



Neighborhood

COURTS

A San Francisco District Attorney's Office Initiative

Challenges with Traditional Prosecution

- Today's courthouses are packed
- Traditional prosecution is expensive
- It takes a long time
- Limited community input
- No data on effectiveness

Solution: Neighborhood Prosecution & Neighborhood Courts

- Its faster than regular court
- Its community-led – residents are in charge of the solutions
- It can reduce recidivism so offenders stop crime
- It reduces the burden on regular court – it saves both time and money

Neighborhood Prosecution & Neighborhood Courts – 3 parts

- Neighborhood Prosecutor program
 - Prosecutor at the district stations sends cases to neighborhood court
- Expanded Neighborhood Courts
 - Residents trained in restorative justice decide cases
 - Hearings every week
- Data tracking for all cases

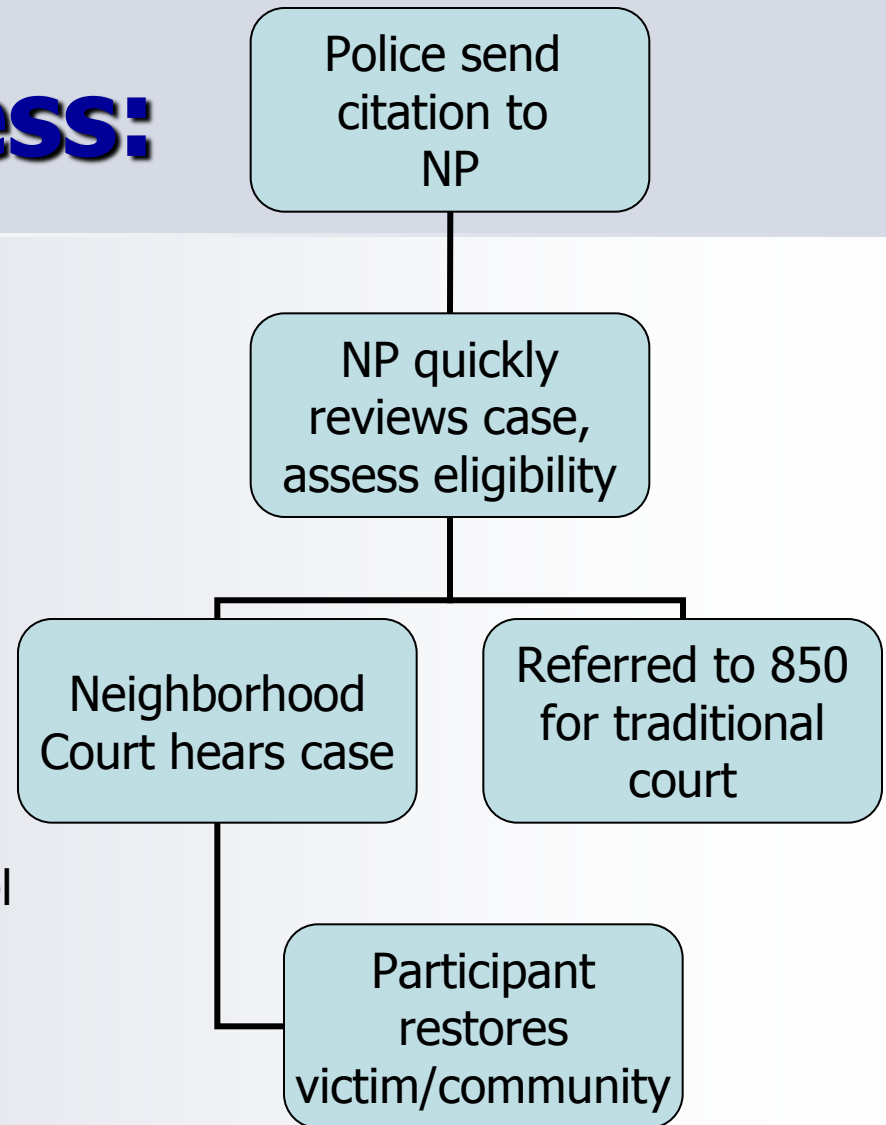
4 Stage Process:

Stage 1: Police send citations to neighborhood prosecutor (NP) at police station

Stage 2: NP immediately makes charging decision, if referred to neighborhood court, must appear within one week

Stage 3: Participant appears at neighborhood court, resident panel hears case, deliberates, decides

Stage 4: Participant begins restorative justice directive within two weeks of the incident



What is restorative justice?

- “Repair the harm”
- Involves victims, offenders, and community members
- Address root causes
- Give communities impacted by crime an opportunity to resolve it
- Transform the relationship between communities and government

Expanding this Model for Juveniles

- Interested in building off the Neighborhood Courts Initiative to create similar model for juvenile offenders
- In the early stages of assessing viability of a “community conferencing” program
- “community conferencing” is similar to neighborhood courts with an emphasis on family and community involvement, model is an alternative to juvenile court