

Summary of December 16th SE Emergency Community Meeting on Surge in Gun Violence:

Organized and hosted by the South End Forum together with United South End Settlements and co-sponsored by Tenant's Development Corporation, IBA (Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion), and city officials.

In Attendance: Boston Police Commissioner Evans, Superintendent-in-chief Gross, Supt. O'Rourke and Command staff from the Youth Violence Task Force as well as D-4 representatives including Captain Ivens, Sgt. Taxter, detectives, gang unit officers, youth outreach professionals, City Councilors, and State Representatives.

Immediate Problem:

- . Recent increase in gun violence between gang members; age range is teenage to early 40s.
- . Older gang members, newly released from jail or prison, are returning to settle scores.
- . Major concentration of gang activity near Villa Victoria environs and O'Day Playground at night.
- . Most gang members are known to D-4 officers and many have been arrested several times.
- . Police frustration with judges who often refuse to incarcerate even if there's a record of 3 arrests; they give low bails and issue electronic bracelets. Arrested at night, out next day.
- . Gang members know how to "work" the court system better than their defense lawyers.
- . Social media is facilitating gang collaboration.

Solution: Community Involvement:

- . Commissioner Evans stated "we cannot arrest our way out of the gang problem."
- . Be a part of the solution by providing support to keep gang members in school, creating jobs, providing family counseling and mentoring.
- . Become a Big Brother/Sister as most of these kids are good kids in need of direction/structure.
- . Volunteer at youth programs offered by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, IBA, South End Community Health Center and others.
- . Become a part of a "Friends of the O'Day Playground" to decrease gang activity in the park and encourage a sense of ownership of the park by the abutting neighborhood.
- . Encourage homeowners to install exterior lighting and cameras as a deterrent.
- . In emergency, "In emergency, call 911; if dissatisfied with response, use 311 app or call 311; 311 doesn't not prioritize calls.
- . For general concerns, contact Sgt. Lucas Taxter, D-4 Community Service Officer at lucas.taxter@pd.boston.gov or 617-343-4250.
- . To keep up on issues and BPD news follow Sgt. Taxter on Twitter at @Lucas Taxter.
- . Attend D4 Safety Meeting held on last Monday of the month at D-4.

Solution: Police Action:

- . A two man permanent post was assigned to patrol O'Day Playground in aftermath of fatality.
- . Officers on bikes have been increased to four until January 1st after which their effectiveness and need will be assessed. They will cover W. Dedham and W. Newton, Tremont and alleys.
- . Increase the number of cameras in "hot spots" tied into BPD (17 in place at VV, 8 new)
- . Encourage expansion of the Mayor's "Operation Exit" which trains at risk men and women in the building trades and expedites them getting union jobs.
- . Increase the number of Street Workers who are trained to mediate gang conflict assigned to D-4.

South End Crime Statistics: Commissioner Evans

- . Statistics indicate all "Part 1" crimes continue to decrease, but recent increase in gun violence is a key concern. Gang units, detectives, undercover units will be focused on SE hotspots.
- . Stats are available at www.bpdnews.com/district-d-4.
- . A small number of persons are responsible for the violence and most are well known to BPD.

