



**District & Community Services Committee  
Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday September 15, 2016, \*\*1:00 – 2:00pm\*\*  
Portland Downtown Office, 549 Congress St**

**Board Members:**

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

**AGENDA:**

1. Review and acceptance of August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes
2. Summer recap of DPW
3. DEL update: Street cleaning, trash/recycling containers, graffiti removal, cadet program
4. Other business
5. **Next Meeting:** Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm



**District and Community Services Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 18, 2016 at 1:30pm**  
**549 Congress St.**

**Board members present:** Ken Cianchette (ELC Management Inc.), Jeff Packard (Alodyne), Phil Haughey (MHR Management)

**Others:** Megan Doane (Portland Stage), Joan Grant (Friends of Congress Sq Park), Angela Franklin (Soakology), Ed Gardner & Kelly Craig (Ocean Gate Realty & 511 Congress St), David Packard (Frederick, Quinlan & Tupper)

**Staff present:** Amy Geren, Taffy Eaton

**Minute 1.** Ken welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

**Minute 2.** On a motion by Phil Haughey, seconded by Jeff Packard, the committee unanimously accepted the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes.

**Minute 3.** Potential panhandling action plan: Ken said that after the July DCS meeting, Josh was going to bring the topic of a larger, public meeting to the Board for approval. A meeting similar to the meeting held concerning the Noise Ordinance could be more beneficial than having social services present at this committee.

Discussion:

- The ACLU seems to have more power than other groups. Phil reminded the group that it was the wording of the ordinance that was problematic. The wording used would prohibit ANY solicitation of funds, including the fire department and all other groups. First Amendment rights won.
- There are other ways to tackle the problem – removal of medians has worked in some areas.
- Portland Downtown would like to engage in the conversation since we serve property owners and the downtown constituents, even if the City has decided not to engage.
- Amy has met with many of the social service agencies this summer, doing information gathering.
- Amy watched a Have a Heart Give Smart type campaign webinar (public awareness campaigns) and they do not seem to be very successful in fundraising. Media coverage on the homeless population encourages that population to further engage. Professionals are working hard behind the scenes and being successful in their work. Portland Downtown can support these professionals. The City will not touch the issue again.
- A suggestion was made to get some of these professionals to come to this meeting.
- Also, exactly what issues about panhandling does Portland Downtown not like?

- The feeling is that the majority of businesses downtown would like to see changes to panhandling.
- Temporary seasonal residents are the population we are addressing.
- Add to September Board meeting agenda – motion to hold a public meeting. Should have City Councilors present – invite all parties.

**Minute 4. No smoking signs in the parks and the ordinance violations around smoking in parks**

Amy covered this topic in her DEL update. Generally, new signage is needed with the amount of the fine added to the sign. Butt butlers are sending mixed messages.

**Minute 5. DEL update; Public Works update on mid-summer activities/cleanliness (attached) – Amy**

- Graffiti:
  - Newspaper boxes – one smaller company has removed their vacant boxes after receiving a reminder of the ordinance violation from the neighborhood prosecutor. There is a process for Public Works to remove others and put them back if they are in violation of the ordinance. Amy plans to continue this process with violating newspaper owners.
  - Learning Works water truck is out of commission but Amy is staying on top of coordinating graffiti removal.
  - Property Owners need to remove their own graffiti per the City of Portland Code of Ordinances.
- Trash/Recycling Receptacles
  - Working with Public Works on placement of new trash/recycling receptacles
  - Recycling barrels will be paper only
- Downtown Cadet Program
  - Portland Downtown won an International Downtown Association Achievement award
  - Amy is working on outlining the expansion of the cadet program
  - PPD is continuing to provide monthly stats
  - The cadets are mostly a face for enforcement of ordinances
  - Cadets do get harassed but they do have ample support from the PPD
- See, Click, Fix
  - Inspection issues, signage on sidewalk means restaurants are expanding past their limits
  - The program is successful

**Minute 6. Other business – Suggestions:**

- Jeff – Housing Committee meetings on affordable housing need to be kept on top of. Casey will send information out. All committees will be kept informed on the subject

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference next month.
- Next Steps: Press release about the awards

