we would propose the following timeline:

- September 2010 – Adoption and Funding of Youth-Police Discussions Forum
- October 2010 – December 2010 - Outreach to youth to get youth internship applicants
- January - June 2011—1st youth interns selected by January, fulfill duties over course of next six months
- July 2011-December 2011 – 2nd youth interns selected by July, fulfill duties over course of next six months

- Budget Implications – The estimated cost of the entire program would be somewhere between $7,790 and $23,040 a year. See attached budget for line by line breakdown
- Population Served – How will Seattle's youth be impacted by this policy proposal/recommendation?
    - They will begin to develop relationships with police, better understand how police interact with youth, gain a better understanding of police tactics and procedure, and develop a better understanding of how they should interact with police
    - Youth will have a constructive outlet for the frustration they may have for police through these discussions
    - Seattle Parks will forge a stronger partnership with Seattle Police through these meetings
    - The internships would also provide valuable job opportunities to at-risk youth, while at the same time giving those youth a beneficial experience interacting with the police in their precinct
- RSJI – How does this action accomplish the goals of the Race and Social Justice Initiative?
    - By addressing one of the problems most prevalent in minority and low-income communities
    - Outreach would also specifically target minority and low-income youth
- Legislation/Council – Is an action required? No legislative action will be required. All

program recommendations would be integrated in the upcoming budget process.

Communications - What is your communication strategy?

- Media – We would work with Seattle Police Department and the Mayor's Office to advertise this program outside of any small-scale advertisement the interns may choose to do
- Community Outreach – Outreach to youth would be a primary responsibility of the youth interns. They would have no specific parameters for outreach, but would be required to have at least 20 youth in attendance at each forum. Suggested methods of outreach would include internet media (i.e. Facebook), and both advertisement and face-to-face interaction with youth at community centers, local schools, and relevant youth programs.

Organization – This program would be housed in the Seattle Police Department working with the Community Police Team. We would also encourage the involvement of the School Emphasis Officers as well as the participating personnel in the Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative.

Attachments: Donut Dialogue Info (sample agenda, intro questions, 5 scenarios, discussion questions, survey from meeting), Youth-Police Survey, Budget

SCENARIOS

Scenario #1 Marijuana: You and your partner drive up on a large gathering of juveniles hanging out at a local basketball court. You find stereos blaring and the smell of a pungent substance in the air. The park closes at 10:00pm and it is now 9:55pm. What do you do?

- *Dealing vs smoking*
- *Marijuana vs other drugs*
- *School Grounds vs public space*
- *Consequences – suspension, housing, college application, job apps, etc.*

Scenario #2 Social VS Terry Stop: You and your partner are driving thru a residential area around 3:00am on a Sunday morning. You observe two youth wearing dark clothing and carrying a large bag. There has been a series of car prowls in the area. What do you do?

- *Social Stop can turn into a Terry Stop and then Arrest*
- *Questions to ask: Am I free to go? Are you detaining us?*
- *Review Obstruction*

Scenario #3 Party Scene: You and your partner are dispatched to a loud party call. Upon arrival, many cars are parked illegally, trash and bottles are everywhere, the music is very loud, and it appears that a party with juveniles is in progress. What do you do?

- *Youth 1 is uncooperative: Detain and transfer to precinct to ID. MIP. False Reporting.*
- *Youth 2 cooperates: Mom and Dad pick up. Cited and released for MIP.*
- *Youth 3 flees the scene gets in a wreck: MIP, DWI, Insurance, Suspended license, charged with vehicular manslaughter/homicide.*
- *Youth 4 is the Homeowner's kid: held responsible for actions of others.*

Scenario #4 Traffic Stop: At 11:00pm on a Friday night, you and your partner observe a car speed through a red light. One passenger is not wearing a seat belt. You pull the car over. What do you do next?

- *Good Stop - License, insurance, cooperative = Ticket or Warning*
- *Bad Stop – No license, no insurance, uncooperative = ?*
- *Seatbelt violation*

Scenario #5 Domestic Violence: You and your partner are dispatched to a disturbance/fight at a local apartment complex. Upon arrival, you hear screaming coming from the unit. No one answers your knocking and announcing. The yelling continues. What do you do?

- *Exigent Circumstances*
- *Mandatory Arrest*
- *No Contact Order*
- *DV covers family members, roommates, friends living together*

DONUT DIALOGUE EVALUATION

March 18th, 2010

1. Did your perception of the Youth community change? Yes No

2. Did your perception of the Police Change? Yes No
3. Were the Role Reversals Informative Yes No
4. Would you participate in another Dialogue? Yes No
5. Did your facilitator keep the Dialogue on task? Yes No
6. What was your favorite part of today?

7. I am : POLICE STUDENT OTHER _____
8. Do you have any comments or suggestions for further Dialogues?

9. Would you like to be a facilitator in another Dialogue? If so please print your name and contact information _____.
10. Would you like to participate in the curriculum writing group? Yes No

If YES please fill out the following:

Name_____

Email_____

Phone_____

SAMPLE AGENDA

March 18th, 2010

Garfield Teen Life Center

3:00-3:10	*check in, table assignments*
3:10-3:15	*introductions/ground rules/kick off*
3:15-3:35	*Small group dialogue questions-everyone answer*
3:35-3:55	*Practice Scenarios in small groups*
3:55-4:30	*Scenario Presentations on front of group*
4:30-4:40	*Small Group Presentation Questions*
4:40-4:50	*Presentation Questions to Big Group*
4:50-5:00	*Evaluations, Wrap Up, PIZZA and Thank You's!!*
5:00-5:15	*Service Hours Signed, Clean Up!!*

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1-What do you hope to gain from today/Why are you here?

2-What is one perception/belief I have about you?
Be Honest, be respectful

3- What is one thing that you do not know about me?
This is intended to possibly dispel the previous perception or belief.

4-What is one thing that would make our contact easier?

PRESENTATION QUESTIONS

Pick one police officer and youth/young adult person to present answers to the following questions to the group.

1- **What are a few things we learned today?**
2- **What are some things we need to continue working on?**
3- **Suggestions for working on these**

Youth Police Relations Survey

Age:
Race/Ethnicity:
Neighborhood:

On a scale of 1-10….. (10 being yes/good, 1 being no/bad)

1. Do you know a lot of police officers?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2. If so, how good is your relationship with them?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

3. How often do you talk to police officers?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

4. Do police officers make you feel uncomfortable?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

5. Do you feel that police officers judge you based on your age?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

6. Do police officers confront you in aggressive ways?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

7. Do police effectively prevent violence, and make your community safer?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

8. Do you feel that youth violence is a problem?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2010 Seattle Youth Commission Police/Youth Relations

Resources Needed:	Amount Requested:	Description:
Personnel:	**$0**	**Seattle Police Department On- Duty Resources**
Overtime:	**$3,750.00**	**1 hour (@ $75 an hour) x 5 officers x 2 events x 5 precincts**
Youth Internship:	**$5,990.00**	**10 Six-Month Youth Internships x $599**
Food:	**$1,800.00**	**$140 x 10 Events, + $20 x 20 advisory council meetings**
Total Budget:	**$7,790,00 – $11,540.00**	