

Oakland Police Department: Criminal Investigation Division

Student's Name:

Institution:

Introduction

Oakland police Department Agency

The Oakland Police Department (OPD) is a civilian agency that is responsible of law enforcement and policing the city of Oakland that has about 400,000 residents. The Oakland Police Department mission is making the surrounding crime free and for ensuring that Oakland people can operate free from any danger of attack. The department ensures that its services are of high quality by providing them in customer friendly and community desirable manner.

The department was formed in 1853 and has very controversial record. Oakland which is a tough city to police has been depicted to be at the top with high levels of gangs, violent crimes, drugs and other crimes record. Oakland police department had been under the oversight of federal Bureau of investigations for alleged gross misconduct. This dates back to 2003 incident of the Riders Scandal whereby the Plaintiffs alleged being mistreated by four officers and that the Oakland police department gave a blind eye to incidence (Crime Laboratories, 2002).

Oakland Police Department: Criminal Investigation Division (CID).

The division serves as the formal branch of the Police Department and is divided into five sections that are assigned specific duties that contribute to whole assignment of the Oakland Police Department. Officers assign to CID probe criminal cases and respond to civilian complain and also answer to crime scenes. Officers of the division carryout interviews and lawful searches to collect evidence to help in establishing the occurrence of illegal act after a complaint has been made. FBI statistics indicate that there are about 12 robberies each day and rapes, assaults and murders are on the increase making Oakland the crime hot spot.

Last year (2012) saw the crime rate rise with firearm robberies soar by almost 50% and this attracted the official in Oakland to draft a legislation which is at the desk of the governor to allow the city to establish its own licensing and firearm registration program.

The sections in CID include;

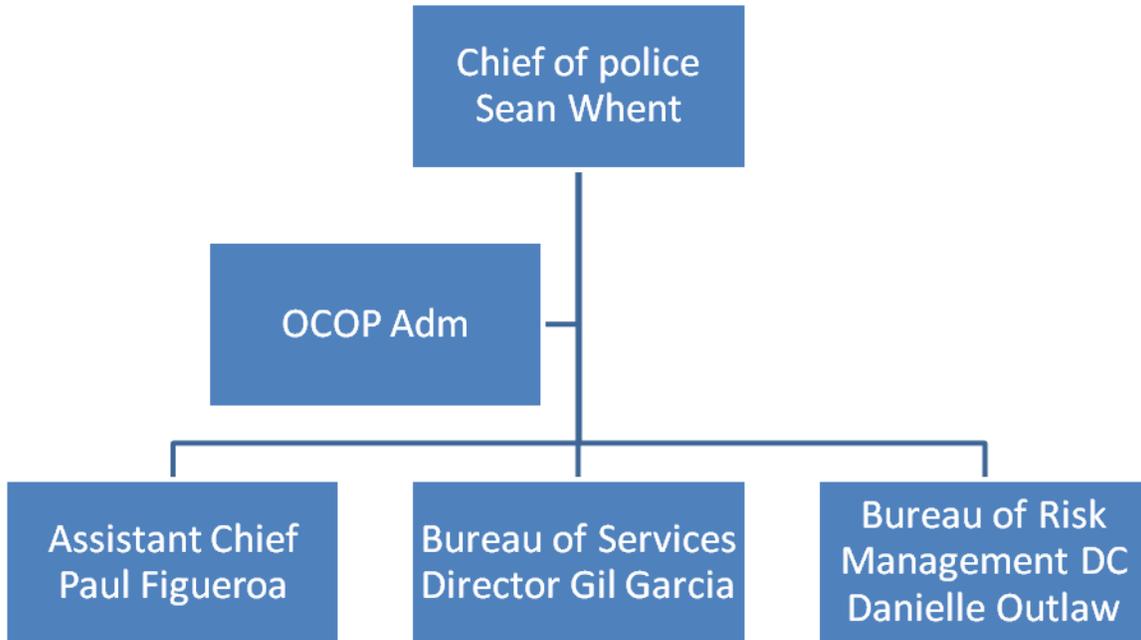
- Homicide section which include gang/gun intervention task force (GITF)
- Robbery and Assault Sections
- Theft section which include Theft and Field Support Unit.
- Major Crimes Section 1 and 2.
- Field Support Unit (FSS) that deals with Arson, Fugitive Recovery Unit, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) United States Marshals (USM), Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force DEATF), Weapons Charging Unit among others.

Methodology

The data discussed and analyzed was sourced from different quotas within and out the Department of Police and Criminal Investigation Division using different methods of Data collection. Large quantity that was analyzed was collected from secondary sources which included the annual Report, charts and budgets of the Investigation Division. In addition, both face to face, written through email and telephone conversation interviews were conducted to garner enough data to used to ascertain the manner in which the agency and the Division and sub division there in conduct their activities (Service Providers: A Report to Congress, May 2004).

