



**District & Community Services Committee
Meeting Agenda**

Thursday August 18, 2016, **Noon – 1:00pm
Portland Downtown Office, 549 Congress St**

Board Members:

Josh Benthien, Lead Co-Chair
Ken Cianchette, Co-Chair
Jeff Packard
Trish Weimer

AGENDA:

1. Review and acceptance of July 21st meeting minutes
2. Outline potential panhandling action plan
3. No smoking signs in the parks and the ordinance violations around smoking in parks
4. DEL update; Public Works update on mid-summer activities/cleanliness
5. Other business
6. **Next Meeting:** Thursday September 15th at 1:30pm



District and Community Services Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 1:30pm
549 Congress St.

Board members present: Josh Benthien (Northland Enterprises LLC), Ken Cianchette (ELC Management Inc.), Jeff Packard (Alodyne), Phil Haughey (MHR Management)

Others: Bill Daly (Westin), Nathaniel Baldwin and Erin Kiley (Portland Flea-for-All), Megan Doane (Portland Stage), Steven Landry (Maine Historical Society), Joan Grant (Friends of Congress Sq Park), Matt Stone (Portland Science Center), Mackenzie McHatton (Ri Ra)

Staff present: Amy Geren, Adam MacDonald, Taffy Eaton

Minute 1. On a motion by Ken Cianchette, seconded by Jeff Packard, the committee unanimously accepted the June 16th meeting minutes.

Minute 2. Potential panhandling action plan: Amy let the committee know that the City has decided not to pursue any further action towards a creating a panhandling ordinance. Committee input for alternatives:

- Beautification, plantings, education
- Prohibiting the handing out of anything out of your car window
- Work with DOT versus the City
- Look at other programs in other cities that can deter panhandling
- Preble Street is not behind pursuing a new ordinance
- Our constituents want something to be done and Portland Downtown needs to pursue. We need to brainstorm alternative ideas and need Preble Street to be part of the conversation. Maybe hold a meeting like the Sound Ordinance meetings. Josh will recommend a meeting to the Board.

Minute 3. Love Locks fence update – Amy had a conversation with City of Portland’s Safety Program Manager, Chuck Kamilewicz.

- The City is taking care of taking it down and replacing the fence with a wrought iron fence.
- Going forward, the Public Works crew will remove any lock placed on the fence
- The fence gate is being displayed on Long Wharf and the rest is being stored at Maine State Pier
- There was a favorable article in the PPH about the fence

Minute 4. DEL update – Amy

- Newspaper boxes – it is a long term process to replace them with condo boxes
- The Neighborhood prosecutor is taking charge of being in touch with the box owner when it's got graffiti on it
- Any coating or paint that discourages graffiti needs to be approved by Portland Landmarks (?)
- Learning Works – they still have \$2,700 from Portland Downtown's 2015-2016 donation. They will combine it with the current \$6,000 contribution.
- Asylum will continue to have a blank wall for graffiti and murals. Murals discourage taggers.
- There are 6 new porta-potties on Long Wharf which is a short term solution. They are well maintained.
- Bathrooms in garages are in tough shape. Open and visible bathrooms would be better for tourism. Maybe work for sponsorships. Talk to Unified Parking – maybe install in parking lots.
- Plantings and trees have been replaced. Some trees are not being replaced for practical reasons. We should know by 2020 what streets will have new trees. Jeff Tarling should meet with the committee again.
- Amy met with Troy Moon, Sustainability Head with the City. Curbside composting is being discussed. Jeff Packard mentioned that there is no recycling on Congress St and would like to see it added.

Minute 5. Cadet update: Amy gets weekly activity reports from the Portland Police Department. They are trying to be a positive information source.

- Amy also met with some asylum seekers to inform them about the Portland Police Department's role versus police in their home countries.

Minute 6. Other business – Suggestions:

- Highlight people doing gardening in front of their businesses like John at Emilitsa
- Maine Historical will include a Pokemon charging station - the game has been positive for Ri Ra, bringing paying customers in.
- Park & Shop program: Send any ideas you have to Amy Geren

Respectfully submitted,
Taffy Eaton, recorder

Update from your Downtown Experience Liaison

August 2016

Graffiti

Newspaper Box Hotspots

- Worked with the Neighborhood Prosecutor at PD to remove the empty Coffee News boxes.
- Next Steps: Contact vandalized newspaper box owners and repeat the legal process for cleaning or removal.

LearningWorks

- Worked with LearningWorks to prioritize hotspots and get liability waivers signed by property owners.
 - Provided LearningWorks with See, Click, Fix graffiti vandalism reports
 - LearningWorks cross-checked reports for still pending locations
 - Provided LearningWorks with complaint locations
- While making contact with property owners, I have been inquiring about a water source at the location which makes many of these jobs possible.
- Next Steps: Assist with property owner contact for water source, and/or coordinate with City of Portland for water truck availability/use.

