It’s All About Collaboration

In Chief Robert’s message, he highlights the progress being made in addressing crime trends and offenders by bringing together regional partners. OPD works with other City departments to tackle safety issues together in a similar way.

A few times a month, we host a Fusion meeting, focused on crime trends and safety topics. Our partners in Parks and Code Enforcement attend regularly to discuss locations causing concern. These relationships allow all of us to respond quickly to each other’s needs.

For example, earlier this Fall, Parks staff noticed the bathroom at Bigelow Park was being used for drug consumption. They brought the problem to our attention. We responded by informing all officers and requesting daily patrols. Less than a week later, a Parks staff person called in a suspicious person in the bathroom. The officers, knowing about the ongoing issue, responded promptly, contacted the subject and made an arrest for possession of drugs.

In addition to these special cases, area officers and the Volunteers in Police Services patrol parks as part of their daily duties.

Code Enforcement has been an invaluable partner for us in trying to bring resolution to neighborhood concerns. Their contacts with financial institutions and ability to issue warnings about violations has really helped us make progress on problem houses that have become a nexus for criminal activity. In several cases, they’ve even been able to condemn houses which brings an immediate conclusion to the problem.

They’ve also been essential in our ability to address illegal camps on public and private property. Their work researching property owners and helping us issue warnings and provide resource options to occupants has been extremely valuable.

These opportunities for collaboration have shown time and time again that we are much more successful and efficient in solving problems when we bring in other partners, whether they are other agencies in the region or other departments in the City.

Hello everyone! I wanted to take a few minutes and talk about the value of working together to solve complex problems.

This last year, the Olympia Police Department brought law enforcement leaders from across Thurston County together to talk about crime problems. As law enforcement leaders, we saw many of our own resources working on property related crimes like theft, burglary, car thefts and car break-ins. It was clear that many jurisdictions were faced with the same challenges and often the same offenders. Coming together, law enforcement agencies began sharing crime data and mapping capabilities. Each month, regional crime meetings are held and attended by local law enforcement officers. Crime data, problem house locations, and known offender behavior is discussed.

We began to see clear patterns of offenders living in one jurisdiction and committing crimes in other jurisdictions. Offenders were bouncing from one house to another and were often connected. Agencies committed to setting priorities to address crime that had regional impact. By identifying problem houses and locations, local law enforcement officers begin targeting specific locations and offenders within their jurisdiction, sharing the information with other agencies who could then track and arrest offenders and have a positive impact on our entire community. Working together, we are much more successful at interrupting crime sprees by tracking the activity of known offenders. This is a win-win for everyone.
We analyze crime statistics and maps weekly, with the goal of using resources most effectively, sharing information and assisting citizens with preventative measures. We use additional information to help us with long term strategizing and to demonstrate other aspects of police work.

Often, misdemeanor crimes are not featured on the weekly maps. Misdemeanor arrests made by OPD are handled by the Olympia Municipal Court. Sentences are served in our jail (or contract beds) and through Probation Services.

This graphic shows misdemeanor arrests through August. Other than warrants, a misdemeanor arrest happens when an officer develops probable cause that a person has committed a crime. The officer then can make a custodial arrest and take the person to jail for booking or the suspect can be given a criminal citation with a court date. An officer may also choose to refer cases to the prosecutor’s office without making an arrest. In either case, the prosecutor makes the final decision to charge a person in court.

Warrants dominate this chart and regularly account for many of our arrests. A warrant is issued by the Judge and can happen for a variety of reasons, including failure to appear in court and failure to comply with restrictions or probation.

Other crimes at the top of the chart include Drinking in Public (which often results in warrants), Driving While License Suspended, Criminal Trespass, Theft, Assault (not Domestic Violence) and Assault DV. Both Assault DV and DUI arrestees are generally not released until after arraignment. OPD’s goal is to use the jail efficiently so space is available when the subject of arrest or a warrant needs to be kept in custody, no matter what the offense, in order to preserve public peace or ensure community safety.
Question Corner

How do I….register my alarm? In 2005, OPD enacted an alarm management program to reduce incidence of false alarms. The program, outlined in OMC 16.46 and 5.55, includes standards for alarm companies, consumer education, registration requirements and fines.

When you are considering purchasing an alarm, the business or store is required to give you a notice that clearly explains expectations of the alarm owner, the alarm company and the police. The alarm monitoring company will register the system on your behalf. False alarms requiring police response can result in a service fee or suspension. Police will only respond to unregistered or suspended alarms after criminal activity has been verified by a separate party.

Since this program began, false alarms reports have drastically declined. In fact, other agencies have used our program as a model.

Inside OPD

Corrections Promotional Process

Contributed by Chandra Brady and Teresa Gypin

Three Corrections Officers at the Olympia City Jail recently had an opportunity to experience the duties and responsibilities of the position of Jail Sergeant. Officers Gregg Baker, Renate Emerson, and Jennifer Stiner applied and were selected to fill the temporary position of Acting Sergeant from May through October of 2014. Jail Manager Chandra Brady said, “Each of these candidates has impressive and unique experiences that apply directly to the work we do. I am impressed with the experience, qualifications, and leadership potential we have on our team!” To enable these candidates the best opportunity to succeed in their new roles, they were selected to attend the Sergeants’ Academy during the week of May 5, 2014. Upon completion of the training, which included supervisors and managers from the entire Police Department, they moved into their new roles, putting into practice their newly acquired skills and training. Thank you Officers Gregg Baker, Renate Emerson, and Jennifer Stiner!

Over time, Jail operations have grown and become more complex, requiring two additional Jail Sergeant positions to augment the one already in place. The Acting Sergeant position was utilized to give Corrections Officers who are potentially interested in applying for promotion to Jail Sergeant the experience of serving in an acting role, providing decision-making and leadership opportunities in directing jail operations. These acting sergeants also assisted with the definition and separation of the duties and responsibilities of the three total Jail Sergeant positions we will soon have in the Jail.

In October, Acting Sergeants Renate Emerson and Jennifer Stiner tested for Sergeant and will be promoted on December 1, 2014.
In May, Officers Anderson, Henry, Leavitt, Winner Evers, Det. Schumacher and Sgt. Smith quickly identified and arrested a child molestation suspect, taking a predator out of the community.

Officer Donald, Henrichson, Wilson, Henry, Clark, Det. Johnson, Det. Lindros and Sgt. Renschler outsmarted burglars targeting Olympia High School and obtained confessions.

K-9 Melnic has a 72% capture rate and will be featured in a fun holiday scavenger hunt, “Where’s Melnic?” Look for more information soon.

Harbor Patrol volunteers assisted in a rescue and recovery mission in Budd Inlet.

We’ve reached over 1,000 followers on Twitter (@OlyPD).

OPD Corrections staff “rocked the pink” in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink t-shirts under their uniforms.

Chief Roberts and Olympia Cops & Kids Foundation sponsored Alora Putnam as Chief for Day 2014, hosted by the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

Chiefs Roberts and Putnam

City of Olympia, Police Department
olympiawa.gov/police

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