

Group Presentation Notes
Safety Focus Group: January 10, 2009

Group 1:

- Corner of 26th & Connecticut, 48 and 19 Bus Stop creates traffic congestion
- Wisconsin & 25th- no lights or windows facing the intersection—dark at night
- Texas, Turner Terrace, Watchman Way- All one way - drug traffic accessible
- Southern Heights- youth- criminal activity

Group 2:

- Waking paths- dark, lights turned off or broken- maintenance/safety issue
- Connecticut Street is dangerous between 23rd and 25th
- Watchman Way- Feels safer because the community watches out for one another
- #48 & 19 Bus stops- loiterers, homeless
- Cut-through's and walking paths- dark, no lighting
- All transition areas from dense areas to open space feel vacant/foreboding
- 26th to Connecticut- fast traffic-no eyes on the street on Caesar Chavez side
- Housing is freeway accessible- easy to get in and out with oversight
- Turner Terrace: safe because it's a cul-de-sac; population also includes a large number of seniors who know, and watch out for, one another.
- Connecticut: No street lighting; buildings aren't lit; lots of loitering.
- Watchman Way: cars are left stripped near the park; vehicles do "donuts" in this area.
- Dakota to Watchman: it's a dark, windy, narrow street, leading to a dead end; feels very unsafe.
- 25th Street: Cars and people hold up traffic (double parking). From 25th to Deharo there are no houses facing the street. Muggings reported here.
- 26th Street: downhill street; no stop sign; dangerous speeds.
- Dakota- mid-block: drug dealing; no street lighting; building orientation doesn't allow surveillance of activity.
- Missouri to Turner Terrace: desolate and uninviting.
- General comments:
 - Edges of the entire Potrero development starkly contrast with surrounding neighborhood.
 - Park edges are too densely forested, providing an escape path and places for criminals to hide.
 - There's no meeting space; no where for all members of the community to interact.

- Parkview Heights: Flat streets; units face the street; streets are narrow and intimate; people know each other.
- Watchman cul-de-sac: People know each other; feels safe.
- Neighborhood House and businesses along 20th street viewed as community assets.

Group 3:

- Map should extend to show larger Potrero neighborhood
- Bad intersection at Caesar Chavez and Missouri
- 280 overpass at 18th over freeway- homeless, loitering, and robberies
- Light industrial areas along 280 vacant at night
- Connecticut changed to one-way to help with traffic, did not help.
- Carolina island b/w 22nd & 23rd- overgrown vegetation, dark, prostitution
- Safe places on the hill- Starr King, Rec. Center, Neighborhood House, (other school)
- Arkansas, 22nd, Connecticut, play ground feels safer because in close proximity to these places
- dogs off leashes near the Rec. center are a hazard
- 25th & Parkview Heights- Overgrown trees
- New condos on Missouri Street after Sierra- robberies
- 25th is the only East-West thoroughfare, only one way out of the housing
- 26th – both directions, buses + cars speeding, no stop at intersection
- lots of parked cars, people walking across middle of street, opening car doors
- unsafe at Missouri + Watchman, buses, fast cars-
- safe cul-de-sac end of Watchman because folks watch out for each other
- Connecticut- shootings
- Turner Terrace shootings-
- Turf, drug selling
- Proximity to freeway entrance- chases on freeway lead to here- outside lead people into dead ends and trap them there.
- Outsiders coming in, people they don't know
- Residents look out for one another
- People that live in the neighborhood are not causing the problem.
- Folks taking BART from Oakland/ Richmond to Potrero to sell drugs
- Perceives all of Terrace + Annex as being unsafe
- Streets along bus routes
- Packs of kids ~14 years old
- Getting off bus, rough + tough
- Throw trash, beat up trees
- Kids ride empty garbage cans down hill.

- 19 Polk – folks get off around Southern Heights
- Playground used to be more dangerous – cleaned up, still wouldn't go there at night.
- 53 Southern Heights – Aggressive teens harass bus driver or others on bus. Important to keep bus service.
- North side of Potrero
- Dakota feels safe- good vantage point
- 25th + Wisconsin feels safe
- Unsafe on 25th West- dark, no windows on street
- Too many dog walkers at park on top, leave a mess
- Inhibits others using space

Group 4:

- Lighting, dead end streets are bad, wide intersections are bad
- Through-streets are better- should be wide enough for busses but narrow enough to prevent double parking
- CalTrain Station on Pennsylvania- feels unsafe, dark entrance under the underpass, feels like a trap
- Texas Street to Turner Terrace-- not connected, isolated, not well lit, people burn cars/other night activities
- Stairs between Dakota to Connecticut are unsafe, overgrown, hidden, narrow
- Stairs along 22nd from Carolina to Arkansas also dark and overgrown
- Water tower where the 48 drops off – poor lighting
- 25th between Wisconsin and DeHaro; no houses face the street; not great lighting; no activity
- Park area/open space behind Starr King- looks neglected, not an observable space, promotes drug activity, "lacks positive use"
- In general, housing is isolated, not connected back to the neighborhood
- “Good Areas” homeowners between 20th-22nd, Wisconsin, Carolina, DeHaro, Rhode Island- more activity, more of a neighborhood vibe; more lighting, people and movement; more amenities, a library, mix of uses and commercial areas
- Programs are needed- neighborhood watch, NERT, health dept.'s grief counseling, resources and contacts for these programs should be made more available.

Ideas to Move Forward with:

- Create a development where parents and children feel safe and develop socially
- Optimize and maximize integration of development with greater community
- Develop most problematic areas first
- Create a true neighborhood- integration, social and educational opportunities, pedestrian and vehicular access.
- Development should include: mixed-use, small businesses, a church or something to encourage positive community gathering spaces
- Building a strong collaborative with children
- Integrate schools into our community- our children attend our schools
- Areas that cannot be integrated (Cliffside) prevent access
- Don't ignore the landscape