



VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Why this issue is important

- Last year, there were 98 homicides in San Francisco.¹
- In 2005, there were 1,256 juvenile felony arrests of youth in San Francisco. The vast majority of these arrests were for males ages 13 to 17.²
- For every 1,000 San Francisco children, there were 47 reports of child abuse in 2006.³
- San Francisco had 5,086 domestic violence calls for assistance in 2006.⁴

"Kids are shooting each other outside my window – that is real. I'm a part of SFOP because together we are can take a stand on finding solutions to stop the violence."

Ana B. Gutierrez, SFOP Leader and Board Member

Background

Community violence is a serious problem for all San Franciscans. SFOP leaders know firsthand the fear that neighbors feel when they shop, go out at night to attend meetings, or take the bus. Across San Francisco, there is pain and anger when young people in our communities are gunned down.

SFOP has worked on solutions at three levels:

- Preventing violence through improved workforce development and job opportunities for young people.
- Calling for community policing strategies.
- Increasing immediate public safety through heightened security on MUNI lines.

Avenues of Hope

The "Avenues of Hope" campaign includes proposals for juvenile justice reform, a "small schools by design" education initiative, and the creation of pathways to jobs in the new economy. SFOP launched this citywide campaign in 2005 to address the renewed violence by increasing resources and accountability for job training and placement for youth aged 14-30. Since then, SFOP has won: \$2 million in new funding for workforce development programs; 300 additional jobs for youth coming out of Juvenile Hall; an audit of workforce development funding that exposed a dysfunctional and wasteful system; and legislation to streamline the City's different workforce development programs into a more aligned and effective system.

City and State Officials also agreed to the following proposals:

- Find funding for juvenile justice reform for the County of San Francisco, so that youth have access to job training and educational programs.
- Sponsoring an employment summit with key SF businesses to create summer jobs for youth in 2006.
- Implementing CityBuild and replicate it with new industries including digital media, biotech, and clean technology.

- Creating an annual public report card that documents progress of local hiring and keeps our communities informed.
- Community involvement in Superintendent selection process.
- Take “small schools by design off closure list, including Aim High Academy, June Jordan School for Equity, and Sanchez Elementary.
- Create a policy that supports the development of “small schools by design” and gives them autonomy to be successful.
- Pass legislation to provide health coverage for all California children.
- Stop cuts to Medicaid that would leave up to 1.5 million children without health insurance.

“As faith leaders, we acknowledge our responsibility to our youth but we cannot do it alone, we need the city and the business community to work together for our young people.”

Pastor Calvin Jones, Providence Baptist Church

Measurable results

- ✓ \$2 million in new funding for workforce development programs
- ✓ 300 additional jobs for youth coming out of Juvenile Hall
- ✓ \$2 million in state funds to put cameras on unsafe MUNI lines, reducing violent incidents on the 15 Mission line by 85%.

SFOP Violence Prevention Timeline

2005

“Avenues of Hope” campaign is launched, increasing resources and accountability for job training and placement for youth aged 14-30.

1999

High school students at Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) organized to win support from Mayor Brown and \$2 million in state funds to put cameras on unsafe MUNI lines. As a result of this pilot project, violent incidents on the 15 Mission line dropped by 85%.

1998

The SFOP leaders at Corpus Christi Catholic Church saw the need for a youth center in their district and worked to see their vision realized. The Center opened in the fall of 1998 and serves approximately 950 youth from the Excelsior District.

¹ Office of City Attorney Dennis Herrera, “News Release: Herrera Criticizes Adachi Proposal to Prioritize Gangs Over Victims, Vulnerable for City Services.”

²⁻⁴ Kidsdata.org



SFOP is an affiliate of the **PICO National Network** representing one million families from over 1,000 congregations nationwide.