The data obtained was presented in form of table and charts and discussed thereafter to provide clear picture of the Division and sub divisions therein and there operations.

Organizational chart of the Oakland Police Department



CID Staffing Before 28 Apr 12:

CID Authorized vs. Actual Staffing After 28 Apr 12

	Authorized	Actual	Vacancies	Vacancies
Classification	Number	Number	+/-	Percentage
Lieutenant of Police	5	4	1	20%
PST II	9	9	2	29%
Overall Total	14	13	3	

CID Staffing After 28 Apr 12:**CID Authorized vs. Actual Staffing After 28 Apr 12**

	Authorized	Actual	Vacancies	Vacancies
Classification	Number	Number	+/-	Percentage
Lieutenant of Police	5	3	2	40%
PST II	9	7	2	29%
Overall Total	14	10	4	

The tables extracted from the 2012 Criminal Investigation Division Annual Report indicate that the ability of the Department to conduct its follow-up investigations was impacted negatively due to staffing limitations. Staffing levels have declined

MAJOR CRIMES SECTION I (MCS 1) HOMICIDE**Staffing:**

In the year 2012, the Homicide section was eliminated paving way for establishment of the Major Crimes Scene which is under the Homicide Commander with a the Homicide Investigator who is responsible for probing homicides, in-custody deaths, unexplained deaths and cases of shooting. The homicide section was effectively changed into the Major Crimes Scene investigation response protocol. The team has been practically efficient by prioritizing and working on cases that have been solved and cases that draw media attention thus being a contributor to overall role of the Police Department.

2012 Homicide Statistical Information

Homicides	131
In-Custody Deaths	0
Officer – Involved Shootings (Fatal)	1
Attempted Murder Investigations	7
Assault Deadly Weapon Investigation	847
Suspicious and/or Unexplained Death Cases Reviewed	602
Homicide Cases Solved from Prior Years	15
2012 Homicide Cases Solved and Prosecuted	37

The staff members that were interviewed during the study comprised of Lieutenant of Police, Sergeant of Police, Police Officer, Administration Analyst II and Administration Assistant. From the statistics obtained it was evident that Major Crime Scene section stands committed to the Police Department and Oakland people to prevent crimes and bring justice violence victims. The team has taken steps to engage groups by holding consultative meeting with communities through outreach programmes and supporting the members of murder victims. The staffing constraint was noted to deter the efficiency of the investigation team (Fainaru, 2011).

The Robbery/Assault section has a role to investigate crimes referred by citizens, Patrol Division and merchants and links with external law enforcement agencies to exchange information and identify trends. From the 2012 report, it was noted that tee section attended

above 600 hours of investigative/tactical training whereby every administrator attended at least one school.

Field Support Unit (FSU) is sub-unit in the Field Support Section (FSS) that plays wide roles to include drug and weapon cases, and is in charge for transporting warrant suspects from outside jurisdiction in Oakland. Almost all operations in line with enforcement in Oakland federal agencies are coordinated by FSS.

Theft Unit

The Unit conducts investigations on a broad range of property cases. This involves vandalism, embezzlement, forgery, auto theft, residential auto burglaries and commercial, identity theft, court order violations among others. In 2011, cases being reported through the online system increased in number. The Theft Unit handled about 700 online cases each month and redirected the matter to concerned investigative unit for further actions. The Unit plays a role as the coplogic administrator of the system.

Family Services and Family Infestations Sections comprise a number of sub-sections that deal with administrations of justice in matters of family affairs. The Youth and Family Services (YFS) provide efficient and professional interventions and investigations services for youths and family based victim. YFS provide superb services to citizens especially children in Oakland in trying to make better the quality of life through carrying out comprehensive probing the victimizing (Harris, & Bender, 2010). Other sub sections include the Family Service Section and the Family Investigation Section all committed to monitoring and investigating violation within the family level.

Other performance Data 2012

During the year 2012, there was excessive complaint from the public and use of force by the CID members that led to several CID members being put under Active supervisory. A detailed trend of performance of a member was conducted to ascertain substandard or native performance. Moreover, the summary included options about what members could have done to minimize complains related to use on force and recognize deviancies in training. The aim was also to establish whether the supervisory issues influenced the complaints or use of force b the team.

