Help Us Help You
Empowering the Homeless Community to Change Their Lives

Presented by:
Myrtle Beach Police Department
Your Presenters

- Lt. Deborah McCorkle
  
  Patrol Division

  Street Crimes Unit

  13 years with Myrtle Beach Police Department

  Advocate of community policing and problem solving her entire career
Your Presenters

- PFC Kimberly Poirier
  Patrol Division
  Street Crimes Unit Community Team Officer
  6 years with Myrtle Beach Police Department
  Advocate of community policing and problem solving to effectively change quality of life for citizens of Myrtle Beach
• One of the fastest growing areas in the U.S. according to the U.S. Census Bureau
• A year round population of 25,000 and covers approximately 22.5 square miles
• Mild climate, miles of beaches and numerous attractions
• Summer population often exceeds 100,000 daily
City of Myrtle Beach Philosophy
“First in Service”

- Safety -- Comes First
- Excellence -- Constantly Improving
- Respect -- For Ourselves and Others
- Value -- The Individual and the Organization
- Integrity -- Fairness and Honesty
- Communication and Courtesy -- To All
- Education -- Knowledge to Help
The Myrtle Beach Police Department

- 240+ officers and staff
- Wide range of protection and enforcement services
- 187 certified police officers
- Patrol, Investigative, Support Services and Administrative Divisions
- All with a variety of specialized units
- Community-oriented policing philosophy
- Around the clock patrols
The Issue

- 2003 City of Myrtle Beach conducted an initial analysis of downtown area (newly named 5 Points), evaluation of calls for service, environmental factors, community opinion

- 2003-2007 In time officers found from daily encounters a growing homeless population involved in criminal and nuisance related activities such as loitering, trespassing, public intoxication and breach of peace that effect the quality of life

- 647 homeless persons identified in January 2007 during U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.) homeless count
• 2005 – Myrtle Beach Records Section analysis found 1% of subjects arrested were listed as homeless.

• 2006 – 6,238 calls for service in a two city block area

• 2006 Calls for Service in Myrtle Beach

  1,766 disorderly behavior

  3,809 public intoxication

  314 liquor law violations

  3,782 loitering

  1,900 trespassing

• 350 breach of peace
The Plan of Action

• Assigning community team officers to the area
• Increasing police presence
• Problem oriented policing
• Networking with local agencies and businesses
• Establishing other departments and agencies that can help
The Challenges

- Communication

What to do? Where to start? What is your department doing to analyze and address these problems?
The Challenges

- Community assistance agencies
The Challenges

- Day labor businesses

No more “Hustler’s Corner” or Gazebo.
The Challenges

• City parks
The Challenges

• Public library
Seeking Assistance

- From City departments
- From Local Businesses
Seeking Assistance

- Meeting held to discuss concerns and ideas
Seeking Assistance

- From community assistance agencies
Seeking Assistance

• From community volunteers
Attendees

- Police officers
- Community assistance agencies
- Day labor businesses
- Health care professionals
- Library staff
Information Gathering
Building the Bridge

- Find a working solution
- Identify underlying issues specific to the homeless population
- Address specific concerns
- Provide knowledge
- Share information on employment opportunities
- Eliminate criminal behavior
Information Gathering
Building the Bridge

- Officers –
  1. Identified homeless individuals
  2. Conducted field interviews
  3. Evaluated specific issues regarding employment
Information Gathering
Building the Bridge

• Officers, community assistance volunteers and public library personnel –

  Distributed surveys to gather information from homeless individuals

Rejected by family and society, law enforcement now has to deal with someone who has nowhere to go. Police may be the only contact point for help. What type of questions would you ask your homeless?
1. How long have you been in Myrtle Beach?
2. Why did you come to Myrtle Beach?
3. List the things that you consider a problem in your life.
4. List one thing that could really help you get out of your situation.
5. Do you want to continue to live as a homeless person?

100 percent of survey respondents said “NO”

How do you feel about helping someone who has in some cases betrayed their family, lost respect for human kind and lives on the streets?
What Now?

- Key issues have been identified
  1. Lack of appropriate identification
  2. Communication
  3. Medical and mental health issues
The Next Step

• Focus on providing information and accessibility
• Increase awareness of homeless issues
Help Us Help You

- First event took place on December 14, 2006
What do you think drew agencies to participate?