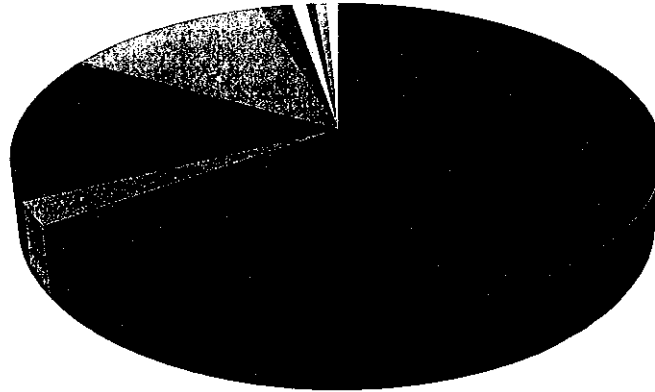
#### Community Engagement

- 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

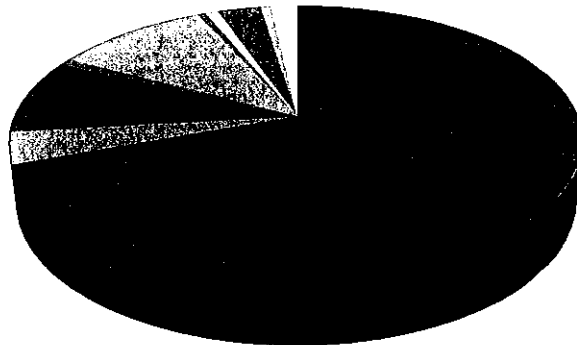
- The cadets continue to provide weekly contact stats for program monitoring and evaluation over time. Totals for the month of July show a slight decrease in business contacts as the cadets spend more time warning for ordinance violations, assisting with incidents, and making special attention checks.
- 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



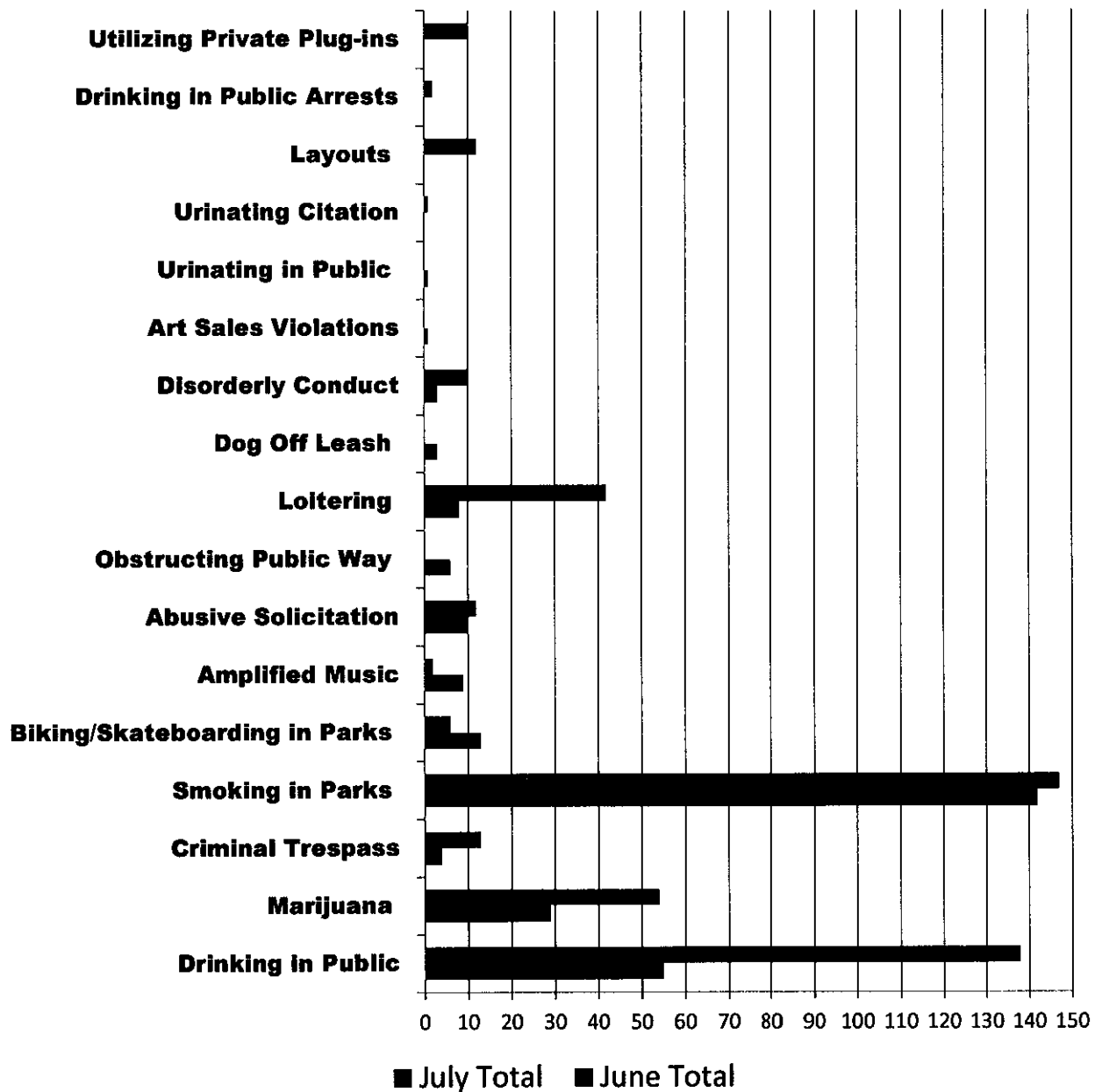
- Special Attention Checks: 703
- Marijuana: 29
- Criminal Trespass: 4
- Biking/Skateboarding in Parks: 13
- ▣ Abusive Solicitation: 10
- Loitering: 8
- ▣ Disorderly Conduct: 3
- Urinating in Public: 1
- Drinking in Public: 55
- Business Contacts: 176
- Smoking in Parks: 142
- Amplified Music: 9
- Obstructing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



