Relationship Based Policing: Foot Patrol

A Return to Basics: The Summer Initiative, 2014-16
Portland Police Bureau

Lt. Ric Deland
Sgt. Jim Quackenbush
Why are we here?

“The police are the public and the public are the police.”

-Sir Robert Peel
PPB Mission Statement

The mission of the Portland Police Bureau is to reduce crime and the fear of crime by working with all citizens to preserve life, maintain human rights, protect property, and promote individual responsibility and community commitment.
“Inventing the Internet”

What was old is new again:

- Philadelphia 2010
- San Francisco 2011
- Chicago 2013
- Portland 2014
The Traditional Approach: Enforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oregon Revised Statutes:</th>
<th>City Code of Portland:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>162.247 Interfering with a police officer</td>
<td>8.36.080 Spitting in public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163.465 Public indecency</td>
<td>14A.30.010 Unlawful noise disturbance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164.245 Criminal Trespass II</td>
<td>14A.50.010 Alcohol in public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164.805 Offensive littering</td>
<td>14A.50.020 Prohibited camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166.025 Disorderly Conduct II</td>
<td>14A.50.050 Erecting structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Title 20 (Park Rules)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why is it ineffective?

- Lack of jail space
- Lack of prosecution
- Nothing to lose
- Liability
- Lengthy and cumbersome procedural requirements
- Lack of willingness by officers
- Ignores vulnerability and victimization
- Nature of contact misses opportunities
- It is an external motivator
Things come to a head...

Stabbing under Burnside Bridge leaves man with life-threatening injuries

By KATU.com Staff | Published: Mar 8, 2014 at 11:45 AM PDT | Last Updated: Mar 8, 2014 at 1:16 PM PDT

PORTLAND, Ore. – A man was stabbed early Saturday morning in S.W. Portland underneath the Burnside Bridge, police said.

Officers responded to a call on S.W. Naito Parkway that a pedestrian had been hit by a car. When they arrived, they instead found a stabbing victim near S.W. Antelope.

Bryce Carlton Powers, a 39-year-old homeless man, is in the hospital in critical condition.

Powers' father, Thomas, told KATU News his son has struggled with alcohol addiction.

"We thought he was in treatment," Thomas Powers said. "I was very surprised when I got the call this morning from police saying what had happened. He grew up around here, he's a good kid. He's someone very special. He's just had problems. He's worked on and off but has had troubles. I just hope he gets better."

Police said Powers got in an argument with several other homeless men under the bridge when he was stabbed. He left the scene and collapsed in the road.
The Foundation

- Developing authentic relationships must rise in priority
- Community Policing: “Relationship Based” vs. “Problem Solving”
- Focusing on relationships builds communication, which builds understanding, which builds trust, which builds mutual support and respect
- Relationships create personal accountability in both directions
The Foundation

- Communication
- Understanding
- Trust
- Mutual Support and Respect
- Personal Accountability
- Relationship Building
The Foundation

- Priority is reducing barriers and encouraging casual contacts and communication
- Vehicles, including bicycles, create a barrier
- Officers use their first names
- Contacts become less about enforcement, conflict, and crisis
- Relationship building is not reliant on foot patrol, but foot patrol is extremely effective
- Foot patrol is less efficient for other patrol functions
The Team
Locations

Foot Patrol focused on two primary zones, with some flexibility as resources allowed:

**Downtown Area**
Starting Point of SW 3rd/Oak

**Hawthorne Corridor**
Roughly from SE 23rd – SE 48th
Foot Patrol Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business contacts</td>
<td>1,052</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Contacts</td>
<td>2,108</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warnings</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Enforcement Action</td>
<td>1,503</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

April 1, 2014 – October 1, 2014
Foot Patrol Data

Reason for Contact

- Conversation: 66%
- Drugs/Alcohol: 5%
- Sidewalk Obstruction: 6%
- Trespass: 4%
- Warrants: 4%
- Littering: 2%
- Other Offense: 10%
- Other: 3%
Foot Patrol Data

Outreach

Subject Contacts: 2,108

Services
- Declined: 1,292 (61.3%)
- Accepted Referral: 126 (6.0%)
- Already Using: 200 (9.5%)
- Other/NA: 490 (23.2%)
Community Impact

Surveys

- Community surveys were distributed in both areas in April 2014 and again in October 2014 as a measure of community response to the project.
- Surveys recorded public opinion on sense of safety as well as city and police response to issues of crime and livability.
- Surveys between the two areas were compiled separately.
- The top complaints expressed in all four surveys centered around issues of safety due to our homeless population.
Open Survey Comments
Before

- 76% identified issues related to homelessness as their primary concern, including:
  - Bums / homeless people
  - “Travelers”
  - Violent and rowdy panhandlers
  - Aggressive homeless / Street kids
  - Homeless using back door as bathroom
  - Aggressive panhandling
  - Homeless panhandling and alcohol/drugs
  - Mostly just angry homeless people
Open Survey Comments

Before

- Advice was provided by responders in the open comment section, including:
  - Kick them all out (homeless)
  - Move vagrants away from businesses
  - Address problems with homeless population
  - Get the homeless help
  - Police walking patrols might help
  - Check in with business owners and get to know us
  - Help the homeless people who keep causing problems
Open Survey Comments
After

 “What you have been doing is great. I have lived in this area for at least 10 years, worked on Hawthorne for about 3 years, and I have seen a marked difference this summer…”

 “Because of the safe feel in the area/street, there has been a new feeling of community on Hawthorne…”

 “Having a strong police presence helped in all areas this summer. Employees felt much safer compared to prior years…”

 “I watched the police interact with people this year and the effect was amazing.”
Open Survey Comments
After

- “Foot patrol was great this summer! They stopped by often.”

