

Sgt. Alex Turcotte,  
Officer Scott Farnsworth  
Citrus Heights Police Department

**GOODBYE SAYONARA**

# Citrus Heights, CA

- Incorporated as a city in 1997
- Population: 88,000
- Police services originally contracted with Sacramento Sheriff's Department
- Citrus Heights Police Department began 2006
- CHPD POP Unit started 2007

# Citrus Heights Police Department

- 80 sworn
- 130 police employees
- 3 POP officers
- 3 Code enforcement officers
- 4 Special Investigation Detectives
- 6 Traffic officers

# Sayonara Dr



# 3 Blocks

- ③ 3 blocks long, *all* multi-family housing
- ③ 32 times the number of calls for service than the *entire* city when the Citrus Heights Police took over
- ③ Open air drug markets, shootings, stabbings, numerous felonies in progress
- ③ Gangland
  - Various gang members made this their home

# Early City Efforts

- ⦿ Mayor Bill Hughes pushes for development of Property Owners Association
- ⦿ Community workshops conducted
- ⦿ Social service providers met with officials to offer their resources
- ⦿ Housing/Redevelopment offers assistance
- ⦿ Property owners encouraged to engage in management control including:
  - CC&R
  - Rental agreements

# Citizen Concerns

- Overall dilapidated appearance of neighborhood
- Inadequate street lighting
- Traffic violations
- Code Enforcement issues
- Overcrowding and Housing issues
- Unsafe for children to play in neighborhood

# City Goals

- Improve overall appearance of the neighborhood
- Increase lighting in the area
- Traffic calming measures
- High impact enforcement of state laws, muni codes, building codes, and nuisance abatement
- Creation of a city park in the area.

# Citrus Height's Vision of Sayonara Dr



*The future of Sayonara Drive, artist rendition*

# Previous Strategies

- Sacramento Sheriff's Department responded with High Impact patrols and zero tolerance enforcement
- Their results were temporary and cyclical
- No lasting impact

# Citrus Heights Police Department



# Citrus Heights Police Department

- 2006, Chief Christopher Boyd and his department are sworn in and immediately take over policing the city
- The department adopted Community Policing as a corporate philosophy
- Sayonara Dr is in the top three priorities for the department
- Special Investigations Unit is formed to focus on gangs, drugs, and Sayonara project

SCAN

# POP Is Introduced

- By 2007, it was clear the department needed a dedicated unit to deal with quality of life issues
- Chief Boyd creates Citrus Heights Police Department's first Problem Oriented Policing (POP) unit
- Sayonara project became top priority of this unit

**ANALYSIS**

# Information Gathering

- ⦿ POP Officers reviewed case history, field contacts, and began door to door contacts with residents
- ⦿ Identified actual residents of the street
  - Tenants vs. Visitors
- ⦿ Talked to Property Owners/Management companies to educate them on abatement, premise liability
- ⦿ Worked closely with SIU, Traffic, and Code Enforcement for information sharing and enforcement strategies

# Community Survey

- POP collaborated with local community members and a neighborhood church to produce an area survey
- The survey focused on quality of life concerns in the neighborhood
- The questions covered topics including: Safety concerns, Police response, housing issues, and social services
- These questions were analyzed to assist with the development of further strategies

