



SUBJ: **RESULTS – NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY**

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DATE: AUGUST 19, 2008

Executive Summary

In July and August 2008, UNCO distributed surveys to constituent NCPC leaders asking them to evaluate the operation and performance of their NCPC. The purpose of the survey was to provide an overview of how the different NCPCs are organized and to help guide what issues UNCO takes on in its inaugural year. The survey asked many of the same questions as a September 2002 evaluation of the NCPCs by Oakland City Auditor, and provides some comparison for changes over the past six years. In all, leaders from 16 NCPCs across Oakland submitted responses.

The results were generally positive. The overwhelming majority of NCPCs reported meeting monthly and felt that their NCPCs were reflective of the diversity in their neighborhood. All but one NCPC reported that Neighborhood Services Coordinators (NSCs) “always” (75%) or “usually” (19%) attended their NCPC meetings. As was found in the 2002 City survey, Problem Solving Officer (PSO) attendance was high but less consistent: three-quarters of NCPCs reported that officers “always” (40%) or “usually” (33%) attended. NCPC attendance averaged around 26 people per meeting, slightly higher than the average of 23 reported in 2002. Attendance was a big concern of NCPC leaders: 80 percent responded that they would be interested in a training on how to boost attendance. After that, NCPC leaders were most interested in a training on closing down problem properties.

NCPCs listed several different beat priorities, the most common being addressing crime generally, targeting drug-use, and reducing blight. The NCPCs also listed diverse accomplishments, from getting a cell phone tower installed to promoting youth involvement in a local festival: the most common accomplishment was shutting down problem properties. As to what role UNCO should play, responses varied but a few NCPCs hoped that UNCO could be a platform for NCPCs to “support each other” and “advocate collectively,” particularly to preserve and strengthen community policing in Oakland.

Results

Survey questions are listed in order in bold. Answers are listed in dark blue and italics, with the number of respondent in parentheses.

Question:

1. **What is the name of your NC/NCPC?** *Varied answers. 16 NCPCs represented.*
2. **What police beat(s) does your NC/NCPC cover?** *Varied answers. 16 NCPCs represented.*
3. **A NSC attends your NC/NCPC meetings:**

Always	<i>75% (12 responses)</i>
Usually	<i>19% (3)</i>
50% of the time	<i>0% (0)</i>
Infrequently	<i>6% (1)</i>
Never	<i>0% (0)</i>
4. **A PSO attends your NC/NCPC meetings**

Always	<i>40% (6 responses)</i>
Usually	<i>33% (5)</i>
50% of the time	<i>13% (2)</i>

- | | |
|--------------|--------|
| Infrequently | 7% (1) |
| Never | 7% (1) |
5. How often does your NC/NCPC meet?
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Weekly or Bi-Weekly | 0% (0 responses) |
| Monthly | 81% (13) |
| Every Other Month | 13% (2) |
| Quarterly | 6% (1) |
| Other | 0% (0) |
6. How often does your Steering Committee meet?
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Weekly or Bi-Weekly | 0% (0 responses) |
| Monthly | 36% (5) |
| Every Other Month | 0% (0) |
| Quarterly | 29% (4) |
| Other | 36% (5) – 2 “as needed”, 2 “do not meet”, 1 unspecified |
7. On average, how many people attend your NC/NCPC meetings: 26 people (12 responses)
8. Do your NC/NCPC meetings reflect the diversity of your neighborhood?
- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| Yes | 79% (11 responses) |
| No | 21% (3) |
9. Which *best* describes how your NCPC meetings are conducted?
- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| #1 NC/NCPC meetings have set presentations then community members ask questions | 63% (10 responses) |
| #2 NC/NCPC meetings are a forum for community members to bring up and discuss issues of concern | 44% (7) |
| #3 NC/NCPC meetings break into sub-groups where community members focus on particular problems | 0% (0) |
| #4 Other: | 6% (1) – 1 “set agenda” |
10. Does your NC/NCPC have a website?
- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| Yes | 20% (3 responses) |
| No | 80% (12) |
11. Does your NC/NCPC have a public listserve?
- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| Yes | 50% (7 responses) |
| No | 50% (7) |
- Note: 9 of 15 responding NCPCs report having either a listserve or a website
12. How many times a year does your NC/NCPC publish a newsletter? *One NCPC publishes 11 annually and another publishes 1. All other NCPCs did not report publishing a newsletter.*
13. Does your NC/NCPC have written By-Laws?
- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| Yes | 93% (14 responses) |
| No | 7% (1) |
14. What is the focus of your NC/NCPC?
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Crime exclusively | 7% (1 response) |
| Crime and quality of life issues | 93% (14) |
15. What are the three priorities of your NCPCs?
- 2X/5X: 1) speeding; doughnuts; damaged vehicles, 2) blight; homes in disrepair, 3) loitering on corners; trespassing on property
 - 6X: 1) Address police matters, 2) improve beat health, 3) improve quality of life in the community
 - 9X: 1) Crime, 2) Development (zoning, new projects), 3) Transportation and recreation
 - 10X: 1) Drugs, 2) prostitution, 3) loitering
 - 10Y: 1) Drug selling on 53rd behind the school, 2) drug selling on 45th and Market
 - 22Y: 1) Crime, 2) safety, 3) schools/youth opportunities

