



PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU STRATEGIC SERVICES DIVISION



Trends Analysis: Pre & Post School Closures – April 29, 2020

The following is an analysis of trends seen in calls for service following Governor Kate Brown’s order to close K-12 schools on March 12th.

The time periods used in the call analysis are listed below, unless otherwise noted:

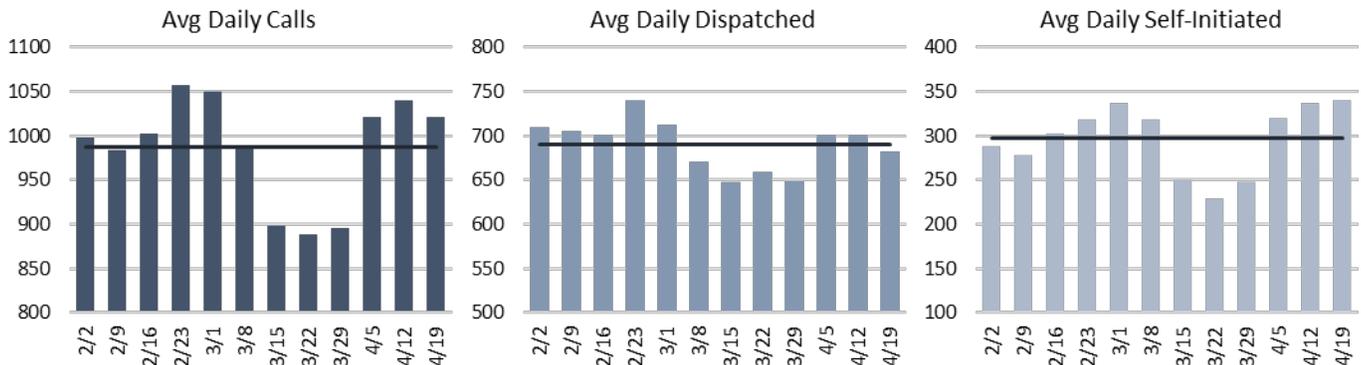
- Dates following school closure order: March 12, 2020 – April 29, 2020
- Dates prior to school closure order: January 23, 2020 – March 11, 2020
- Same period, prior year: March 12, 2019 – April 29, 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS: Please refer to the supplemental reports for analysis on traffic enforcement and crashes, shootings, domestic violence, and burglary.

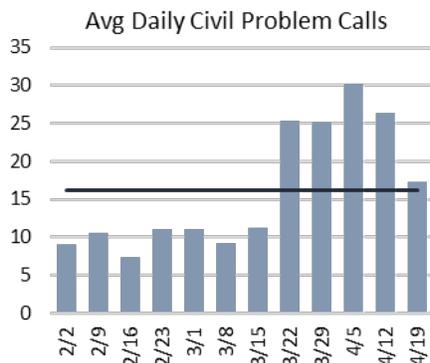
PRIOR TOPICS: Calls related to suicide were at increased levels initially following March 12th. However, they have remained at average or below average levels for the last five weeks.

CALLS FOR SERVICE: Calls for service initially decreased following the school closure order, but have trended back up toward normal levels in the past several weeks. Dispatched calls decreased in the past week mainly due to fewer civil problem and area/premise check calls. **The return to more normal call volumes suggest the stay at home order is not being adhered to as closely as it was in prior weeks.**

Total Calls by Week with Average Line



CIVIL – CIVIL PROBLEM: On average, PPB is responding to **10 more calls/day** than prior to the school closure and **11 more calls/day** during the same time period last year.



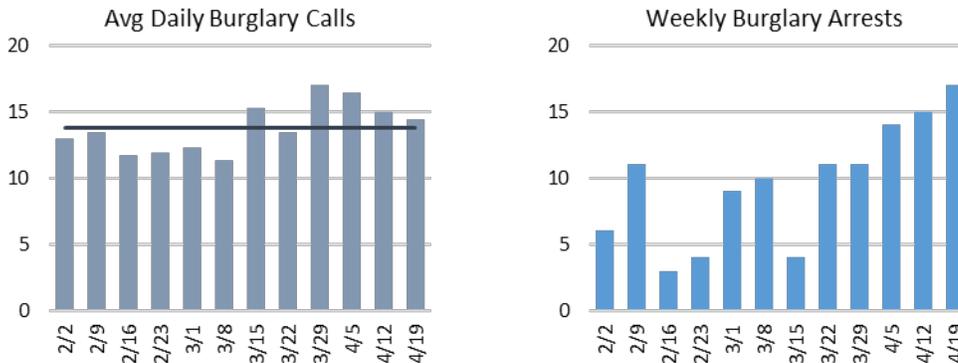
- Context: Reviewing the remarks from these calls has revealed that **the increase is likely being fueled by calls reporting individuals who are disobeying the executive orders requiring social distancing and closure of non-essential businesses** (e.g. people in parks, businesses remaining open, people having parties, etc.). Civil problem calls decreased last week, but remain at higher than usual levels.

Normally, this call type is used as a catch-all for domestic issues (family-related, roommate issues) as well as call types not otherwise categorized.

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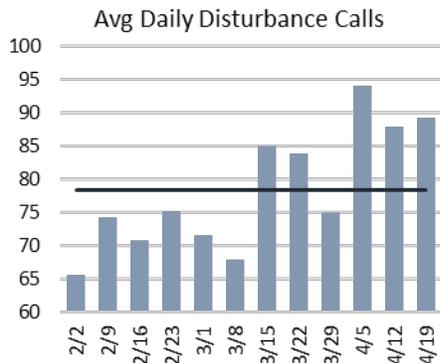
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BURGLARY: On average, there have been about **2 more calls/day** compared to 2019 and **2 more calls/day** compared to the weeks prior. There has been a slight decreasing trend in burglary calls over the last four weeks, but calls remain above average when compared to the last 12 weeks.



- Context: Commercial burglaries appear to be driving the increase in burglary calls. There has also been an increase in arrests for burglary, demonstrating PPB is responsive to the burglary increase.

DISTURBANCE: On average, there have been **9 more calls/day** compared to last year and **12 more calls/day** compared to the weeks prior. Compared to the most recent 12 week period, disturbance calls have remained above average for the last few weeks.



- Context: Disturbance calls are one of the most common call category PPB is dispatched to. Disturbances include a variety of scenarios that range from non-police issues to assaults. Domestic violence reports and other assaults are often generated from disturbance calls.

The recent increases in disturbance calls, along with other call types, suggests that Portland is returning to normal behavior rather than adhering to the stay at home order.

WELFARE CHECK, UNWANTED PERSON, and SUSPICIOUS: These call types all initially declined following the school closure order but have seen a recent increases to normal or above normal levels.

- Context: The initial decrease may have been driven by changes in PPB’s response to certain calls in combination with the stay at home and business closure orders. The return to normal levels for these call types is suggests the stay at home order is not being adhered to as closely as it was in prior weeks.

TREND TO WATCH: Vandalism: Last week PPB responded to an average of 17 vandalism calls a day, about a 25% or 3 call per day increase over the last 12 week average. Prior to that, vandalism calls had been within the normal range. There has also been about a 3 offense per day increase in reported vandalism post March 12th when compared to prior weeks. This is an area to keep an eye on over the next few weeks to see if this is a true increase or just an anomaly.