

Restore Rundberg Community Meeting
December 11, 2014, 7 p.m.
Jaime Padron Elementary, 2011 W. Rundberg Lane

Restore Rundberg Team Attendees present:

Robert Perez, Jr., Cary Roberts, Roberto Martinez, Michael Willard, Rick Randall, Ann Teich, Brian Almon, Linda Powers, Margaret Valenti, Patricia Zavala, Dr. Mary Jo Hernandez, Lieutenant Allen McClure

Cmdr. Baker—Introduction

Recognized how much has changed with the Restore Rundberg program in over a year.
Roberto Perez—Thank you from APD for your service with the Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team; we wouldn't be here today if you all weren't helping us. Thank you for your commitment and your leadership.

Certificates of appreciation presented to:

Dr. Mary Jo Hernandez
Michael Willard
Roberto Martinez
Brian Almon
Linda Powers (new certificate to be printed—was printed under last name 'Krueger')
Ann Teich
Margaret Valenti
Cary Roberts
Pastor Rick Randall
Patricia Zavala
Erica and Don Shepard absent

Comments from Cmdr. Baker: Chief sends his appreciation for the good work throughout the Department and the City. On behalf of APD and Chief Acevedo, thank you very much.

Sgt. Bazzle, Officer White, Austin Police Department—PowerPoint Presentation

Year-to-date brief analysis of APD's efforts for Restore Rundberg project

- Passed out community fliers (tri-fold) including a map and information about hot spots
- Community care – healthcare; passed out information about healthcare in the area
- Victim assistance – as a result of a lot of family violence calls in the area, we wanted to get the word out about APD services and who to contact for help
- Yard Parking
- Team Meetings – Ofc. White and Ofc. Kianes started Tuesday Meetings and have attended neighborhood association meetings

- Rundberg Apartment Coalition – purpose is to meet with owners and management of various apartments that encompass the Rundberg area; since the area has high violent crime we wanted to reach out and make contact with residents and management. We wanted to start a dialog to ask how we as a police department can better serve this community. This has been extended to the Rutland area.

Question – Where do you see this program being extended to?

Answer: The Lamar area has a lot of sister properties that suffer from crime; also areas east of I-35. There has been interest in expanding the program there as well.

- Partnership with schools: There are 5 schools in between Lamar and Cameron. These schools are beginning to incorporate a student government. Kids are starting to document what they see as problematic in their neighborhoods and are reporting those things so that APD can allocate resources to solve those problems.
- Mentoring – APD is involved with elementary, middle and high schools.
 - Elementary: one-on-one basis
 - Middle schools: leadership program with small groups
 - High schools: partner with Boys and Girls Club (larger groups)
- Group of individuals who grew up in this neighborhood are now trying to give back through volunteering their time to clean up the area and reduce crime. In the future they will partner with the University of Texas School of Social Work
- Running Man – project that was done last year. He has become a local celebrity at Lamar/Rundberg. In solidarity, a group of individuals walked with him through the Rundberg area.
- Initially APD participated in a lot of initiatives and direct patrols of the area to combat crime. This didn't seem to solve anything long-term. As a result, a walking beat was established. Three are performed per week: one is grant-funded while the other two are done on regular time. Officers are making more contact with citizens and are being seen in the area.
- Clean-ups – APD has been doing cleanups the last Saturday of every month. We have stopped temporarily during the wintertime.
- Partnership with Public Works – APD has partnered with the Public Works Department in an effort to improve traffic safety and beautify the area. PWD has improved medians and restriped pavement in certain areas.

Dr. David Springer, The University of Texas—PowerPoint Presentation

One of the overarching goals for the grant was to reduce the proportion of crime in the city of Austin taking place in Rundberg by 1%. The proportion of crime taking place in the Rundberg area is just over 12%. From 2012 – 2014, Rundberg accounted for 12.4% of violent crime in the city; since we've deployed the walking beat in April, that's been reduced by .58% so we're more than halfway to the grant goal thus far.

