

Analyzing and Responding to Homelessness- related Problems

POP Conference, April 2022

Daniel Reinhard, PhD

Boulder Police Department

Email: reinhardd@bouldercolorado.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.

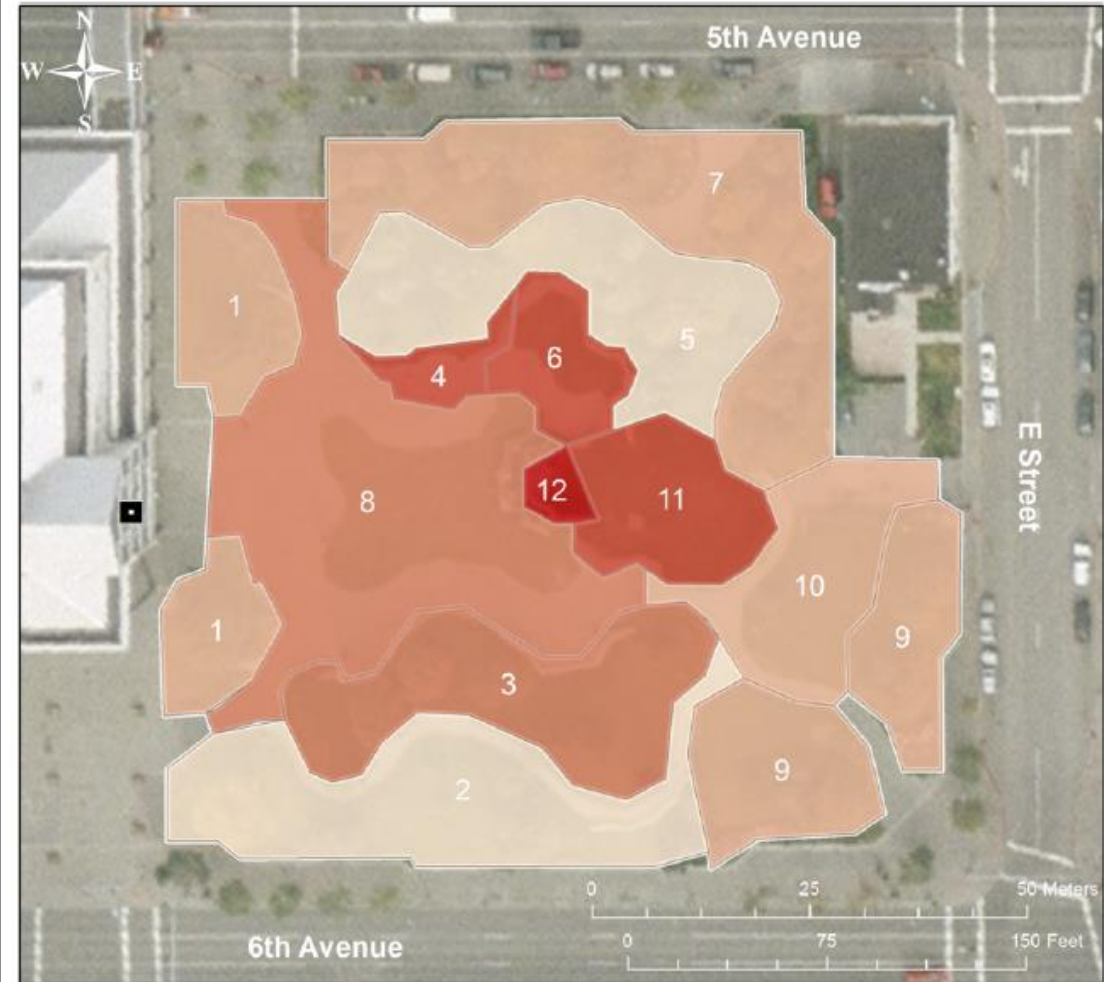
- Business owners approved
- An unlikely enemy: Arborists and Horticulturists





Legend

- Primary observation point, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts



Legend

- Primary observation point, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

Crime per park zone normalized by area

- Low crime
- High crime

Figure 1. Town Square Park with zones.

Figure 3. Choropleth map of crime and disorder in Town Square Park, normalized by area.

1. Provides a hiding place
2. Unsecured electrical outlets
3. Provides good vision of the rest of the park





Google



Closing Thought:
 Be mindful about the
 media influencing
 interventions and
 activities

**Susitna
 ferry bill
 comes due
 in Mat-Su**

Borough has 30 days to work out payment to federal lender.

