

## DMC Community Mapping Report For the South East Sector

### Introduction:

This report is a representation of the Southeast Sector, better Bayview Hunter's Point District of San Francisco and will pinpoint finding as to the youth's perspective of pros and cons in their neighborhood. This community is made up of predominately African American residents, which include a significant number of Low to No income families. This report is Phase 1 of a community-mapping project. This project will report critical findings that pose problems for youth, their families and the community as a whole.

The Bayview Hunters Point (BVHP) mapping project is a component of the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Work Group (DMC). This report has been constructed to educate and provide critical information on the problematic issues, which exist in this community and may assist DMC.

BVHP is a community full of rundown houses, apartment buildings, and San Francisco Housing Authority Public Housing Project Developments that have a significant number of disadvantaged youth, drug dealers, drug users, abandoned vehicles, not to mention homeless person and litter that fill the streets. This community is not remembered for anything that is really positive, but it is remembered by it's residents and neighboring residents, but majority for it's street violence, turf wars, drug activity and other conflicts.

There are may small Black owned businesses, including Bayview Newspaper, New West Business forms, Mozzel's Soul Food Restaurant, and host of liquor and convenient stores, and the Three major banks that are on Third Street, Bank of America and US Bank (3<sup>rd</sup> and Quesada) and Union Bank of California located in the Bayview Plaza, the do not offer a significant amount of employment to the people of the community.

The high cost of living in San Francisco causes most of the people in the community to stay in those living situations and to raise generations of families stuck in the realms of the Ghetto.

Although drugs and various other problems exist, Truancy is both the cause and effect of youth on youth violence here in San Francisco. Studies and Surveys have shown that the fear on the route to school is a major factor in truancy issues. The following are particularly problematic:

**Muni Busses and Bus Stops:** Routes are 44, 15, 54, and 24: on busses and bus stops there is a significant amount of fights, robberies, and drug usage.

**Parks:** Drug sales, drug use, and truant loitering were found in parks near schools.

**Small Businesses:** Shops near High schools tend to have problem with large groups of loitering after school children and shoplifting.

Crime violence and drugs are a major issue in BVHP; for these are the reasons that 56% of the youth that are in the juvenile system from San Francisco, are African American and out of that percentile 23% are from the 94124 region (BVHP). And according to the Pulse Check 2004 for San Francisco Ca, many violent criminal acts are associated with drug sales and drug usage including and not limited to, homicides, turf wars, and violent assaults. Most gang related and violent criminal activities are associated with drug usage and drug sales. The main drugs that are associated with these types of activities are Heroin, Crack Cocaine, Powder Cocaine, Marijuana, Methamphetamines, Ecstasy, and Diverted OxyContin.

### **Report Findings:**

The United States Center for Disease Control has defined youth valence as an epidemic and promoted epidemiological approach toward the occurrence of the violence at the community level. This framework for examining youth requires systematic examination of the environmental ecological, and structural conditions of specific places where the youth violence is found to occur at disproportionately high rates. It has been found that youth violence as other types of social problems can be environmentally controlled if key factors that foster the "Disease" are given attention.

Studies show that youth are most likely to encounter violence as victims or as the aggressor during the hours immediately before and after school. The environmental conditions within the neighborhoods in which the children live, as well as the one that have to travel to school may contribute to the violent behavior.

Additional research has found that communities with high collective social efficiencies generally experience lower community violence rates and lower level of physical and social disorder.

San Francisco Police incident reports show that juvenile violence is most frequent in the late afternoon and is highly concentrated along the transit corridors that are used by the youth to and from school. Statistics show that children that are involved in artistic programs music and Hip-Hop work shops often stay out of trouble more than youth that are not involved with any type of program. Corporations are constantly turning down youth for employment and financial help. These are some the answers as to why these youth take to the

streets. These youth are dying in all the ghettos of America before they can start their adult lives.

A lot of the children see their mother and/or father on drugs and that is a major factor in effects of low self esteem, no morals, or values, and their well-being. And also when the father is absent from the home, and the mother is on drugs, and the other family members that are capable to not intervene, who can these youth depend on?

