



PDNA Safety Forum Notes
Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6pm
The Armory — Ellyn Bye Theater

Speakers in attendance: Mike Krantz, Commander, Portland Police Bureau; Nathan Vasquez, Senior Deputy District Attorney; Mark Wells, Crime Prevention Coordinator; Sarah Berkemeir, Crime Prevention Coordinator; Stu Walker, Multnomah Department of Community Justice; Chris Mackovjak, PDNA Foot Patrol Leader; Judie Dunken, Chair of PDA Livability Committee; Stan Penkin, moderator.

Discussion highlights:

Calling 9-1-1 versus the non-emergency phone number

- If you experience/witness aggressive behavior, witness a crime in progress (i.e. someone tagging, breaking into a vehicle, using illegal substances, etc.) or you feel threatened, **call 9-1-1**.
- Technology now allows 9-1-1 to trace your location via your phone's GPS, so it no longer matters what area code your cell phone is.
- Use the Non-Emergency Phone Number 503-823-3333 for situations that are NOT an immediate threat to life or property. [Learn more here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/911/article/672280>]
- **If you're unsure what number to use, call 9-1-1.** Operators are trained to quickly determine the severity of your situation.
- Mark Wells conducts "When to call 9-1-1" training for any group, HOA, organization or individuals. [Contact him at Mark.Wells@portlandoregon.gov]

Houseless populations and camping

- To report any camps and/or related issues, use Portland's One Point Of Contact Online Form [<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/69333>] or www.PDXreporter.org on your phone's web browser. [Learn more about One Point of Contact here: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/toolkit/70039>]
- Commander Krantz explained that officers take a "service first" approach with camps, providing resources to those in need, unless criminal behavior is occurring. Both the police and the DA realize that some individuals are experiencing mental health issues, not criminal behavior, and look for resources where available.
- The campsites with the most frequent reports and/or with a presence of children or dangerous animals will receive faster responses.
- Currently, the city receives 800 calls and reports a week related to camps.
- The most frequently reported items are needles, trash and camping.
- Enforcement of camping can vary based on location (i.e. on private property, city/county/state property).
- Several speakers and attendees recommended viewing of KOMO's special "Seattle is Dying" for perspective on these issues. [Can be viewed here: <https://komonews.com/news/local/komo-news-special-seattle-is-dying>]

Police

- When asked about the current state of police morale, Commander Krantz responded that it's fairly high
- He said that they are currently 120 officers short of being fully staffed and even at fully staffed, Portland is understaffed for its population.
- In his years with the force, Krantz said that Mayor Wheeler is the first mayor to actually add police officers to the department.
- Krantz provided updates on successes the police are having with their Second Avenue & Burnside initiative, which has resulted in a large decrease in assaults.
- As compared to the rest of the city, crime statistics in the Pearl District are down. He also reported that there has been a year-to-date 14% reduction in personal crimes in Portland. He encouraged attendees to review all police stats at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/71978>
- Commander Krantz reported that the police average response time for a high priority call is eight minutes, which he says is too high.
- Krantz said starting in April, we'll see more police presence on bikes and patrols, as well as Park Rangers, for the summer months.

Role of the county in budgeting

- Several speakers explained that while the city does have a role in allocating funds, citizens should understand the role that county commissioners have in funding programs and the importance of advocating to the commissioners.
- DA Vasquez explained that county commissioners have made decisions to reduce the allocation of funds for public safety items, which has a trickle-down affect on public safety. The county is responsible for funding jails, the Department of Community Justice, prosecutors, and probation officers among other things. He cited examples where a lack of jail beds has led to suspects being released back into the community. He said that when he joined the DA's office in 2000, there were about 100 prosecutors and now there are only 72, though the city has grown exponentially in that time.
- We were reminded that in addition to speaking at city hall, we should become more engaged with county commissioners and speaking at their weekly meetings. [Learn more here: <https://multco.us/multnomah-county/about-board-meetings>]

Report, Report, Report

- Audience was reminded throughout the forum that the City of Portland is a data- and report-driven organization. Every call and report results in a pin being dropped for statistical analysis.
- It's important to report **any** crime activity to the proper channel, including past crimes.
- Areas with higher crime and corresponding reports may see more staffing and resources.
- Residents become complacent and think their reports don't matter or get seen by anyone — but all speakers reminded us that every report is tracked, categorized and used.
- Not sure who to call? Not sure where to find information about the city? Call the General Information Line during business hours at 503-823-4000 or visit <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/28533>.
- Stu Walker shared information related to the Criminal Justice Commission's tracking of cases and related statistical analysis that's available to the public at <https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/Pages/default.aspx>

Other points

- One resident stated she has been attending Portland City Council meetings on a weekly basis for several years now. She said there are a group of individuals who also attend and consistently speak out against any police-related funding. She said we need to be attending and speaking in support of the police and related public safety funding.
- One resident spoke in favor of the Harbor of Hope Navigation Center being built on Naito, north of the Broadway Bridge. She thought it was a great example of the private sector working with the local government and hopes residents will support it.

- Representatives from the PDNA's Foot Patrol spoke to attendees about its mission and how it is a positive presence in the neighborhood. [Learn more about Foot Patrol here: <http://www.pearldistrict.org/committees/foot-patrol/>]

Forum was completed at 7:30 pm.