Background

The goal of this project is to prevent future violence in active arguments or disputes.

- Research has found that the majority of shooting incidents in Rochester, NY, about 60%, are dispute-related. We expect this to be similar in Niagara Falls.

Why have we not focused on disputes in the past?

- Typically police work focuses on individual cases, not necessarily identifying combinations of cases or events
- Criminal records also focus on individual cases
- Many interventions focus on group affiliation and group-related interventions
- It was difficult to focus on clusters of cases without the expansion of crime analysis; there are now better tools available

What is a Dispute?

A dispute is:

- An interaction involving conflict and retaliation
- Takes place over a period of time
- Occurs between two or more individuals and the people associated with them
- Disputes are marked by two or more events involving confrontation or intimidation
- At least some of those events involve violent acts or credible threats of violence

Potential Interventions

I. Investigative Interventions (focused on investigating dispute incidents and making an arrest)

- Prioritize investigation at the section level by directing resources.
- Refer to Special Investigations Section (SIS)
- Jail “Debrief” of dispute participants and other knowledgeable persons
- Monitor dispute participants’ social media accounts
- Neighborhood or area canvass
- Investigate mental health issues

II. Crossover Interventions (enforcement action focused beyond the current dispute incidents)

- Targeted enforcement on key individuals
- Warrant and DMV checks
- Support GPS for probationers and parolees
- Property code enforcement for residence or business
- School Resource Officer “Knock and Talk”
- Dispute letter from the Chief of Police
- Mental Health arrest

III. Direct Prevention Interventions (direct preventive action other than arrest)

- Joint Police and Probation home visits
- Refer to Center for Dispute Settlement (CDS)
- Engage significant others (family etc.)
- Active police mediation
- Assist in relocating, negotiating or settling debts
- Link to social services
- Focused Deterrence “Call-In” and “Custom Notification”

CPSI Contact Information

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