Agencies included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Security</th>
<th>Public Schools – G.E.D.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Department</td>
<td>Merchant Marines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Affairs</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcoholics Anonymous</td>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narcotics Anonymous</td>
<td>U.S. Army Recruitment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Labor Businesses</td>
<td>Health Care Professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Churches</td>
<td>Mental Health Professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Shelters</td>
<td>Shared Care Insurance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE RESULTS

• 25 provided information on housing
• 20 provided information on public transportation
• 10 provided with emergency shelter information
• 51 assisted with identification cards
THE RESULTS

• 31 placed in jobs
• 2 given glasses and medications
• 4 given assistance with food
• 15 helped by Social Security Commission
• 42 received medical assistance
• 2 entered Narcotics Anonymous
• 15 signed up for GED (Graduate Equivalency Diploma) and English As a Second Language classes
Continuing Education

A Guide to Shelters and Emergency Assistance

Provided by Myrtle Beach Police Department

Shelter

Homeless Outreach Line 843-497-3960 or 997-8350
Street Beach (overnight for men and women) 843-626-3143
909 9th Avenue North Myrtle Beach
Myrtle Beach Haven (family shelter) 843-626-2427
1 Terminal Street, Myrtle Beach

Helping Hand (provides food and crisis assistance)
843-434-4051
1411 Mt. Joe White Ave., Myrtle Beach

Withers Swath Park Ministries (a meal on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Park or at the Community Kitchen Saturday at 11:30 a.m.)

Identification and Transportation

Business requires proper identification for employment. The Social Security Administration office is on Fourth Avenue North in Conway.

For a driver’s license or identification card, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles office is on 21st Avenue North in Myrtle Beach.

The Coast RTA operates the public transportation authority, with service to Conway and elsewhere.

A Guide to Shelters and Emergency Assistance

Code Violations and Fines

Breach of Peace $277
Disorderly Conduct $1173-$448 (may involve fighting)
Indecent Exposure $484
Pedestrian on Highway $148
Trespassing $277 (after being given a warning by business or resident or if posted)
Minor in Possession of Alcohol $173
Public Intoxication $173
Loitering $277 (includes cigarette butts)
Sleeping in a Vehicle $121
Operating Without a Business License $484 (includes window washing)
Resisting Arrest $484
Sleeping on the Beach $121
Sitting or lying down on Public Sidewalks $121
Changing Clothes in Public $484
Aggravated Solicitation $484

Park Ordinance Violations $277
Garbaging, sleeping in an area longer than one hour nap, washing body, taking care of general hygiene or having belongings consistent with setting up a camp
Loitering $277 (taking an area for an unreasonable amount of time or sitting around on public property, if drug or prostitution conviction within the last two years)

Agencies and Resources Offering Help for Homeless, Low Income and Special Needs Persons

Homestead Outreach 497-3960 or 997-8350
Call for assistance and information if Homeless

American Red Cross 477-0020
Emergency assistance for fires, hurricanes

Associated Charities 448-4321
Assistance, clothing, etc., when available

Bethany Christian Services 236-5433
24-hour hotline for adoption and mothers’ and babies’ services

CareTeam, Inc. 236-4429
Assistance and support for HIV/AIDS

Citizens Against Spousal Abuse 626-7565
CASA: emergency shelter and assistance, 24-hour crisis intervention counseling for parent and child, etc.

Catholic Charities 488-2112
Assistance and services for those in need

Christian Missions 293-2011
Free, clothing, household items, utilities, etc., in emergency situations

Coastal Resource Mission 488-3522
Food Pantry – Loft

Coastal Workforce Center 234-9675
Job listings, unemployment assistance and guidance

Community Kitchen 448-9383
Free lunch served daily, Monday – Friday.

Department of Social Services 444-1007
Myrtle Beach – food stamps

Ecumenical Clothes Closet 651-3751
Clothing for the needy

 Faith-Based Community Coalition 448-3949
Assistance for special needs persons, homeless and those in crisis

Family Outreach 248-5392
Services and supplies for mother and new baby

Grand Strand Community Against Rape (Rape Crisis) 448-3180
24-hour crisis help and rape prevention assistance

Helping Hand – Myrtle Beach 488-4851
Crisis assistance, food, rent and utility assistance on a limited basis

Helping Hand – North Strand 399-4862
Crisis assistance, food, rent and utility assistance on a limited basis

Hurricane Evacuations

If an evacuation is ordered by the Governor, local news media, police, the American Red Cross, the city and other organizations will identify evacuation shelter locations, most likely across the Intracoastal Waterway. Transportation to the shelters will be available, and pick-up locations will be identified. These will include Coastal Grand Mall, Food Lion at 9th Avenue North and Colonial Mall. Do not stay if an evacuation is ordered. Storm surge, strong winds and debris are deadly.

In an evacuation, always take your.

Identification (Driver’s License, Social Security Card, etc.)
Important Documents (Marriage License, Birth Certificate, etc.)
Medications and doctor’s name and number
Children’s special information (schools, special needs, etc.)

Myrtle Beach Police Department
1101 North Oak Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
843-918-1382

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Children’s special information (schools, special needs, etc.)
Currently there is a committee that includes local business leaders, government representatives, volunteers and law enforcement.

Help Us Help You meetings continue quarterly.

Life Style Program
EDIT BAY THREE
Myrtle Beach News