Trash/Recycling Receptacles

- DPW has issued a PO through finance to order six of the trash/recycling receptacles from the company suggested by the City of Nashville. The order was \$600 over the budget balance, but DPW will fund the overage.
- Next Steps: Work with DPW to place new receptacles in high traffic areas for a pilot.

Downtown Cadet Program

IDA Awards

- Portland Downtown applied for an International Downtown Association Achievement award in the Downtown Leadership Management category for its management of the Downtown Cadet Program. We found out on August 5th that the project was selected for an Award of Excellence. IDA Excellence awards recognize high achievement in the areas of innovation, representation and sustainability.
- Casey will be accepting the award at the IDA's 62nd Annual Conference next month.
- Next Steps: Press release about the awards

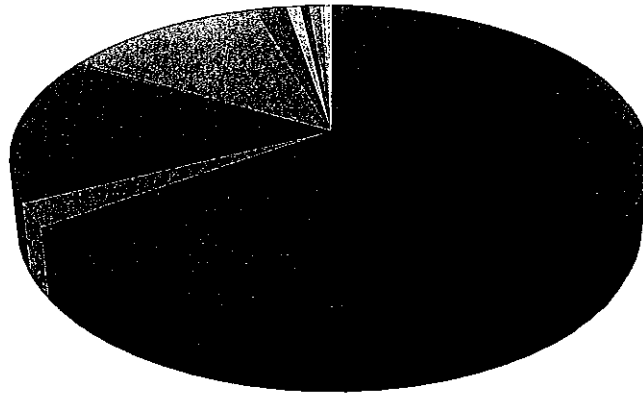
Community Engagement

- The cadets had ample opportunity for police work involvement during the first week of August. In addition to their typical business checks and special attention checks, they:
 - Attended National Night Out at Kennedy Park;
 - Assisted with perimeter traffic control for a suspicious package at Congress/Monument Square;
 - Assisted with a strong arm robbery in Monument Square;
 - Assisted with a terrorism threat at 109 Middle Street and the Cumberland County Jail; and
 - Worked security at a political rally at Merrill Auditorium.
- Anthony Ciampi has been hired as a police officer with the City of Portland. He will start at the criminal justice academy in Vassalboro this month and should be working as an officer by early 2017. Congratulations Tony!

Contact Stats

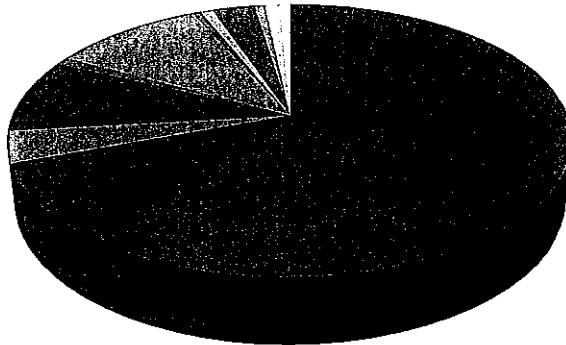
- The cadets continue to provide weekly contact stats for program monitoring and evaluation over time. Totals for the month of July show a slight decrease in business contacts as the cadets spend more time warning for ordinance violations, assisting with incidents, and making special attention checks.
- Smoking in parks warnings continue to lead ordinance violation warnings. A property owner downtown questioned park signage around the ordinance, which opened a discussion about current signage. See Smoking in Public Areas below for an overview of the situation.