- Over time, 2012 to date, there have been spikes of crime. July/Aug 2014 - high spike.
- Dove Springs statistics are near what's happening citywide.
- Violent crimes that accounted for the greatest proportion of violent crime for the Rundberg area include: (Top 3) aggravated assault, aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, and robbery by assault.
- Aggravated assault and aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon have both trended downward.
- Taking population growth into account - if crime was accelerating at the same rate as population growth - 2.25% growth (2013); 2.7% growth (2013-2014) - robbery by assault is the only one accelerating at a pace with citywide population growth. It trends up in 2013 and then levels off and holds steady from 2013-2014.

Sum: We're doing better at reducing and preventing crime than one would expect given the population growth in the area.

- Violent crime by hot spots - I 35 & Rundberg is the most resistant to change thus far. Mobile walking beat began April 2014 and seems to be a deterrent for violent crime across all three hot spots.
- Property crime - most common property crimes are auto theft, burglary of vehicles (BOVs), burglary of residence, and theft. The two property crimes we seem to be making the most progress on are theft and burglary of residence. Auto theft and BOV's seem to be resistant to change thus far.
- 26% of thefts taking place in the Rundberg area were taking place at the Norwood Center.
- Property crimes by hot spot - Hot spot 1 (I 35 & Rundberg) is again the most resistant to change.

Dr. Paula Yuma, The University of Texas, Discussing Community Survey:

Preliminary survey findings that were collected over the last 2 months:

- Collected 123 surveys (71% in Spanish) by going door to door in each of the hot spots.
- Also surveyed 114 individuals at community events - only 8% of those in Spanish.
- 98 online surveys, all in English
- In the future, surveys will be translated into additional languages.
- Survey scales: how satisfied are people with police officers, how well do they feel their needs are being met, how well the community is organized to take action, neighborhood attachment (how well people like living in their neighborhood), perceived safety, social cohesion (how much you share values with and trust your neighbors).
- The mobile walking beat has had a significant impact on survey responders' perception of safety and how satisfied individuals are with their neighborhoods.

- One of the questions from the survey was about the top 3 problems of the neighborhood. Some of the answers were crime, drugs, traffic.

Takeaways (Dr. Springer) - mobile walking beat has had an impact on crime but Hot Spot 1 (Rundberg and I 35) has been pretty resistant to change thus far. We think there is room for more community engagement efforts, clean-ups, etc.

Areas in which the mobile walking beat was deployed have lower percentages of neighborhood attachment and efficacy rates but higher percentages of positive perception of the police. That reflects positively on the efforts of the officers of the mobile walking beat.

We're seeing movement in the right direction for violent crime.

Officer White – discussed common themes we've seen for violent crimes. In 44% of violent crimes in Hot Spot 1, a theme of homelessness has been observed. Drugs, prostitution, and mental health are some other common themes.

Caitlin D'alton (Capital Metro) & Hailey Hale (Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services) spoke about a public health grant opportunity. The proposal will target ways to improve physical activity, smoking cessation and access to healthy foods within the Rundberg area. **Margaret (Planning & Development Review Department)** read grant's overview explaining more information. A letter of support was requested.

Vote - all in favor for grant proposal.

Brian Almon made the motion.

Rick Randall seconded the motion.

Approve minutes for last 2 meetings. Postpone the Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team vote to avoid rushing through it.

Motion made by Rick Randall. Brian Almon seconded.

Approval of meeting minutes:

October correction - Ann's name has an 'e' on the end. There shouldn't be an 'e.'

November - comments under priority 7 - Cary Roberts speaking, does not understand the vague statements and would like those changed.

Motion to approve minutes. Seconded.

Question regarding Restore Rundberg Team representation since one member submitted a resignation.

Answer: The designee will continue to serve as a representative in the interim.

8:38 p.m. motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Next meeting January 8, 2014.