# Neighborhood Survey

Raising Community Awareness

**YOUR  
OPINION  
COUNTS**

Youth Activities

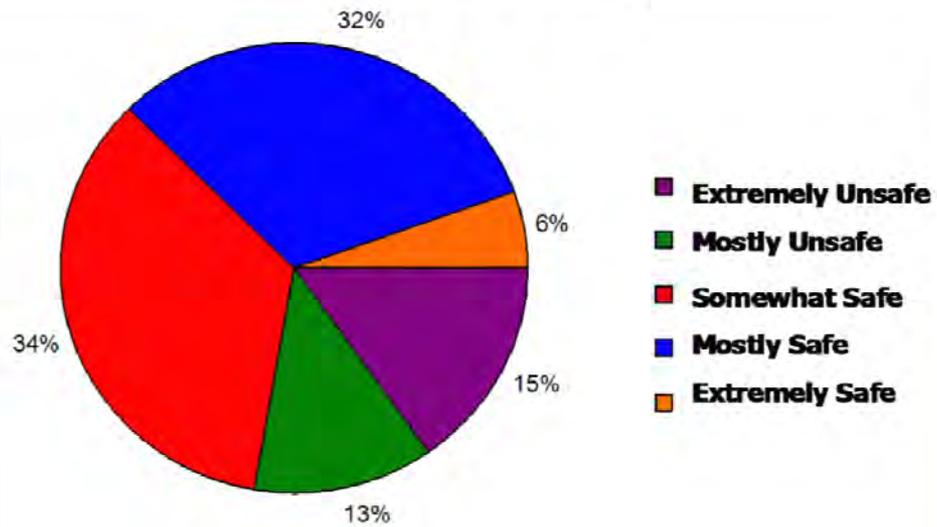
Crime Reduction

Adult Community  
Services

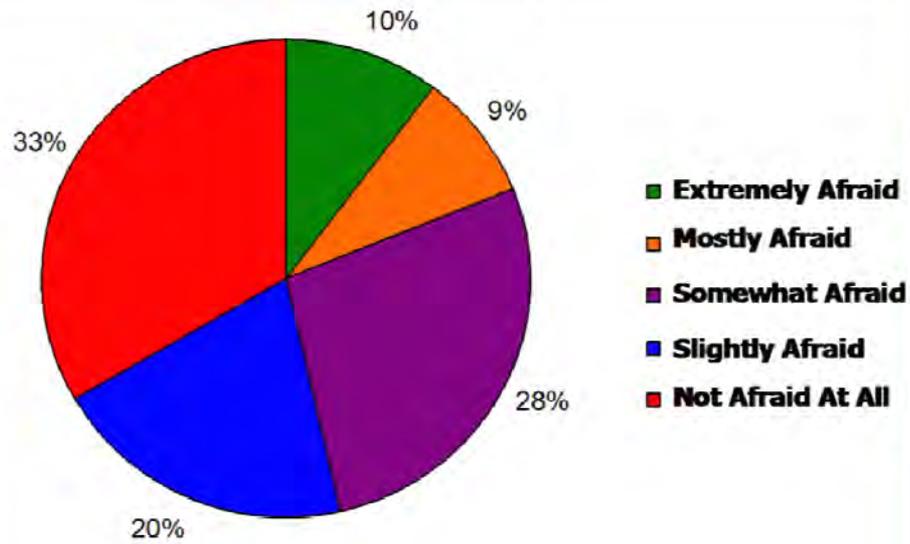
- Traffic Calming
- Cleaner Streets
- Neighborhood Watch
- Recreational Areas
- Improved Safety
- Police Response
- Landscaping
- Improved Housing

→ **What Matters Most to You!**

### 1. How safe do you feel living on Sayonara Drive?



2. How fearful are you of becoming a victim of crime?



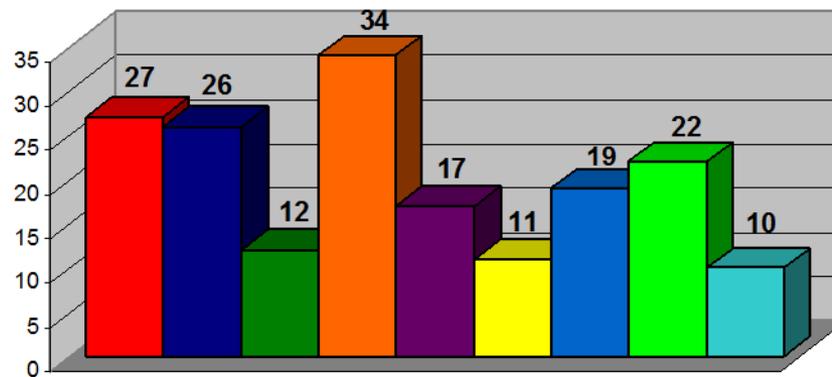
4. What do you feel the Police Department should do to improve their effectiveness in your neighborhood?

