Analyzing and Responding to Homelessness-related Problems

POP Conference, April 2022

Daniel Reinhard, PhD
Boulder Police Department
Email: reinhardd@bouldercoloardo.gov
Analyzing and Responding to Homeless Issues

1. Anchorage, Alaska:
   • Town Square Park
   • Panhandling PIT Count

2. Boulder, Colorado:
   • Data and Response to Homelessness
Town Square Park

1. APD’s CPTED Review
2. CAP Team / Bike Officers
3. Downtown Ambassadors

My Involvement:

1. Evaluating Space Activation to Reduce Disorder
2. Systematic Social Observations
2014: Sudden Removal Of Trees from Town Square Park Prompted Uproar – and Thanks.

• Business owners approved

• An unlikely enemy: Arborists and Horticulturists
1. Provides a hiding place
2. Unsecured electrical outlets
3. Provides good vision of the rest of the park
Closing Thought:

Be mindful about the media influencing interventions and activities
Panhandling PIT Count

1. Hired by Non-Profit
2. Beautification Efforts
3. A very visible problem
• 30 days, “casual” observations
• 10 days, systematic observations
• 3 days, PIT Counts
Top Six locations:

- All had bench seating (retaining walls)
- By gas stations and liquor
- Centrally located
Closing Thought: Be Skeptical, but Open Minded about Results

• 3-day PIT: about 16 panhandlers/day
• 10-day SSO: about 18 panhandlers/day

• Significantly different than city’s homeless count
• Re-structured perceptions about the problem
Homelessness in Boulder, Colorado
Encampment Reporting Tool

City of Boulder Encampment Reporting

Encampment Reporting, By Who Reports
Homeless Data at each step

CAD CALL NOTES ➔ REPORT/CITATION TYPE ➔ PEOPLE IN REPORTS
#HOT CAD Incidents from 2020 - 2021
CAD Incidents Flagged as Homeless Outreach Team, 2020-2021

- Trespassing: 1041
- Welfare Check: 841
- Littering: 800
- Medical: 728
- Disturbance: 702
- Other: 593
- Harassment: 316
- Pedestrian Contact: 315
- Suspicious: 287
- Theft/Shoplifting: 182
- Assault/Menacing / Weapon: 174
- Drunk Person: 117
- Fire Related: 92
- Narcotics: 85
- Follow-Up: 72
- Mischief: 62
- Indecent Exposure: 62
- Warrant Arrest: 45
- Burglary: 29
- Camps/Camping: 20
- Alarm: 20
- Other: 10
Thank you for your time.
Time to transition to a Q&A

Daniel Reinhard, PhD
Boulder Police Department
Email: reinhardd@bouldercolorado.gov