



# COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

## 2022 Annual Report





## Overview

On April 1, 2022, the City of Portland's Community Safety Division (CSD) will celebrate its one-year anniversary. In its first year the division:

- Developed a **work plan** outlining four action areas:
  - **Build alternative emergency service models**
  - **Send the right responder to the call**
  - **Align governance structure with goals**
  - **Reduce the need for public safety response**
- Worked with partners to implement City Council's **Gun Violence Reduction Ordinance**, including the development of a **Community Safety Plan**.
- Launched the **Police Accountability Commission (PAC)** to develop Portland's new Police Oversight Board, which was overwhelmingly passed by voters in 2020.
- Expanded from one Community Safety Transition Director to **form a division** including a PAC Analyst, Business Services Manager, Strategic Projects Manager, and Communications and Policy staff on loan from other offices. CSD will be welcoming a Focused Intervention Team Community Oversight Group (FIT/COG) analyst on April 5 and has four additional positions currently under recruitment.

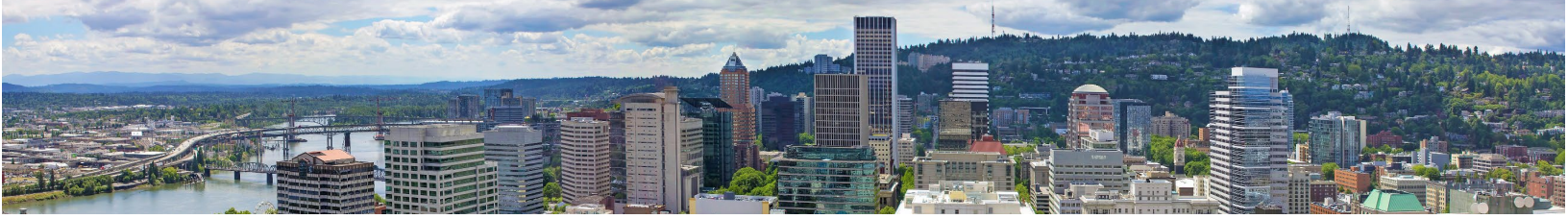
## Build Alternative Emergency Service Models

- Community Safety Division worked alongside Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) to support the expansion of **Portland Street Response (PSR)**, which assists people experiencing non-life threatening mental and behavioral health issues. PSR went citywide on March 28, 2022.
- PSR is part of PF&R's new Community Health Division, which also launched **Community Health Assess & Treat (CHAT) Teams** in October 2021, in a partnership with CareOregon to respond to low acuity medical calls for service.
- CSD is working with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) to expand its **Public Safety Support Specialist (PS3) program**. PS3s provide support to PPB's sworn members in non-emergency, non-priority situations, engage in community outreach with the public, and offer a visible, community-based police support function to enhance PPB's service to the public.

## Send the Right Responder to the Call

- CSD will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in Summer 2022 for a **Public Safety Service Provider Call Allocation and Staffing Study**. This study will conduct a holistic assessment of the types of calls dispatched to public safety service providers, and the number and type of public safety providers needed to respond to the different types of calls. CSD expects to award this contract in August 2022 and the study should be completed in Fall 2023.





- CSD supported the Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) in rolling out a **new call triage system** in 2021 and supports the **expansion of the 3-1-1 program** to undertake more non-emergency line calls currently handled by BOEC call takers. The 3-1-1 program is requesting funds in the FY22-23 budget to hire additional staff to expand its hours of operation.