Top Five Responses:

- Extra Patrol
- Gang Suppression
- Faster Response Time
- Constant Surveillance
- Children Safety



5. What is your primary concern regarding criminal activity in your neighborhood?



- |                  |                 |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ■ Drug Use       | ■ Drug Sales    | ■ Auto Theft |
| ■ Gang Activity  | ■ Vandalism     | ■ Graffiti   |
| ■ Violent Crimes | ■ Home Burglary | ■ Other      |

7. What Problem would you like to see solved first in your neighborhood?

Top Five Responses:

- Gangs
- Drugs
- Child Safety
- Traffic
- Street Clean-up



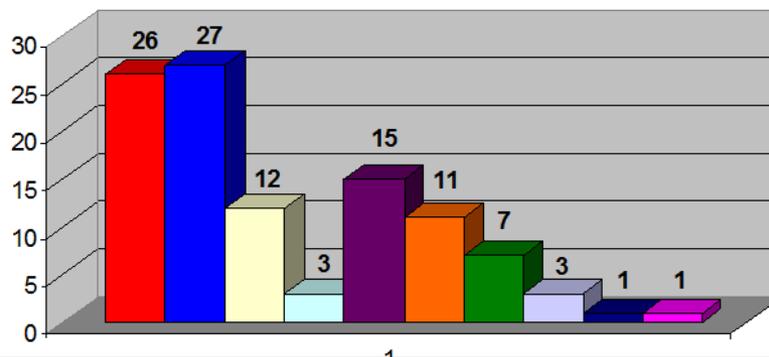
## 2. Renter or Owner?

- Out of 47 responses
- 98% are renters
- 2% owner-occupied



**FOR  
RENT**

4. Do you have concerns regarding the exterior of the building where you live?



- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Yes                     | ■ No                   |
| ■ Neglected Landscaping   | ■ Unsafe Stairways     |
| ■ Lack of Play Area       | ■ Unkempt Appearance   |
| ■ Lack of Lighting        | ■ Garbage Pile-up      |
| ■ Bee and Ant Infestation | ■ Gutters Falling Down |

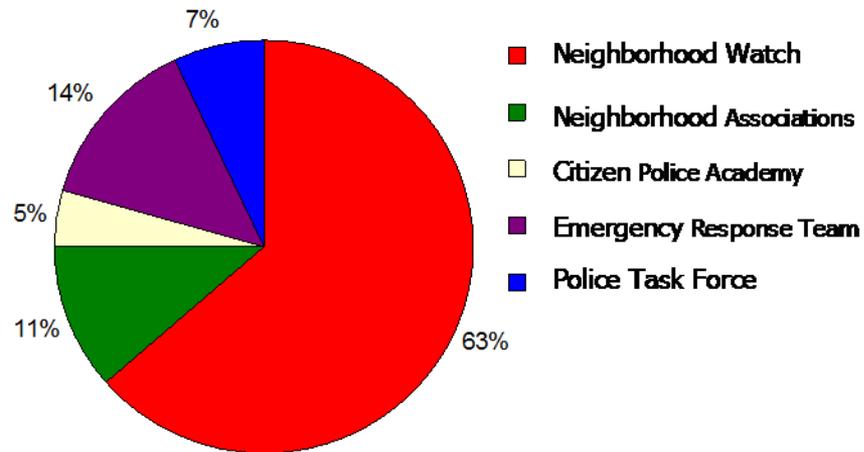
7. What do you feel the City could do to help improve the condition of housing on Sayonara Dr?

Top Five Responses:

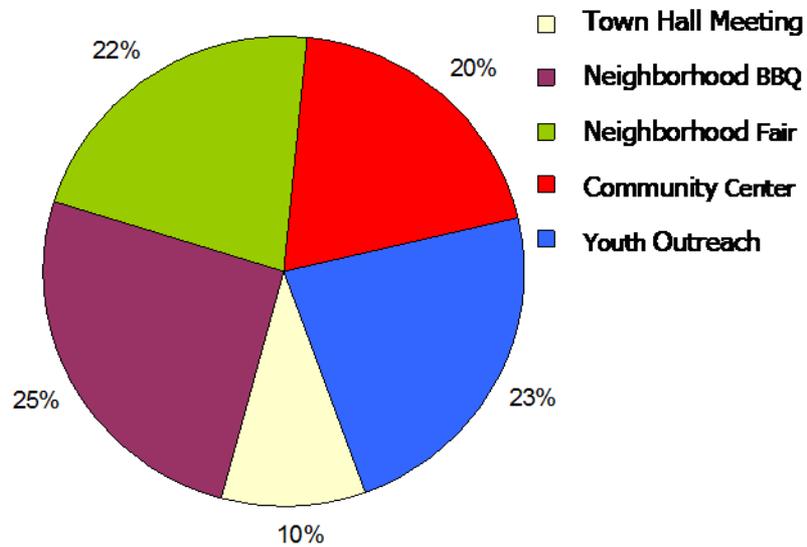
- Playground
- Landlord Accountability
- Police Substation/Surveillance
- Housing Issues
- NEP notifications



