

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PLAN

GOAL 1.3 LISTENING SESSIONS



Summary: October 12, 2020, Meeting with Roseland Community Building Initiative

On October 12, 2020 Santa Rosa Community Engagement Director Magali Telles, Community Engagement Coordinator Danielle Garduño, and Community Outreach Specialist Gustavo Mendoza met with members of the Roseland Community Building Initiative (CBI) for a listening session and dialogue.

Listening Sessions and Discussion Questions

Law Enforcement Specific Questions

1. What does it mean to feel safe in your community and how does that look?

- Increase of security in the streets, there has been an increase in delinquent behavior on the streets.
- Increase police vigilance in the community and streets.
- Homeless hang out at Roseland Creek and do drugs, work on their bikes, and leave all their trash behind.
- The homeless hang out on the corner of West Ave. and Delport Ave., they hide behind the trees, and at night that area isn't well lit.
- Some lights on Delport Ave. don't work and the trees need to be trimmed to allow the lights that work to be seen.
- The rent is increasing but the quality of life in the area is getting worse. Security is a big concern to the community.

2. What has your overall experience been like with the Santa Rosa Police Department (SRPD)?

- I called SRPD to report a power line down on the corner of Stony Point Road and Sebastopol Road, a big rig drove by and crashed into the line and destroyed the line. The line was on the ground and it was dangerous. The cops never came. It wasn't till the next day that the power line was taken care of. But SRPD never called me back to follow up with me.
- They shot Andy Lopez a boy in the back seven times. We can't trust them, they are racist and aggressive.
- I was pulled over by a motorcycle cop for stopping at a red light and going over the yellow walkway line slightly. The car next to me was also slightly over the yellow walk way line, but the motorcycle cop chooses to pull me over and give me a ticket. When I asked him why he only pulled me over and not the white lady in a car next to me doing the same thing he said he only saw me.
- Police always show up late when problems are happening.
- A homeless man was walking around my apartment complex with a knife looking in windows knocking on doors at 3:00 in the morning looking for Maria. He knocked on my

door, and I didn't open. I called SRPD, they didn't get there till 4:00am by that time the homeless man was gone.

- I went into the laundry room in my apartment complex and saw a naked African American man in the laundry room, I called the cops they came but they didn't arrest him.
- When I call the cops, they take forever to show up, and there is a white woman in a wheel chair every time she calls the cops they come quick, even the fire department comes.

3. What ideas do you have in strengthening relationships with the police?

- Police need to have meetings with members of the community. Specifically, with communities of color. Have community events so people can meet them and understand more about the job that they do. Attend the events in the community.
- Have training for cops on communication and community engagement and understanding communities of color and different cultures.
- Invite cops to community events so they can increase their participation.
- The cops need to increase their visibility in the business community and assist them when issues arise with the homeless. A homeless man assaulted someone sitting at the bus stop, the cops showed up, didn't arrest the homeless man and didn't even take a report.
- Local business need help dealing with the homeless issue.

4. What ideas do you have in strengthening relationships with the City of Santa Rosa?

- How can we support the fire department, and how can we get more information from the firemen?
- We want to know more about the candidates running to represent our district. We need to know more about our representatives at the city council and their history, and accomplishments.
- I feel like information never comes to our community it gets lost or it never comes to our community.
- We need more information on the candidates running for city council not just zoom meetings, they need to use Facebook and the radio to engage with the people.
- Candidates don't keep their word they get the position and forget about their promises to the people, just like the Presidents.
- The City council representative needs to focus and organize workshops to address the issues that are identified by the community.

City of Santa Rosa Specific Questions

5. Outside of law enforcement and SRPD, what other concerns or issues do you have that impacts your community? How can the City help to address these concerns or issues?

- Earthquakes: how do we get ready for one? What do we need to know to be ready? What are our alert systems for an earthquake and forms of communication?
- We need to hire more police, there isn't enough police.
- More information, assistance, and outreach regarding COVID-19. What do you do when you have a positive COVID-19 test?
- Addressing traffic during school times on Burbank Ave. and Hearn Ave. and traffic collisions on Kenmore Lane and Sebastopol Road.

6. What are the biggest barriers for engagement, and communication with the Spanish speaking community?

- Make information available using the What's Up App.
- Create a Spanish language newsletter.
- Resource table in the community.
- Facebook.
- Marketing and promotional material at the Casino.
- English language classes
- Members of the Roseland CBI do follow the City of Santa Rosa on Facebook but the information isn't always made available in Spanish. Or there is a delay in the translation of the information.
- The Spanish translation isn't in layman's terms.
- There is fear in the community about immigration status.
- Information made available from Santa Rosa Police department isn't always in Spanish.
- The City needs to do a better job getting youth involved and informed and the youth can communicate with the parents.

7. What are some things you'd like to know more about regarding the City of Santa Rosa (e.g. how does someone get on the ballot for City Council, how does the City create its budget each year, etc.)?

- What are the City Council rules and limitations, how long does someone get to be on the city council once elected? What are the limits for immigrants?

8. Would members of the group be interested in assisting the City of Santa Rosa create videos in Spanish to inform the community.

- Unanimous yes.

9. Do you know who the Mayor of Santa Rosa is?

- Unanimous no.

10. Any final thoughts you would like to share with us?

- We really enjoyed programs like Neighborfest it gives us the opportunity to get to know our neighbors. The City should have more opportunities for Neighborfest.
- The City should have a master calendar for all community events on Facebook.
- Don't assume that people in our community have not been affected by COVID-19 and the fires. Many people have lost their jobs, don't have someone to take care of their kids. There isn't anyone in our county that hasn't been affected.
- Working people never get any help or assistance.
- There needs to be a way to get COVID-19 testing in the Roseland community.
- The streets are full of trash and its ugly and dirty.
- There should be a way to host more community events, or community clean up events.
- No one in the group knew who the mayor is and many expressed an interest in getting to know him.