- “Continue using the foot patrol program. It has made a world of difference in addressing these issues.”

- “The community policing model is helping…”

- “I like the fact that some of the officers come in throughout the day, it helps with staff_customers sense of feeling safer…”
Impact on Crime

- In addition to positively impacting fear of crime and improving relationships between the police and community, it is important to examine the impact on crime.

- Crime statistics were compared for Part 1 and Part 2 crimes for the period of April 1\textsuperscript{st} to November 1\textsuperscript{st} for 2013 and 2014 in the designated foot patrol areas.
Hawthorne Crime Reduction

Part 1 Crime: -16%
Part 2 Crime: -26%
Combined: -20%
Downtown Crime Reduction

- Part 1 Crime: +12%
- Part 2 Crime: -32%
- Combined: -23%
Significant Cases

“Real Police Work”

- Rape of a juvenile
- Felony assaults
- Felony thefts
- Professional jewelry thieves
- High quantity heroin
- Bicycle theft
- Murder
Police veteran, Outside In counselor earn White House honors

Created on Friday, 18 September 2015 09:38 | Written by Pamplin Media Group | 📰
National Interest

- Vancouver Police (WA) March 2015
- West Coast Convening (Portland) March 2015
- White House Champions of Change Sept 2015
- Center for Problem Oriented Policing Conference (Portland) October 2015
- Portland State University Research Study (in progress) 2015-2016
- John Zuercher Champions for Children Award November 2015
- Published in PoliceOne and USICH December 2015
- Eugene Police (OR) January 2016
- NAEH National Conference (Oakland) February 2016
- Attorney General Recognition and Tour March 2016
- Convening of Cities (Seattle) March 2016
- Police Foundation / Ford Foundation Study March 2016
- New York Times March 2016
- Statewide Summit on Homelessness (Kansas) April 2016
Attorney General Lynch's community policing tour swings through Portland

Created on Monday, 08 February 2016 17:50 | Written by Pamplin Media Group

![Image of Attorney General Lynch speaking at a podium]
Community Policing

Community Policing is based on a philosophy which recognizes the interdependence and shared responsibility of the police and community in making Portland a safer, more livable city. It is a method of policing which encourages a partnership that identifies community safety issues, determines resources, and applies innovative strategies designed to create and sustain healthy, vital neighborhoods. Community Policing will coordinate with efforts being made by private, nonprofit, and public agencies to bring a comprehensive approach to Portland’s problems of crime and disorder. Community Policing reflects the values of: Community participation, problem solving, officer involvement in decision-making, police accountability, and deployment of police personnel at a level closer to the neighborhood.

—Portland City Council, Resolution #34857, July 5, 1989
Partnerships

- Dennis Lundberg - JANUS
- Transition Projects
- JOIN
- Human Solutions
- Salvation Army/SAFE
- Union Gospel Mission
- Cascadia
- Golden West
- Street Roots
- Street Roots
- Yellow Brick Road
- Outside-In
- Porch Light/Street Light
- Homeless Youth Continuum
- Veterans’ Justice Project

- Office of Neighborhood Involvement
- Portland Business Alliance
- Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Downtown Security Network
- Central City Concern
- Clean and Safe
- Hawthorne Boulevard Business Association
- Hawthorne Neighbors
Lessons Learned

- Proved the model
- Partnerships are crucial
- Positive impact on officers and the community
- Perception is the biggest obstacle for everyone involved
- Perceptions can be changed
- Focusing on Internal vs. External Motivation is a key to success
Key Points

- If you tell an entire group of people they are not part of your community, they have no reason to care about your community. Those you outcast will act like outcasts.
- The reverse is equally true.
- “Livability” should not just mean the livability of the housed, but often does when the term is used.
- There are predators hiding among the vulnerable. We need the freedom to deal with them, for the sake of the vulnerable.
- People living on the streets do not typically believe the police exist for their protection. This can be changed very quickly when the focus changes from low level enforcement to building authentic relationships with people.
- The trust and respect you build when you prove it can produce monumental change in low level behavior very quickly.
- Compassion and Respect should be the pillar of every interaction.
- Emotional investment in people can create miracles.
Moving Forward

“Street Roots wants to say that the walking beat has been great success. It can be national model for police bureaus across the country, which are looking for formulas that may work to solve these problems. In 15 years been doing this work, this is the best program I’ve seen.”

- Israel Bayer, Executive Director, Street Roots