Downtown Cadet Activity: June 2016



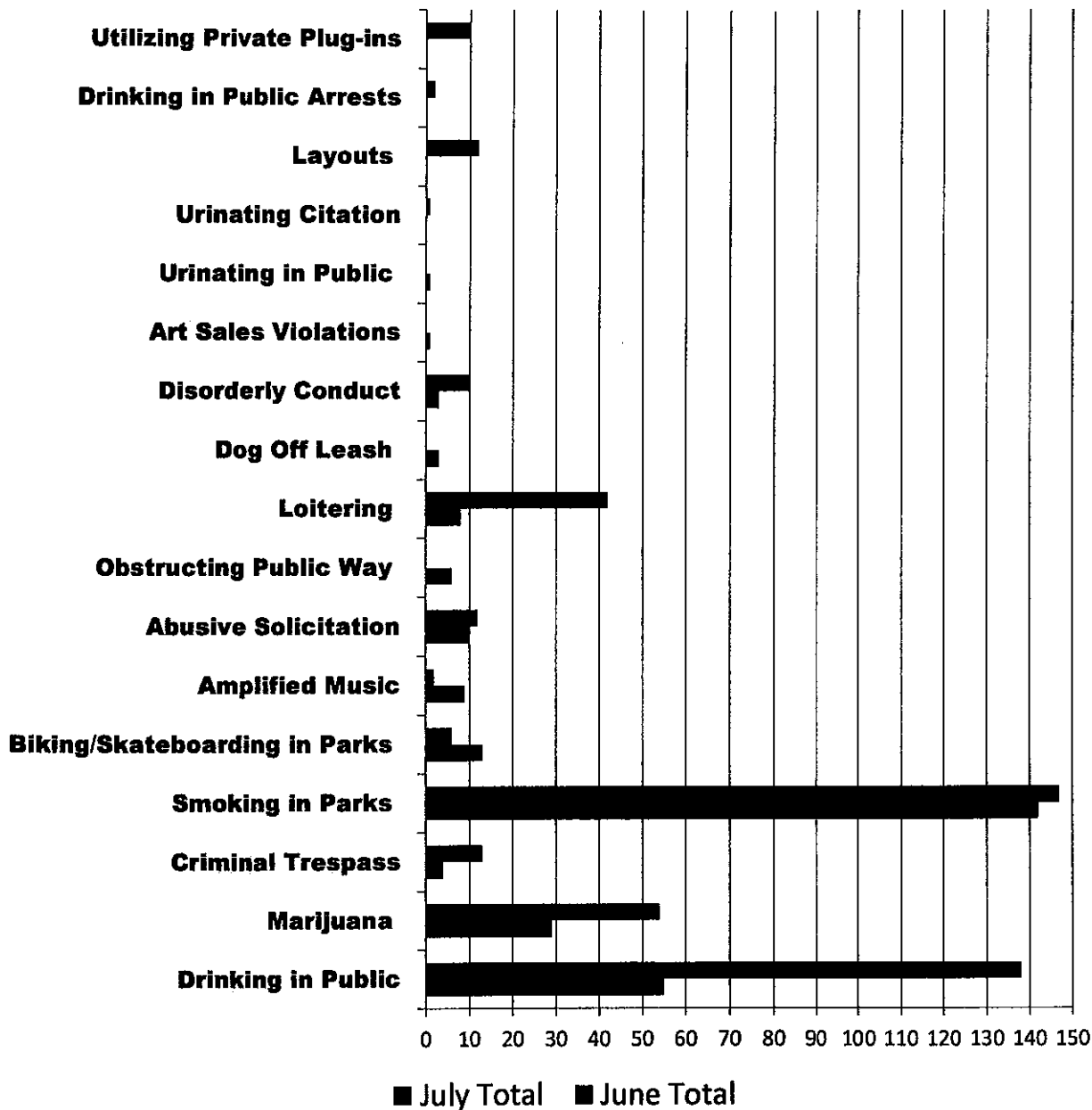
- Special Attention Checks: 703
- Marijuana: 29
- Criminal Trespass: 4
- Biking/Skateboarding in Parks: 13
- Abusive Solicitation: 10
- Loitering: 8
- Disorderly Conduct: 3
- Urinating in Public: 1
- Drinking in Public: 55
- Business Contacts: 176
- Smoking in Parks: 142
- Amplified Music: 9
- Obstructing Public Way: 6
- Dog Off Leash: 3
- Art Sales Violations: 1

Downtown Cadet Activity: July 2016



- Special Attention Checks: 858
- Marijuana: 54
- Criminal Trespass: 13
- Biking/Skateboarding in Parks: 6
- Abusive Solicitation: 12
- Disorderly Conduct: 10
- Layouts: 12
- Utilizing Private Plug-ins: 10
- Drinking in Public: 138
- Business Contacts: 125
- Smoking in Parks: 147
- Amplified Music: 2
- Loitering : 42
- Urinating Citations: 1
- Drinking in Public Arrests: 2