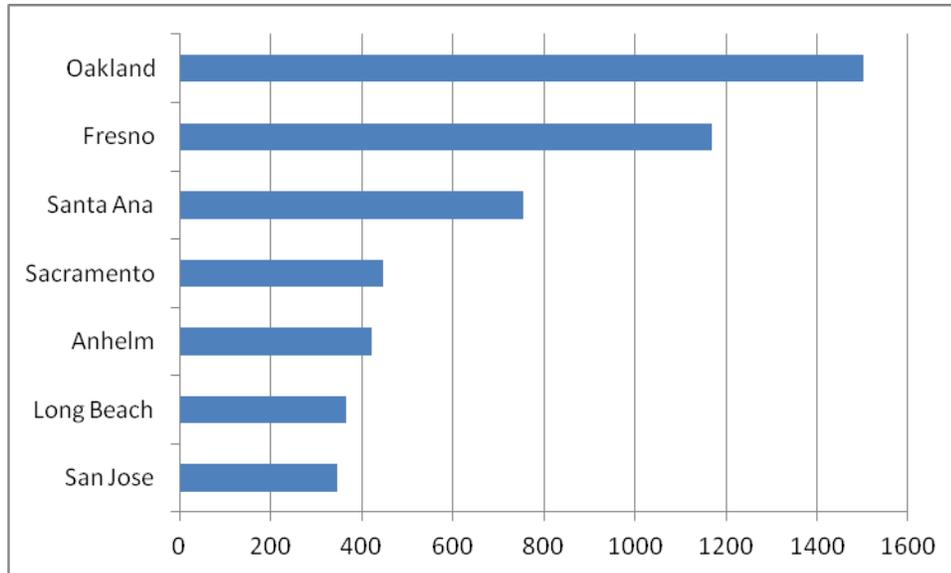
State of the Unit

- Excellence in teamwork on major investigations.
- Dynamic personnel.
- The staff is highly motivated.
- Rules and regulations followed.
- Challenges of Staffing were persistent.

Expectations, plans and Goals for CID

In 2012, I plan and expect to accomplish the following:

- maintain full compliance with the NSA (Negotiated Settlement Agreement)
- Need to Increase the clearance rate for criminal investigations;
- Establish one colorful Homicide Section in the city by reorganizing CID;
- Improve job satisfaction of officers, professional staff, supervisors and commanders;
- Plan and organize more formal and informal educative opportunities for CID personnel.

Oakland Police Department**Graph showing Demand for Police Service****Figure 1 property Crimes Per Property Crime Investigator in 2009**

From the Chart obtained from the Office of Chief of Police Oakland Police Department Strategic Plan on the Demand for Police Services by the community its evident that Oakland city has the highest demand of police services as compared to other towns in California (Artz, M and Kurthi, 2012).

OPD is being faced by a significant constraint of limited staffing that has resulted due to increased crime rates that demand equal services from police. The workload of meeting the safety expectations and demands of citizen is a major challenge. The Department has seen its number of police officers dwindle by 25% in the last 5 years (Harry, 2012).

There is need from the public and staff to institutionalize the NASA reforms to guarantee fair and reasonable practices from the Department. Expanding oversight, accountability,

partnership, and relationship with the community is the strategic objective by the Oakland Police Department.

Community Policing Policy

The efforts by the OPD Community Policing were driven by duties played by Problem Solving Officers (PSO) who were eliminated due current decrease in staffing levels and layoffs. The staff is strategizing on developing up to date plan on the implementation of community policing policy in the City, Community and Department. The transition from unit based to wide departmental approach will be steered by Community Policing Manual. Training in community policing and skills in solving problems on all OPD staff will be conducted and key concepts will be incorporated into evaluating performance, recruitment and promotions (Liz, 2003).

Budget

The Oakland Police department received \$ 19.6 million from U.S. Department of Justice of Community Oriented Policing Services in form of grants for new hire. Reported by Lee Romney, the Department will be granted \$ 4.5 million from the federal award soon to fund a total number of 10 officers to supplement new recruits in the next three years.

Summary

The Department will continue making efforts to make Oakland city a safe zone through continuous fight against crime and violence. The Department will strive to provide services of high quality in positive and respectful approach. The available resources will be optimized for the provision highest public safety level to the community. The Department is doing its best and is getting the necessary support despite the challenge to enforce law in the city. OPD is

strategizing on the adoption Community Policing that is collaborative to restore the trust of the residents.

The criminal Investigation Division is endeavored at ensuring that the quality of life for the people of Oakland is improved by conducting comprehensive investigation for the victims and those who victimize. The Division comprise of sub divisions that facilitate effective operation of the whole division.

Conclusion

In conclusion Oakland police Department is facing critical challenge that mainly arise from limited staff which has resulted from budget cuts which has seen the department shrink from 836 officer in 2008 to current number of 614 officers in report by Lee Romney (September, 2013) . Nevertheless, steps have been taken to re equip and re-energize the police force through establishment and expansion of police academy to carry out more recruits and in supplementing. The federal award has promised taken a major step through granting fund totaling \$405 million to support 10 additional officers in the next three years. This is the latest campaign to rekindle the Department of Police to turn the number of officers in the city around. The CID personnel is being equipped Marjory through regular training for them to offer professional and efficient services to citizens.

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