

**VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Public Safety Ad-Hoc Progress Report**  
**November 20, 2012**

**Field Operations:**

Over the last two-week period, there have been some high-profile criminal cases which have occurred that resulted in the apprehension of some very violent criminal offenders.

On November 11, 2012, a local restaurant and its customers were robbed by four armed suspects who fled in a waiting vehicle. Thanks to several citizens who were willing to get involved, they were able to provide officers who arrived within a minute of the crime with suspect and vehicle information.

As a result of some great police work, and assistance from concerned citizens, all four suspects were located within an hour of the crime, and proceeds and property taken in the robbery were recovered,

As a result of criminal interviews, it was established these same four suspects were also responsible for a string of armed and violent robberies...

On November 15, 2012, Officers of the Vallejo Police Department were dispatched to the area of Hidden Brooke Parkway and Highway 80 regarding a 65 year old woman who had been found duct taped and the apparent victim of a very violent physical assault. She was transported to an area hospital where Detectives spoke with her and determined that she had been kidnapped at gunpoint from in front of a retail business located in the 100 block of Plaza Drive in Vallejo. She was forced to drive to a location within miles of her abduction, where she was assaulted, left unconscious and duct taped in a ditch. The suspect fled in her minivan. Several Citizens noticed the victim in distress and rendered assistance. They summoned police and requested medical aid. They were able to provide information that assisted police in the apprehension of the suspect.

During this period of time, a family member of the victim was contacted via telephone. The caller demanded money in exchange for the victim's return. As the Vallejo Police Department began developing leads in the case, Detectives located the suspect who had returned to the area and was taken into custody without incident. He was found to be in possession of the victim's property, a replica handgun and her vehicle.

The 14 year old male assailant, a Vallejo resident, was processed and later booked into the Solano County Juvenile Hall on multiple charges related to the assaults, attempted murder, carjacking, armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom.

These are just two examples of some excellent police work by all involved, and successful collaboration by concerned citizens who were willing to get involved and help us apprehend some very violent people.

### **Crime Suppression Unit:**

The Vallejo Police Department Crime Suppression Unit has been working with a neighborhood watch group in the area of the 700 block of Laurel St regarding a suspected drug house. After conducting an investigation detectives sought and obtained a search warrant for the target address. On 11-08-12 Detectives from General Investigations and CSU served the search warrant. One person was arrested and the following items were recovered: approx. one pound of marijuana for sale and a loaded handgun. Additionally, a child endangerment case was generated. One other suspect from the address remains outstanding and Detectives are actively attempting to locate and arrest him. Detective are working with the property owner as they are in the process of evicting the problem subjects.

Officer Jason Scott has continued working on his prostitution program by contacting, arresting, and developing information related to additional criminal activity in various areas of Vallejo. He has also conducted training segments with uniformed personnel in relation to who various prostitutes are, and what areas of Vallejo each frequent.

### **VPD Evidence Section:**

Chief Kreins requested for an independent audit of our police evidence section which revealed that we were in total compliance of state mandated laws related to evidence retention and preservation. The results of the audit were very positive and although it established evidence section personnel were understaffed, they were very competent with regard to State and POST requirements. Additional improvements were suggested designed to enhance and/or improve upon our overall operation and service to the community.

### **TRAFFIC UNIT:**

Officer Mike Nichelini, who is the Vice President of the Municipal Motorcycle Officers of California which is a non profit organization that promotes traffic and bicycle safety to children I recently visited several Vallejo classrooms to talk about safety and distributed coloring books and crayons that were provided by the MMOC. Officer Nichelini continues to work with the children of our educating them about traffic safety which I am certain will result in very positive outcomes for our children.

**Special Recognition:**

The Vallejo Police Department would like to recognize and thank Ms. Earnestine Lawson who prepared food and deserts for officers and brought it to the PD. This was an incredibly nice gesture appreciated by all.

Ms. Lawson has been working with various city department in hopes of establishing a memorial park up in the Country Club Crest that would honor Officer Jim Capoot.

**Organizational Improvements:**

1. We reorganized the department and put a Lieutenant back in charge of the Professional Standards Division, including oversight of Internal Affairs. We combined the current Training Manager (Sgt.) with Internal Affairs Investigations to specifically link training to the oversight process. We established a new position for community outreach by transferring a Sergeant into Professional Standards to provide a link to community outreach on a variety of levels.
2. We established a new Protocol for dealing with families of individuals who have been impacted by Officer-Involved Incidents. This outreach includes reference information and the use of our Chaplains to provide counseling services.
3. We have provided copies of our Citizen Complaint Forms in our front Lobby at the PD so that Citizens can easily access the forms without having to speak to a staff member. These forms have also been provided at City Hall in the City Manager's Office. The Complaint forms are also available and easy to locate on our Website, and the forms have also been translated into Spanish.
4. We brought in a Federal Facilitator from the Federal Department of Justice Community Relations/Mediation Services Division to work with us in establishing community/neighborhood meetings to more effectively communicate with the community about our PD services including information about the Citizen Complaint process.
5. We have upgraded our Website and Social Media services in an effort to provide enhanced communication to the community.
6. We have held Press Conferences to provide detailed information about a variety of criminal incidents, again in an effort to reach out to the community and provide timely information about serious criminal incidents that occur in Vallejo.
7. We are actively participating with the City Manager to provide timely information to the community about positive services and events within the Vallejo Police

Department that is now shared in the City-wide newsletter and the City Manager's (new) bi-monthly newsletter.

8. In an on-going effort to provide department information to the community, we continue to hold Citizen Academy Classes and recently graduated our 14th Citizen's Academy Class.
9. We have initiated a transition to completely revise our Department Policy Manual/General Orders by contracting with "Lexipol" to establish a new and contemporary Department Policy Manual.
10. We have initiated a completely revised "Use of Force" tracking policy to more effectively document and track use of force by our officers.
11. We have completed the deployment of Seventy (70) V-View Cameras to our entire Field Operations Division including all Patrol Officers, Investigators, Traffic Unit and Crime Suppression Unit.
12. We continue to move forward with our research to purchase and install new Mobile Data Computers that will be integrated with in-car (dash-mounted) digital cameras linked to our emergency equipment.
13. Training - Our next Training Cycle will include updated training on Cultural Awareness and Police/Community Relations.

### **Calls For Service (CFS)**

Over the last two weeks, uniformed officers responded to 2, 196 Calls for Service. These calls resulted in 128 arrest of criminal offenders.

Over this same period, officers have recovered 21 Firearms.

- 15 Handguns
- 1 Assault Rifle
- 2 Shotguns
- 3 rifles

If you have information related to criminal activity or information about a known suspect and want to report that anonymously, you can contact the Crime Stoppers Hot-line and leave a message. **That number is 644-7867...you do not need to leave your name...**