By ZAZ HILLANDER
Alaska Dispatch News

FALMER — The Mat-Su Borough may have the Federal Transit Administration owe more than \$2 million for the 6-foot-by-27-foot boat that's never even seen the water of Cook Inlet.

At least, that's the argument being made by the agency demanding the money back within 30 days, according to two letters sent to the borough on Tuesday.

Borough officials said at a press conference Thursday that they plan to contest the payment and still hope to sell the ferry to a private buyer.

Built at the Ketchikan shipyard, the 100-foot M/V Susitna was designed as a full-size prototype of a U.S. Navy double-hulled beach landing craft that can run through ice. It holds up to 120 passengers and 20 vehicles.

But without another \$40 million officials say they needed to build landings on either side, the ferry never made the 2-mile trip between Anchorage and Port MacKenzie.

The borough spent \$6 million refurbishing the prototype for passenger service, \$2.6 million on a passenger terminal at Port Mac-

See Page A-1, B3B3P

**OBAMA OKS AIRSTRIKES
 AGAINST IRAQI REBELS**

President Barack Obama on Thursday announced that he had authorized targeted U.S. airstrikes against Islamic militants in Iraq. **Page A-2**

**Pacific pivot
 tags Eielson
 for F-35 base**

Air Force says Fairbanks is best locale for 2 fighter squadrons.

EYES IN THE SKY WATCH DOWNTOWN PARK



UAA Justice Center student Daniel Plattford, left, and Anchorage Press Club Mark More watch Town Square Park from an upper level of the Justice Center for the Performing Arts on July 23. The UAA Justice Center also teamed with the Anchorage Press Department and the Anchorage Downtown Partnership to study Town Square Park. Over a three-week period, the university made observations and collected data on how people use the park.

Studying safety at Town Square

UAA researchers record behaviors before, during, after festival

By DEWBERRY
Alaska Dispatch News



The Parks & UAA professors walk through East Square on July 23.

A gathering of about 100 people, including children, took place at the park. People hit two giant beach balls from the Justice Center.

On a nearby bench, said the group of about 100 people, in the heart of downtown Anchorage, a young woman sat next to a young man, waving back and forth. In another part of the park, a man sat on a concrete bench with a green backpack.

As a generally the scene would have looked exactly like a bustling beach town in Anchorage's downtown square. But behind the glass windows on the third floor of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, two University of Alaska Anchorage researchers were watching closely and taking notes. At

UAA Justice Center, looking out the window after returning from a walk around the park, where he had observed the fun. The woman, he noted, looked to be in "some kind of mild distress."

"It's kind of hard to tell what the story is here."

On a table behind them lay a spreadsheet with check marks, recording measurements like the number of groups in Town Square Park, the number of children, whether anyone was sleeping or smoking or skateboarding. It was the third week in July, the summer when the Anchorage Downtown Partnership held "U & A Day in the Square," an event series linking the park with activities ranging from food truck grilling to Zumba and yoga. On one particularly

one moment, they were focused on the people on the bench.

"There does seem to be some-

thing going on in that would be worth watching," said Troy Pappas, an assistant professor of justice at the