## Align Governance Structure with Goals

- For the first time, this year's Budget Work Sessions for Council included a **Community Safety Work Session led by CSD**. CSD collaborated with PPB, PF&R, BOEC, the Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM), the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), 3-1-1, Parks & Recreation, and the Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to tell a story of how we are collectively *Acting with Urgency* to address unprecedented community safety challenges and *Re-envisioning Community Safety* to transform our system.
- One of CSD's Decision Packages for FY 2022-23 will advance the **consolidation of public safety enterprise functions** by transferring 20 finance positions from PPB and BOEC to CSD. This will enable the development of a coordinated community safety budget and strategy. In preparation for this transfer, CSD's Business Services Manager has worked with these staff to develop Service Level Descriptions outlining how these positions will support public safety bureaus.
- CSD established a new **Advisory Board & Commissions Unit** within the Division and will be hiring a new Unit Supervisor and Project Assistant to support the work of the PAC, FIT/COG, and Portland's Committee on Community Engaged Policing (PCCEP):
  - The **PAC** has held 15 public meetings since it began meeting in December 2021. It completed the development of bylaws and internal processes and frameworks in March 2022 and will begin work on development of the Police Oversight Board in April. Its work is authorized through June 2023.
  - CSD has supported the Mayor's Office in staffing the **FIT/COG** since it was established in Summer 2021. The FIT began its work on January 19, 2022 and meets with the COG on a weekly basis. CSD completed its recruitment for a FIT/COG Analyst, who will begin on April 5, 2022.
  - Until March 2022, **PCCEP** was staffed by the Mayor's Office and the Office of Equity and Human Rights. In February 2022, it was decided that CSD could provide a better home for PCCEP, when the process began to transfer the staffing and management of the committee to CSD. CSD is currently recruiting for an Analyst to staff PCCEP and hopes to fill the position by Summer 2022.

## Reduce the Need for Public Safety Response

- CSD worked closely with OVP to implement the **Gun Violence Reduction Ordinance** passed by Council on April 7, 2021. This involved awarding \$4.1 million in grants to community-based organizations supporting communities most impacted by gun violence. These grants were awarded in phases between May 2021 and March 2022, with the last \$600,000 awarded in March to five new and emerging organizations that had not previously received City grants. CSD also drafted a document outlining the City's collective efforts (both policing and non-policing) to reduce gun violence over the last year.





- CSD secured \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for **upstream services to reduce gun violence**. Funding will focus on youth and families who have experienced dislocation and isolation to engage youth in pro-social activities that are proven to reduce violence.
- In July 2021, CSD awarded a contract to **California Partnerships for Safe Communities** (CPSC) to help the City better understand what is driving gun violence in Portland by conducting a Problem & Opportunity Analysis. CPSC will complete its work and present a final report by Summer 2022.
- CSD partnered with Dr. Jonathan Jay, Assistant Professor at Boston University School of Public Health, to apply his **Shape-Up** algorithm, which uses machine learning to identify the places where those physical changes are most likely to prevent gun violence.
- CSD also secured \$100,000 for a **Reimagining Safety Project** that is a community-led, Black-centered participatory action research and visioning initiative. It is supported by public and philanthropic dollars, engaging Oregonians from across the state. The goal of the project is to reimagine the public safety systems and prioritize needs of the most impacted to improve community health and safety in Portland with community-driven actions.
- In collaboration with the OHSU/PSU School of Public Health and Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, CSD developed a **Community Safety Plan** based on evidence-based non-policing strategies to reduce violence. These strategies include improving the physical environment, strengthening anti-violence social norms and peer relationships, engaging and supporting youth, reducing substance abuse and overdose, mitigating financial stress, reducing the harmful effects of the justice process, and confronting the gun problem. The plan also includes strategies to reduce domestic violence and suicide, fire injury and fatalities, traffic and pedestrian injury and fatalities, as well as priority police actions.
  - In October 2021 CSD supported an effort led by Commissioner Hardesty's Office in the **Mt. Scott community**. This effort provided a suite of cross-bureau interventions to improve safety in the neighborhood in the wake of a sharp increase in gun violence and associated speeding. A combination of traffic calming measures, increased Park Ranger patrols, increased PPB collaboration with Park Rangers, repaired lighting in Mt. Scott Park, and security improvements to local businesses resulted in a 64% decrease in shootings in the three months following these interventions.
  - To expand upon the promising results in Mt. Scott, CSD has submitted ARPA and Congressionally Directed Spending funds proposals to pilot the **Community Safety Plan** in two neighborhoods. The program would engage communities to identify their community safety needs and bring resources and expertise in violence reduction strategies to address these needs.
  - On March 30, CSD and Commissioner Hardesty's Office held a **Community Safety Listening & Strategy Session** for the Eliot community. The event sought to connect a diverse group of neighbors concerned about safety, build a shared understanding of the problems, and identify resources that already exist in the community to address safety issues.