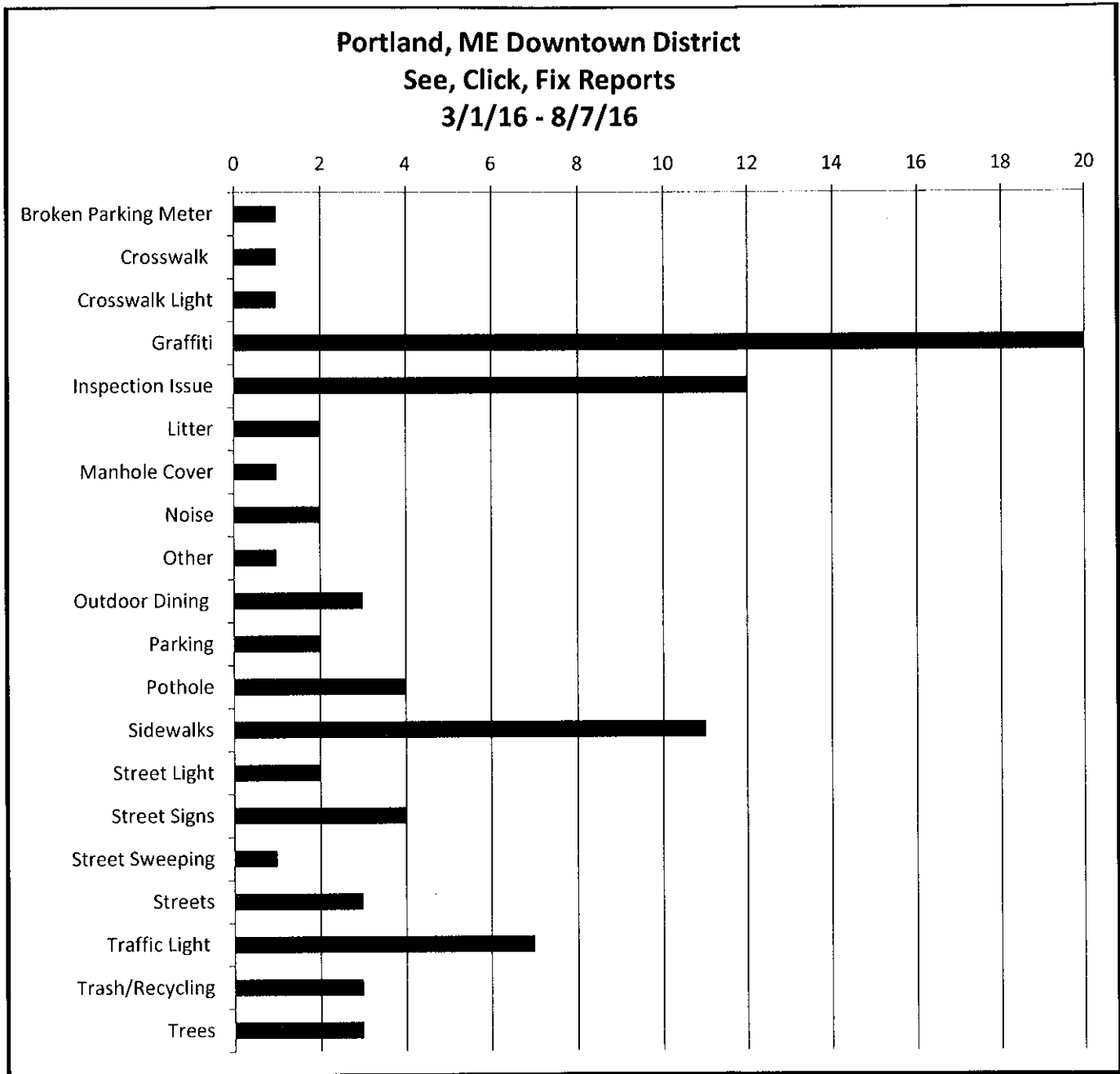
### Arrest/Summonses

- 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.