Schools are only designed to keep children from 8am-3pm and only supplying them with knowledge from the text books, free food, but when schools are let out and if you are not involved in any type of after school or sports programs the children are left to roam the streets.

There are a lot of programs in San Francisco that youth may go to but once the center is closed the youth have to return to a community that is filled with drugs, murderers, thugs and various people that are patrolling the streets more than the police. A lot of the youth cannot participate in these programs due to the fact that they are in a rival territory. In BVHP youth are up against tremendous amounts of pressure to join or affiliate with the thugs in the territory that you live in. And once they do they will no longer be able to travel freely among the streets again unless they are accompanied by other peers that they are affiliated with.

As we toured the neighborhood, we witnessed a lot of negative that could easily be made into positives. Such as tree planting and the installation of the Islands in the West Point housing projects. We also saw a lot of gates and Barbwire, which made the children feel unsafe, and closed in., also the many liquor stores that are in BVHP. We were happy to see the new bus stops and freshly painted building. As we passed by the gyms and the youth centers at 10am we did not see 1 child utilizing them. They seemed to be closed.

### **Innovations:**

- 1) Babysitting registry that draws from young people in the community so young parents can have childcare and others can have employment.
- 2) Youth Ventures: start businesses and stores
- 3) Start youth leagues
  - a) Tournaments
  - b) Girls/Young Women's softball team
  - c) Bowling
  - d) Basketball
- 4) Amnesty day: Cover up all the street signs. Make it a day that no one is claiming to be from any particular street or corner.
- 5) Boxing Rings: Set up big boxing rings in the middle of the "hood" for people to have a fair fight and guns will not be used.

- 6) Teen Clubs and Clinics: Make it safe and replicate the youth Space Model, secured by the police or the Muslims
- 7) "Cool Police": Have officers who understand the neighborhood and don't have to make a show of force to get results.

## **Summary**

We have found that the youth would like to see their communities cleaner and safer. Free of drugs and violence that would allow them to safely travel to and from school. They would also like to see programs with people that help them and not just give them a place to play, they would like counselors and youth employment, and real people that will help in the fight to clean up their streets and making them safe.

## **My Observations by Garry Bieringer**

- 1) Very passionate discussion about why the murders of some community members have not created the same response as the murders of the police officer. The youth definitely feel the contradiction of this especially in discussing the argument about the death penalty. Several youth asked, "Why aren't all these other murders being investigated?"
- 2) Several youth also mentioned that lots of people just want to get out of here because they are scared and tired of what's going on.
- 3) During the orientation session the previous Saturday there were two comments that were worth noting.
  - a) When Antoine asked, "what would you like to change about your community?" One girl instantly shouted, "Put a big magnet on top of the community!" Everyone immediately knew it was to pull all of the guns out.
  - b) Another young man made a comment "You have a better of being killed on 3<sup>rd</sup> street then you do riding crazy on a motorcycle."
- 4) One of my observations as I was driving the group was drug and dangerous corner stores that the youth were pointing out.

**Vacant Lots:** Hudson and Innes, Revere and Jennings

**Schools:** Gloria Davis Jr. High, Malcolm X Academy, George Washington Carver Elementary, Muslim school, and Burnett School

**Parks and Gyms:** Joe lee Rec Center, Youngblood Coleman Playground, Milton Meyer Rec Center, Hunters Point Community youth Center (Middle Point and Innes), Sundial Park on Newcomb, Baseball field on Reardon and Kiska, Bayview Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Swimming pool.

**Stores:** Golden eagle on Revere, Kirkwood store, McKinnon Store, Stores on Newcomb, Super Save on LaSalle, Osas on Palou, Quesada store, and Lee's corner store.

**Churches:** St. Johns, Providence Baptist Church, First Church,

**Youth Foundations:** BVHP Foundation, Hunters Point Family Center, Bayview Safe Haven, Empowerment Center, HP Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, YCD chocolate City

**Historical landmarks:** Opera House Performing arts

**Businesses:** Bank of America, US Bank, Bayview Barber College, Metro PCS Store, KFC, Muslim Bakery, Check Cashing, and The 3<sup>rd</sup> street light rail.