

NEWS FROM

OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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BEAT HEALTH UNIT WINS THE 2003 HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD

Oakland, Ca--Chief Richard Word was pleased to announce that Officer Brad Gardiner and the Oakland Police Department Beat Health Unit have won the prestigious 2003 Herman Goldstein Award, presented by the Police Executive Research Forum. The Goldstein Award recognizes outstanding police officers and police agencies both in the United States and around the world that engage in innovative and effective problem-solving efforts and achieve measurable success in reducing specific crime, disorder, and public safety problems.

The Oakland Police Department's award-winning project exemplifies Problem Oriented Policing (POP) at its very best. The project that received the award involved a "POP" project that has abated the nuisance activity associated with a local motel that is part of an international chain. Problems at the motel, included prostitution, drug dealing, assaults, room rentals to minors, illegal auto repair on the property, public urination, round the clock disturbances, inordinate calls for service, and numerous arrests. The calls for service at this property averaged 217 per year prior to the project. Thanks to the tenacity, creativity, and innovation demonstrated by Oakland Police Officer Gardiner and the City of Oakland Beat Health Unit, which had taken the investigation to an international level in their efforts to solve this motel problem – one year after completion of the POP project there was only 1 call for service at the motel location.

Since its inception in 1988, the Beat Health Unit has abated crime, civil disorder and nuisance activities associated with more than 3,000 properties. However, this case stands out, as in the conclusion of the POP project, the motel chain put up a \$250,000 two-year bond to guarantee that the and civil disorder and nuisance would be controlled by the motel chain management. The motel chain also reimbursed the City of Oakland the \$35,000 in costs it incurred in pursuing resolution of the problems.

Officer Gardiner coordinated the entire project, enlisting the help, advice and assistance of his supervisor Sergeant Bob Crawford and the rest of the Beat Health team.

For more information, please contact OPD's Beat Health Unit Supervisor Sergeant Robert Crawford at (510) 777-8638.

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