Downtown Cadet Warnings, Citations and Arrests: June and July, 2016



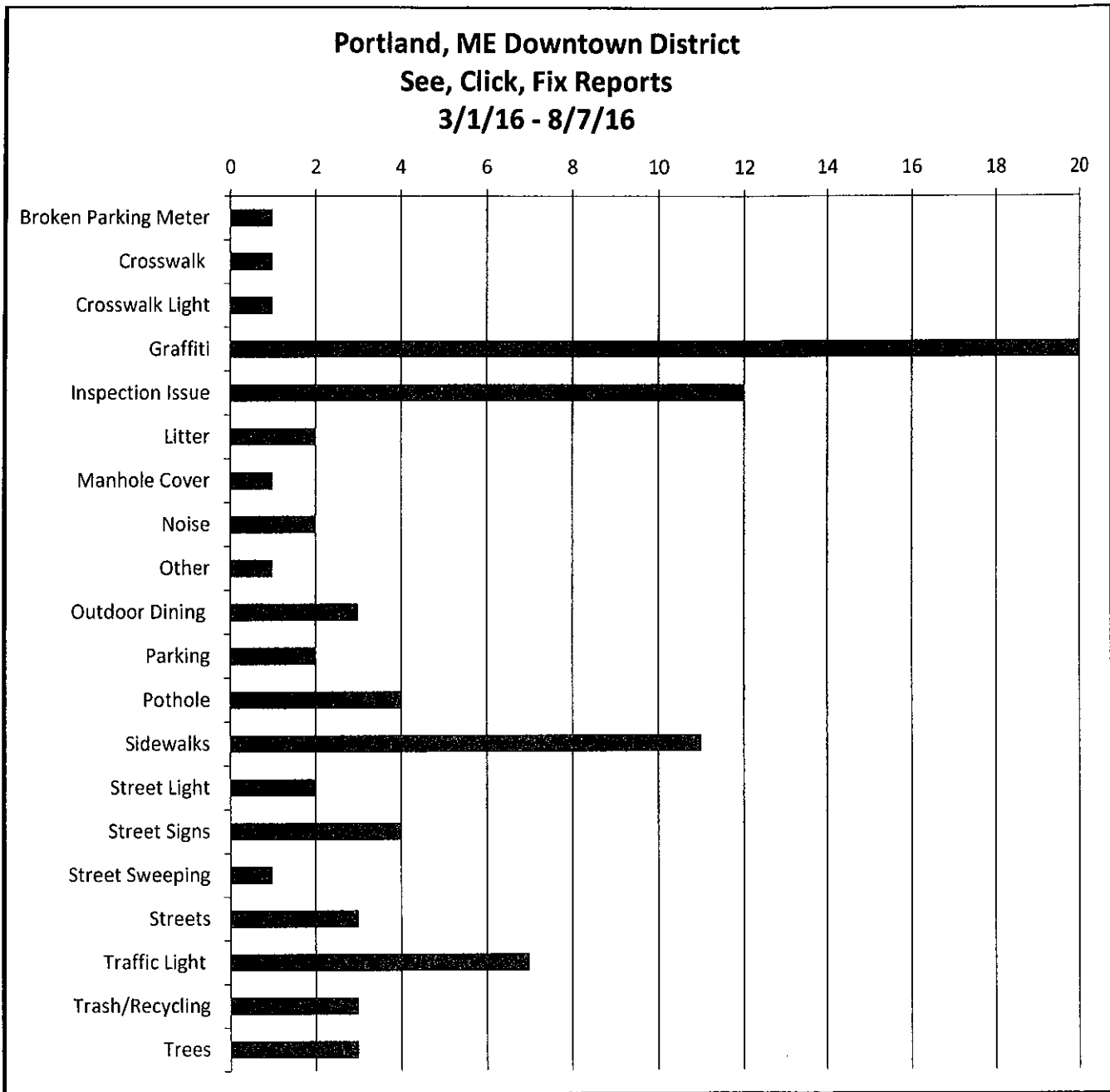
Arrest/Summonses

- The cadets called for backup so that a repeat offender could be arrested for drinking in public. The offender served 20 days in jail.

See, Click, Fix

- The large majority of See, Click, Fix data (23.8% percent) for the period report graffiti vandalism. I have shared this information with LearningWorks to determine graffiti vandalism hotspots.
- Inspection issues (14.3%) and sidewalks (13.1%) make up another large portion of the data. Most inspection issues (10 of 12) are related to advertising signage on sidewalks, while one report each from inspection issues

and sidewalks pertain to restaurant outdoor dining blocking the sidewalk. There is a location on Silver Street that has been granted an outdoor seating permit to take up the entire sidewalk because the sidewalk is in need of repair, and the others indicate Otto's is in violation of sidewalk marking.



Smoking in Public Areas

City Park Signs

- Based on an early review of the cadet stats, smoking in city parks appears to occur frequently despite posted reference to the City's Code of Ordinances at Congress Square, Tommy's and Post Office Parks, and Monument Square. Congress Square and Monument Square have the following signs:
 - At least one sign referencing the City's Ordinance declaring it illegal to smoke in city parks and open spaces;
 - A sign listing park rules prohibiting skateboarding, loitering, feeding the pigeons, and alcoholic beverages.
- Tommy's and Post Office Parks have the above signs as well as the following signs:

- Hours the Park is closed (1:00 AM – 6:00 AM); and
 - No Drinking of Alcoholic Beverages.
- In addition, Congress Square Park has a sign with the dog waste bags reminding users to clean up after their pets.

Butt Butlers

- There are butt butlers in all of the parks. These might be sending a mixed message around smoking in the parks.