See Page B3B3P, B3B3P, B3B3P

Panhandling PIT Count

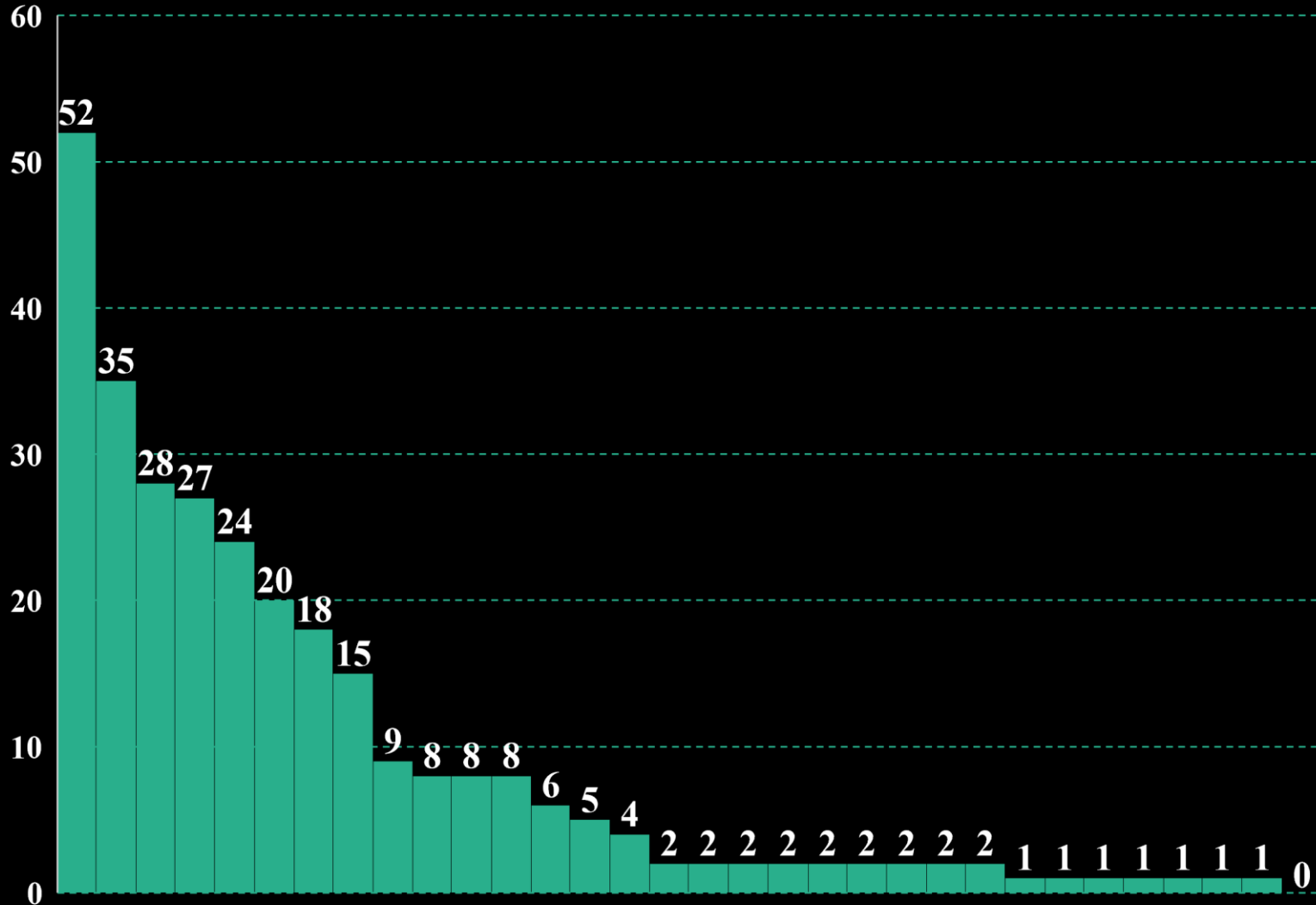
1. Hired by Non-Profit
2. Beautification Efforts
3. A very visible problem