1. Would you be willing to participate in any of the following?



2. Would you be willing to work with Police and City Staff on any of the following?



**RESPONSE**

# City

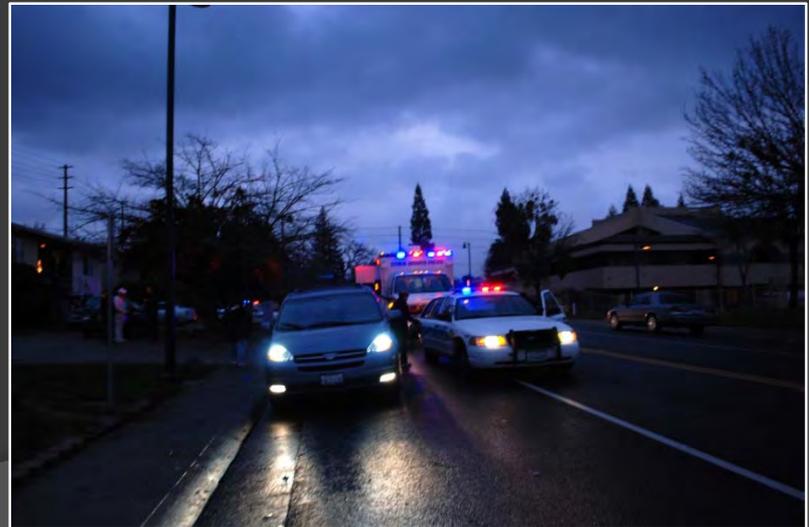
- Applied for and received \$1 Million Federal grants for street improvement
- Street Lights were installed
- Rubberized Asphalt and Textured crosswalks were laid
- Bulb-Outs and Stop Signs were installed
- Code Enforcement activity increased
- Community Development began seeking funding for new park

# City

- Community Development began seeking funding for new park
- City holds a meeting with neighborhood children to design the park.
- Interdepartmental meetings

# Police

- TOPPS programs
- Probation and parole searches
- Undercover narcotic investigations
- High impact proactive patrols



# POP Unit

- Helped form the area's first neighborhood watch program
- Conduit of information from community members to SIU/ Patrol
- Collaborated with Code Enforcement/ Fair Housing regarding land lord tenant issues
- Accountability/ mediation meetings with absentee landlords
  - Found that landlords were afraid
  - Emphasis on abatement
- Established a strong partnership with after school community center staff and children.

# Community Groups

- Neighborhood Watch
- Active 20/30 club
- Salvation Army
- Sayonara Community Center



# ASSESSMENT

# Project Impact

- ◎ FY07-08 compared to FY 09-10
- ◎ Crime Trending down
  - Assaults -57%
  - Calls for service -74%
  - Disturbances -70%
  - Domestic violence -64%
  - Rape -50%
  - Stolen vehicles -33%
  - Thefts -71%
  - Vehicle accidents +20%
- ◎ Residents report feeling safer and more willing to seek police assistance
- ◎ Increased sense of community ownership

The positive side to economic downturn

**“THE KICKER”**

# Redevelopment

- 2008, the city council allocates \$1.78 million to purchase properties on Sayonara
- To date, 15 properties were purchased
- Properties with the most severe building violations were demolished  
● Properties with the most severe building violations were relocated



# Moving Forward

- The POP unit maintains a strong presence on the street and with the community
- The target date for construction of the new park is Spring 2011
- The city is partnering with developers and groups like Habitat for Humanity to rebuild the street in a fashion that improves aesthetics and promotes pride of ownership
- The city will likely change the name of the street as it moves forward to leave the “Sayonara” stigma in the past

So, Goodbye Sayonara. Hello...

Farnsworth Dr.

Turcotte Ln.

# Thank You



**Sgt Alex Turcotte**  
**6315 Fountain Square Dr.**  
**Citrus Heights, CA 95610**  
**916-727-5575**  
**[aturcotte@citrusheights.net](mailto:aturcotte@citrusheights.net)**

**Officer Scott Farnsworth**  
**6315 Fountain Square Dr.**  
**Citrus Heights, CA 95610**  
**916-727-5575**  
**[sfarnsworth@citrusheights.net](mailto:sfarnsworth@citrusheights.net)**