- 24Y: 1) Forming neighborhood watch groups, 2) increasing quality of life through beautification, 3) updating contact information for city of Oakland's programs and services
- 25X: 1) MacArthur Corridor Project, 2) Patterson Ave, 3) MISSY Project
- 26X+Y: 1) Drug selling, 2) crime deterrent (street improvements, lighting, landscaping), 3) prostitution
- 28X: 1) Burglaries, 2) [address], 3) unleashed/aggressive dogs
- 29X: None – because it is working in our beat
- 33X: 1) Crime, 2) Blight, 3) Drugs
- 34X: 1) Drug hot spots, 2) blight, 3) abandoned vehicles
- 35Y: 1) Auto Theft, 2) Illegal Dumping, 3) Prostitution

16. What do you consider your NC/NCPC's greatest accomplishment?

- 2X/5X: Involvement of youth in Black Cowboy's Parade; 20 years of National Night Out marches and block parties
- 9X: Influencing neighborhood-friendly development at Kaiser Hospital
- 10X: Getting median strips and lights on San Pablo
- 10Y: Cleaning up a house of drugs for working girls and parties every night. Broke up another drug house.
- 22Y: Continued growth; speeding abatement on 35th
- 24Y: Mitigating violent crime; cleaning up graffiti; fixing potholes, lights, etc.; implementing beautification projects
- 25X: We have closed down several drug houses; we also have had trouble houses cleaned up.
- 25Y: Getting the city service groups paying attention to our concerns and correcting problems
- 26X+Y: Cars for sale on International Blvd by Neighborhood Law Corps Attorney; National Night Out
- 28X: Day in the park
- 29X: Closure of two liquor stores and a motel
- 30X: Letter writing to District Attorney and Judges in order to assure perpetrators serve complete sentences
- 33X: None
- 34X: Removal of problem properties and drug hotspots
- 35Y: Cell phone tower installed, daffodil plantings, annual newsletter, increasing membership

17. Which trainings might help improve your NC/NCPC? (check all that apply)

Setting up a website	<i>38% (6 responses)</i>
Setting up a listserve	<i>19% (3)</i>
Writing By-Laws	<i>13% (2 responses)</i>
Increasing attendance	<i>81% (13)</i>
Closing problem properties	<i>50% (8 responses)</i>
Writing a newsletter	<i>13% (2)</i>
Running meetings	<i>6% (1)</i>
Other	<i>6% (1) – 1 "problem solving"</i>

18. What would you most like to see an Association of NCPCs address?

- Provide support to each other on what issues we need help with
- Implementation of community policing as defined in the original resolution
- Demise of the NCPCs
- Share best practices, address common problems, and advocate collectively
- Continue to see the NCPCs exist and not disappear
- Promote positive recreational facilities for youth; keep police fully staffed, well-managed, and economical
- Crime and blight.

Methodology and Response

NCPC leaders affiliated with UNCO were e-mailed the attached survey and asked to return it at the July 22, 2008 and August 12, 2008 UNCO meetings. Surveys were also available on-hand at these meetings. Twenty-one NCPC leaders from 16 distinct NCPCs (in five of the six geographic Public Safety Areas) responded. Self-assessments for NCPCs in the following police beats were returned: 2X/5X, 6X, 9X, 10X, 10Y, 22Y, 24Y, 25X, 25Y, 26X/Y, 28X, 29X, 30X, 33X, 34X, and 35Y.

The survey answers in some cases had to be standardized to ensure that the responses could be compiled. A few notes on the methodology:

- Questions that were left blank were not counted in the results of the survey except for question 12 (“How many times a year does your NC/NCPC publish a newsletter?”), where a non-response was counted as zero.
- For question 7 (“On average, how many people attend your NC/NCPC?”), responses that gave a range (e.g. “20-30 people”) were converted into the average of that range (e.g. “20-30” becomes “25”).
- In the few cases where two to three people turned in surveys on the same NCPC and their answers for a question differed, the Chair’s response was used (except in the case of questions 7 and 12 where the responses were averaged).