



By **Jeff Rosen**
*District Attorney
Santa Clara County*

Hemmed in by highways and an overgrown creek, the 16-square blocks of humble homes and small businesses that make up San Jose's Washington-Guadalupe neighborhood is, in a way, an Ellis Island within Silicon Valley.

Like Italians before them, Latinos settle here from Jalisco, Michoacán, and other poor regions of Mexico, seeking jobs, education, a home, safety.

More and more of them are being greeted by a young prosecutor named Josue Fuentes.

His job, unlike most of the other lawyers in our office, is not arguing cases in courtrooms. It is to create trust. The residents call Josue, whose family came from Jalisco, to serve witness to the roaches in their newly rented apartments, to expunge graffiti on their storefronts, to counsel their bullied daughter. Some invite him to dinner – cooking moles and tamales for the polite abogado who knows who to call to get things done in this sometimes cold and complex New World. As they

have gotten to trust him they whisper to him about something many immigrants would never dare talk to law enforcement about – crime.

Trust brings justice. The mission of the Community Prosecution Team is opening lines of communication to the silently suffering communities that keep quiet for fear that our job is to deport them or that justice is reserved for those with more status and money.

The Community Prosecution Team is growing and includes a prose-

curator who works to get truant students back in school, and another who organized a series of successful gun buy backs. Team members pick up trash on the weekends and hired a local artist to paint murals over tagged electrical boxes. In a neighborhood caught in the crossfire between Sureños and Norteños, these may seem small measures. However, if Ferguson and Baltimore share something beyond tragedy, it is the anguish of a community that does not call the authorities



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Most recent tech purchase?
iPhone 5s

Last book read?
The Boys in the Boat

Most used app?
NY Times

Hard copy or digital?
Hard copy

because they don't trust anyone. We refuse to let that happen in Silicon Valley.

The growing connection between a working class Latino neighborhood and our office shows how the criminal justice system is evolving. It is adapting to a realization that there is an exorbitant human and financial cost to revolving-door recidivism and racial disparities in our jails and prisons. As we identify injustice within the justice system and adopt reforms, we are becoming better attuned to the importance of preventing people from entering the system in the first place. The Community Prosecution Team helps us build the trust needed to create a powerful prevention network that helps keep all of us safe.

While we increasingly invest in game-changing prevention, we can't forget our mission to protect people from violence. In March, a group of

teenage gang members shot to death a man as he walked near an elementary school in the heart of Josue's neighborhood. Police, working with witnesses in the area, quickly solved the case, and removed these violent gangsters from the neighborhood. We have charged them with crimes that require very long prison sentences. Because of trust, the community called the authorities, and we answered - with justice. Call us anytime. We are here for you.