

Downtown Public Safety Action Committee Minutes
September 10, 2013
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Attendance

Cmdr. Bob Day, PPB	Sgt. Tashia Hager, PPB/NRT
Katie Neuman, Museum Place	Phil Zerzan, PSU
Nathan Gard, Securitas	Marvin Mitchell, Julia West House
Billy Kemmer, PPB/SCT	Mike Boyer, ONI
Laurie Abraham, DA's Office	Hugh Donnelly, Mercy Corp
Steve Trujillo, PDNA	Cliff Madison, Clean and Safe
Ofc. Bret Burton, PPB/SCT	Michelle Kerron, Transition Projects
Suzanne Hayden, Citizens Crime Comm.	Doreen Binder, Transition Projects
Larry Turner, Transition Projects	Lynnae Berg, PBB/ Clean and Safe
Angi Johnson, Langley Investments	Jonanna Schmitt, American Assets Trust
Bill Sinnott, PBA/ Clean and Safe	Sondra Storm, Multnomah County
Patrick Cochinnie, Hilton	Ofc. Nick Newby, PPB/NRT
Ofc. Brian Hughes, PPB/NRT	Lt. Terry Kruger, PPB

Introductions and Announcements

- Steve will be stepping down as co-chair. This will be his last meeting and nominations for his replacement will happen next month. Anyone interested in a nomination should approach Lynnae during the interim.

Work Team Updates

Central Precinct- Commander Bob Day

- Part one crime continues to be down. Bicycle thefts have increased and Central is putting in a concerted effort to identify the thieves. Most of the time increases like this are due to an individual or focused group of people.
- Central NRT Officer Hillary Scott is working on a group of youths going into small businesses distracting the clerk and stealing I-Pods and I-Phones.
- An indictment came down for assault on the incident in front of Cameron's Books. Several material witness warrants were served in the process. The second female who assaulted the camper in front of City Hall was arrested during the Tuesday morning protest and the majority of other high profile events have had arrests made involving them.

Clean and Safe – Cliff Madison

- PPI is spending a lot of their time dealing with the campers in the park. The groups of travelers/occupy/homeless are starting to merge together and it's becoming more difficult to deal with the larger, more aggressive groups. Security has dealt with more assaults and had to go hands on more frequently. The amount of trash that is left behind has also increased and the cleaners are doing their best to keep up with that.

Neighborhood DA – Laurie Abraham

- The *Old Occupy* cases are just about done. There are 50 left to receive judicial determination out of the original 259. Out of the 259, 115 were convictions, 58 were dismissed because they completed their community court requirements and three were found not guilty.
- There are seven *New Occupy* cases in the works from the Occupy Mount Tabor event.
- The DA's office has been working with PPB on a more practical approach to subjects who continually disregard warnings or do not show up to court for their citations. In the past they were issued a monetary judgment and not a warrant, but now subjects who have had frequent warnings or citations will not have their charges reduced and warrants will be issued. Currently there are ten people who have been part of this project, one person showed up to court and the other nine have warrants out for their arrest. PPB and the DA's office will continue to track the data to see how the program is working.

Presentations

Camping Issue Update – Commander Bob Day

- The police and PBOT have done three camp clean-up's in the last three weeks, first issuing warnings that the clean up's were going to occur and then going in with officers and trucks to remove property that was illegally placed. PPB has been working with the Federal Protective Service on a plan for Schunk Plaza. Because it is Federal Property anyone can be subject to search for any reason when they are on the premises. Police have been assisting the FPS officers in doing sweeps of the parks. They've confiscated a number of weapons and many people have left the park to avoid being searched.
- After several issues with harassment and vandalism Chapman Square was closed and fenced off to allow crews to perform maintenance and restoration. It hasn't been announced when it will reopen.
- Police are still not allowing structures to be put up on the sidewalks, per city code. This is causing continued strife with the campers and despite dedicated patrols and clean up efforts there is little change in the overall status. Since the camping issues began there have been 25 arrests, 18 citations and numerous warnings and contacts, all of which have created little impact on the situation. Within the last week the Occupy contingent that had been there has decided that their message was no longer being served and they have pulled their people out.
- Members of the Mayor's staff, PPB and representatives from Salem met to view the camp and discuss the situation. The hope is that a change can be made to the sidewalk ordinance to create some long term change.
- Social service agencies will be meeting soon to discuss the situation and get on the same page regarding what they think can and should be done. Once they have this in order they'll be presenting it to the Mayor or the City Council. From initial impressions it seems that many of these campers do not fall under the actual definition of youth, nor are they from Portland or interested in services the city can provide. The issue was also raised that

if the protesters were of a different race it is likely that the response from City Hall would have been much more immediate.

Panhandling Outreach Project –Doreen Binder/Larry Turner

- A new outreach program targeting panhandlers has been initiated by Transition Projects. Two half time employees have been going out to high frequency panhandling areas on the East and West side and doing assessments on the people they contact. They're focusing on the hot spots where people frequently return, as opposed to areas like freeway on ramps where the people change over quickly. So far 30-40 assessments have been done. Some people are open to services but other seem to either not be interested, or simply stuck in the pattern they're in and not able to break away enough to start using services. The outreach team expects that as the weather changes more people will take advantage of the contact info that they've been given and start moving towards service agencies.
- Addiction is the main reason that people gave for panhandling. It's not clear how many people who are out on the street panhandling are also involved in other crimes. So far addiction seems to be the main issue.
- There are a larger number of couples out on the street panhandling. While the majority of Occupy/Campers don't seem motivated to get off the street many of the couples have the desire but they are hampered by the fact that there are few resources for them to be able to stay together. \$300,000 of federal money is coming in and some of that could be used for more couples resources.
- Marvin Mitchell emphasized that panhandling can cause a sense of ownership of the street and give people the impression that it is their right to ask for or demand money. This is something that needs to be broken so that the cycle doesn't continue into criminality.
- SCT Officer Bret Burton and Coordinator Billy Kemmer are very happy that TPI has put together this program and plan to have an increasing street presence with their program in the coming year.

Civility Subcommittee Update – Hugh Donnelly/Suzanne Hayden

- The Civility Summit will be the evening of October 2nd, 2013. Invitations have been sent out but there are room for 400 people so if anyone would like to be included, or if they would like to have group invited contact Hugh. The summit will focus on five main topics:
 - In Favor of Civility
 - What's Happening in Portland
 - Civility in Action
 - Best Practices
 - Help
- The summit will have speakers, narratives, civility data on crime and violence, information on past civility projects, the effects of civility and the lack of it on a city and its livelihood, as well as rules of conduct that the committee would like to have adopted and the opportunity for attendees to sign the declaration and volunteer time or support.

- In the future this program could be taken to Community Court or to schools to show the community expectations.

Multnomah County Addiction Services – Sondra Storm

- The High Risk Drinking Project has one more year till it's finished and Multnomah County is looking to expand the project and create a larger base for future efforts. They will be applying for a ten year grant to continue working on high risk drinking and other issues. If anyone is interested in becoming a community partner or would like to collaborate in the expansion please get in touch with Sondra. The county is especially looking for groups that involve youth services or anyone interested in substance abuse prevention.

The next Downtown Public Safety Action Committee meeting will be at 9:30am October 9th, 2013 in the Rose Room (3rd floor) at City Hall.