More Deputies To Patrol North Richmond

NORTH RICHMOND (BCN) —

Crime-stricken unincorporated North Richmond will see an increase in law enforcement patrols as part of a deployment strategy to reduce crime.

At a news conference at the North Richmond Sheriff's Office Annex on Monday, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia and Sheriff Warren E. Rupf introduced a collaborative strategy that they hope will result in a safer community in one of the county's highest crime areas.

"We're optimistic that having greater visibility in the community will pay dividends," Gioia said.

Gioia said, "Even with our challenging budget we were able to identify resources to increase law enforcement."

To address the community's call for better protection, Gioia and the sheriff's office worked with multiple county departments, including the redevelopment agency, housing authority and health department to identify resources and pool funds for this effort.

Changes as part of the new strategy include adding two two-deputy cars whereas previously there was only one, and redirecting a deputy from the county's health clinic to patrol duty.

"The result will be that the community will be safer because there will be more visibility by law enforcement and improved relationships with residents," Gioia said.

(© CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Bay City News contributed to this report.)