

Downtown Pittsburgh
Downtown Clean + Safe Community Forum

May 28, 2019 Meeting Notes

Trust Arts Education Center
Peirce Studio, Lower Level
805 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Welcome – *Jeremy Waldrup, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership*

Zone 2 Crime Statistics

Officer Eldridge Kimbrough, PBP Zone 2 Resource Officer

Commander Cristyn Zett, PBP Zone 2 Commander

In lieu of a review of crime stats, Officer Kimbrough stated that, following a discussion of pressing issues, the discussion will be opened to questions from the group. Officer Kimbrough acknowledged the migration of, and increase in, activity by homeless persons and drug users which is due in part to the boarding up of the Granite Building entrance steps. PBP is working closely with OSN and Laura Drogoski of the City and going through the slow and thorough process of assessing needs and working with willing individuals to direct them to assistance and services.

Initiatives underway to improve safety in Downtown include an additional six to eight officers walking regular beats, increased officer presence during Thursday, Friday and Saturday night shifts, responding to calls, and a 60 day program to assess and acquire needed resources for Zone2/Downtown. Commander Zett thanked the Mayor's office for approving the overtime costs involved with the department's effort in keeping Downtown safe. Business owners have expressed appreciation for officers' presence and the security it provides to the Downtown neighborhood.

The new owner of McDonald's Wood Street is instituting measures to improve conditions and restaurant experience for workers, customers, and pedestrians. This location produced 176 calls to 911 over the course of four months.

The Cultural District Substation is hosting an Open House on June 12 to follow the next meeting of the PDP's Clean & Safe Committee meeting and will include tours of 600 Liberty Avenue, mounted patrol between noon and 1:00 p.m., and a canine officer demonstration.

Commander Zett will be out for FBI training between July 8 and September 13.

Homeless Services Outreach

Laura Drogowski, Critical Communities Initiatives Manager, City of Pittsburgh

Many in at-risk communities who are housed outside of the City 'commute' Downtown in search of community. The City is working with several service agencies to create opportunities for trainings in incident de-escalation, identifying overdose victims, when to call 911, and other strategies for positively interacting with all Downtown neighbors.

Cultural District Screening Update

Kevin Wilkes, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

Since the beginning of 2019, PCT has screened 415,000 guests and identified 31 firearms in addition to 103 weapons self-disclosed by the owner, 333 knives measuring 6 inches or greater, and 303 cans of pepper spray. The County of Allegheny has given awarded concealed carry permits to 110,000 individuals.

Clean Team Program

Jeremy Waldrup

BBB Clean and Street Teams are fully staffed with dedicated Ambassadors scheduled over two shifts in Market Square. The PDP Market Square Ambassador Program returns this summer, again for seven days a week into September.

Overnight power washing of alleys is underway through a program with Renewal, Inc. – Delray Street will be tackled June 1 and 2 in preparation for the Three Rivers Arts Festival happening June 7 through 16.

Roundtable Discussion

- YouthPlaces has hired students to conduct a survey of their peers to assess students' needs such as jobs, internships, skills, services, or after school programs. Survey responses will be evaluated over the summer and disseminated to schools and service providers.
- Tamara Collier sends thanks to all who participated in and contributed to the Month of No Violence campaign and kick-off event..
- Retailers are interested in receiving Homeless 101 training, Jeremy will circle back with the City and outreach providers and work to host a meeting in June.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.