Crime Prevention Review
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Contents

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice and Resource Constraints</td>
<td>57417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phencyclidine Hydrochloride: The Challenge to Medicine and Law Enforcement</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton Police Department’s “Senior Citizen Assistance Program”</td>
<td>57418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing School Racial and Ethnic Conflict</td>
<td>57419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Based Crime Prevention Project</td>
<td>57420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: A Compendium of Resources and Programs in California</td>
<td>57421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Training Seminars and Conferences</td>
<td>57422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The CRIME PREVENTION REVIEW is a professional forum for the Criminal Justice System in California designed to provide discussion of varied concepts and issues of crime prevention and useful resources for the practitioner in the field.

The Attorney General's office does not necessarily endorse opinions set forth in signed contributions or the listed training programs and resources.

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week at the police facility. Our department chose Tuesday as "class day" with classes running from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. We then set about publicizing this innovative program to the public.

**Program announcement to the public**

Once the planning stages of the program had been completed, it was necessary to generate interest among the local senior citizens. Press releases were prepared for distribution to the news media. Although this had some impact, it was not until the program coordinator visited various nutrition sites around the city and county that interest in the program became evident. Fliers were sent to all of the senior community centers advising them that this program was being offered by the Stockton Police Department. Soon local interest increased and approximately thirty seniors were signed up for the first class held in February 1978. Subsequent sessions were easily filled which may probably be attributed to "word of mouth" publicity from previous participants.

**Course signup**

Interested seniors were encouraged to contact the Community Relations/ Crime Prevention Section by phone. To confirm their acceptance into the upcoming classes, a form letter was sent to each participant advising them of the class day, hours, location, etc. Due to our classroom limitations, each course attendance was limited to under 50 persons.

**Transportation to and from class site**

The Stockton Police Department provides transportation to and from the classes when necessary. Community Service Officers who are assigned to the Neighborhood Police Substations are utilized for this purpose. Community Service Officers are non-sworn, uniformed personnel who assist the department in patrol activity and the taking of reports. This transportation assignment became part of their normal duties and allows some seniors to attend who would otherwise not have been afforded the opportunity. Consideration has been given to holding the program at the local senior citizen centers but has not materialized as yet.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**First Week—Introduction to the Criminal Justice System**

The first class of the program begins with a welcome from the chief of police. The attendees are told what will be covered in the coming weeks and the objectives of the program. A class schedule is provided to each participant which also includes an introductory letter from the chief of police. The first instructor is the sergeant who supervises two of our neighborhood police substations. He outlines the role of the police officer, specifically the beat officer. Most citizens, including seniors, have a somewhat distorted picture of the police due to television exposure, etc. Many times, citizens do not understand why police are unable to catch each offender when their TV heroes "always get their man." It is hoped that through this first class, the seniors will be able to relate better to the police should a need for contact
If for example, a sergeant from our Detective Division addresses the group, they may visualize how each division or section interacts. This provides a better understanding of the different responsibilities of each division and may assist the senior in contacting the correct division or section when calling the police department.

**Second Week—Personal Safety/Tour of the Police Facility**

During the first hour of this class, the sergeant of the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Section covers self-defense for seniors and different techniques that can be used should they be confronted by an attacker. Self-defense techniques are de-emphasized as the senior could be seriously injured discussing common-sense prevention. More time is spent discussing home security with sash-type windows or placing less expensive ways of securing the home. Charlie bars and window locks are introduced through the seniors’ Neighborhood Watch program. This is another program offered to local senior citizens. It consists of organizing groups of 15-20 neighbors and then providing them with a Neighborhood Watch meeting is conducted. This has been a bonus, as several Neighborhood Watch groups have been established due to interest generated through the seniors program.

During the second hour of this class, another crime prevention officer is on hand to discuss locking devices. Commercial products such as deadbolts, less expensive ways of securing their homes which include pinning hinges and sash-type windows or placing devices in the track of their sliding doors or windows. The seniors realize they can upgrade their home security without involving a major expenditure.

**Fourth Week—Fraud and Bunco/Consumer Fraud**

This class is divided between “Fraud and Bunco” and “Consumer Fraud.” A sergeant from our Detective Division addresses the group on the different fraud and bunco schemes that may be perpetrated on the senior citizen.
informative and entertaining to class participants.

Eighth Week—Review/Graduation
The eighth class of the program is a review and graduation. Class is held at the department's pistol range and training facility. The day begins with each graduate receiving a rating sheet and asked to evaluate the course instructors. In order to receive candid opinions, they need not sign their names to the sheet. After the evaluations are completed, graduation ceremonies are held. Each graduate receives a Certificate of Completion presented by the chief of police. They are also given a lapel pin bearing the logo of the program and a group photo of the class. A movie is shown followed by demonstrations of the Pistol Team, K-9 Corps, and S.W.A.T. team. Graduation day is topped off by a pot luck luncheon.

PROGRAM MAINTENANCE
The advantages to this type of program are many. The program is easy to maintain once classes have begun. No cost is involved to arrange for speakers as all are either police officers or work for service agencies that allow them to participate in the normal course of their duties. All classes are held in an area set aside for this purpose by the police department. No fee is charged for any of the classes except for the mace training and then this fee is the standard charge divided between the state and community college which provides the instructor.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS
As with any crime prevention program, effectiveness is difficult to measure. Although we are unaware of any situation in which a senior has used his training to ward off an attacker or prevent a burglary, we do feel this program is of benefit to them. They are provided with information that they might otherwise not have had access to, nor known whom to contact. While we do not have tables or graphs to measure effectiveness, we do feel that if we have prevented one senior from being a crime victim, we have been 100% successful.

If you are considering implementing a program of this nature or desire further information, either write or phone the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Section, Stockton Police Department, 22 East Market Street, Stockton, CA 95202, (209) 944-8208. We will be happy to assist you in any way possible.