

Man shot in leg in gang-related Overbrook shooting

BY DANI-ELLE DUBE, OTTAWA SUN

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Ottawa Police Service. (QMI Agency File Photo)

Overbrook residents are questioning the Ottawa police force's decision to eliminate its anti-gang initiative in the wake of the community's third gang-related shooting of the year.

The Overbrook Community Association said it is formulating its own anti-gang strategy but that it simply cannot fight this war on their own anymore.

"It doesn't really make sense to cut the anti-gang initiative in the middle of summer when people are more idle," Rawlson King, president of the Overbrook Community Association said Sunday after a shooting the night earlier.

"That's the time where you'd think you'd want to crack down on that type of behaviour when it becomes more prevalent during the summer."

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Police phone lines were flooded with reports of gunshots in the 300 block of Prince Albert St. near Lola St. at about 10 p.m. Saturday.

Upon arrival cops found a bullet hole in a van's windshield parked nearby that they believed ricocheted off of the pavement.

Shortly after, police received another call from a 27-year-old man, in that neighbourhood, claiming to have been shot in the leg.

The man was unco-operative when police interviewed him, they said Sunday.

The association's strategy, mostly delivered through school programs, targets youth by engaging them in after-school activities and promoting other activities and interests like reading and sports.

However, some things that can't be changed, said King, are certain economic and social factors that contribute to gang crime, like low-income.

"All of these things are expected," said King.

“It’s really a question of can we formulate a strategy to deal with it.”

But King hopes that the people’s perception of Overbrook will change as the community works towards being a better place for families.

Police are keeping an eye on the situation.

“When situations like this occur it obviously heightens our awareness to the area,” said Sgt. Kevin Maloney.

~~Sunday’s gunfire is the city’s 24th shooting of the year.~~

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