**Count of Panhandlers (n=292) by Location (n=31)
10-Day Observation and PIT Count**



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

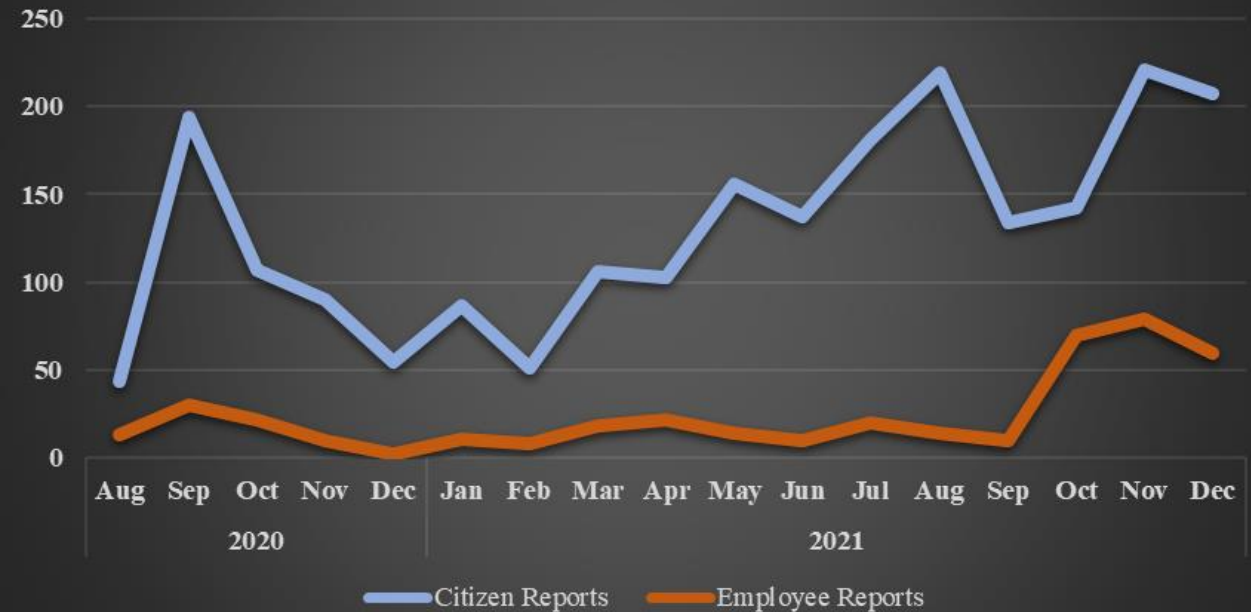


Encampment Reporting Tool

City of Boulder Encampment Reporting

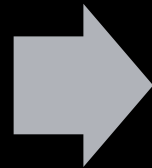


Encampment Reporting, By Who Reports

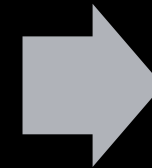


Homeless Data at each step

CAD CALL NOTES

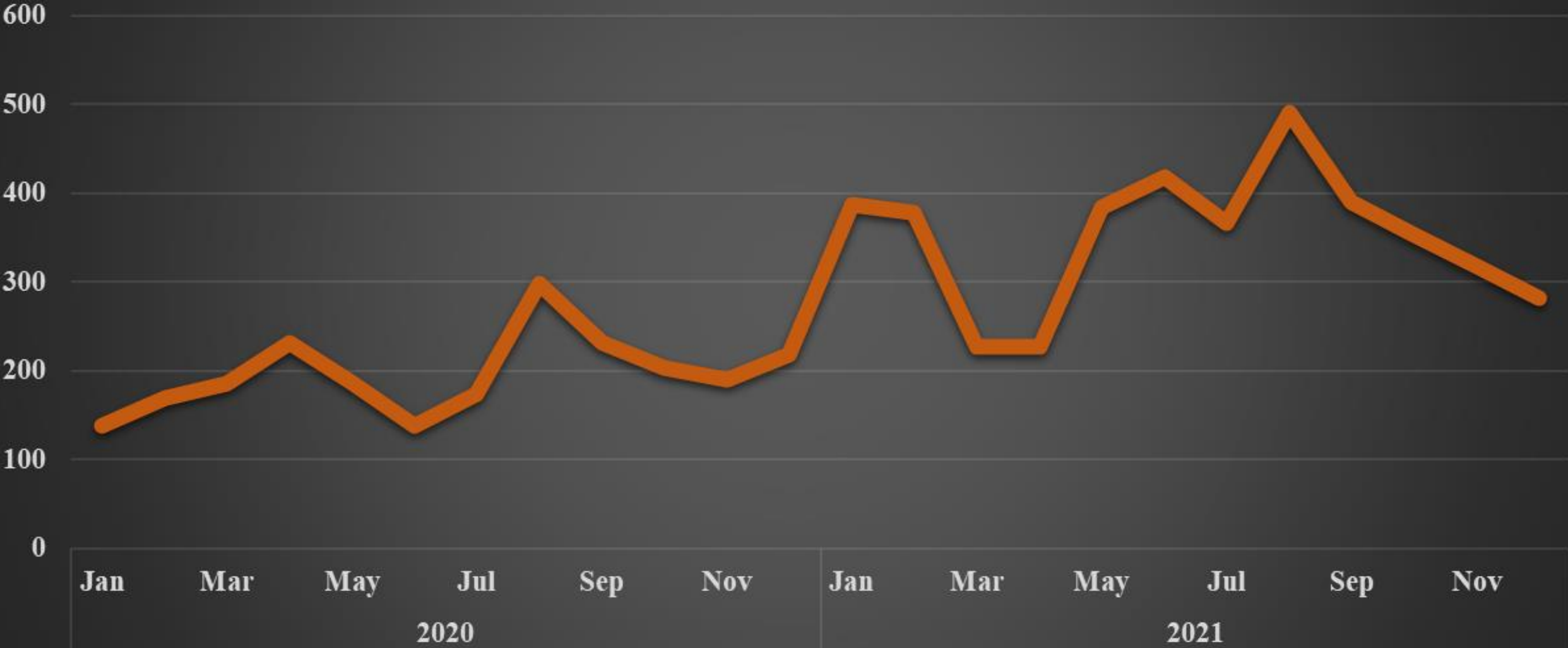


REPORT/CITATION
TYPE

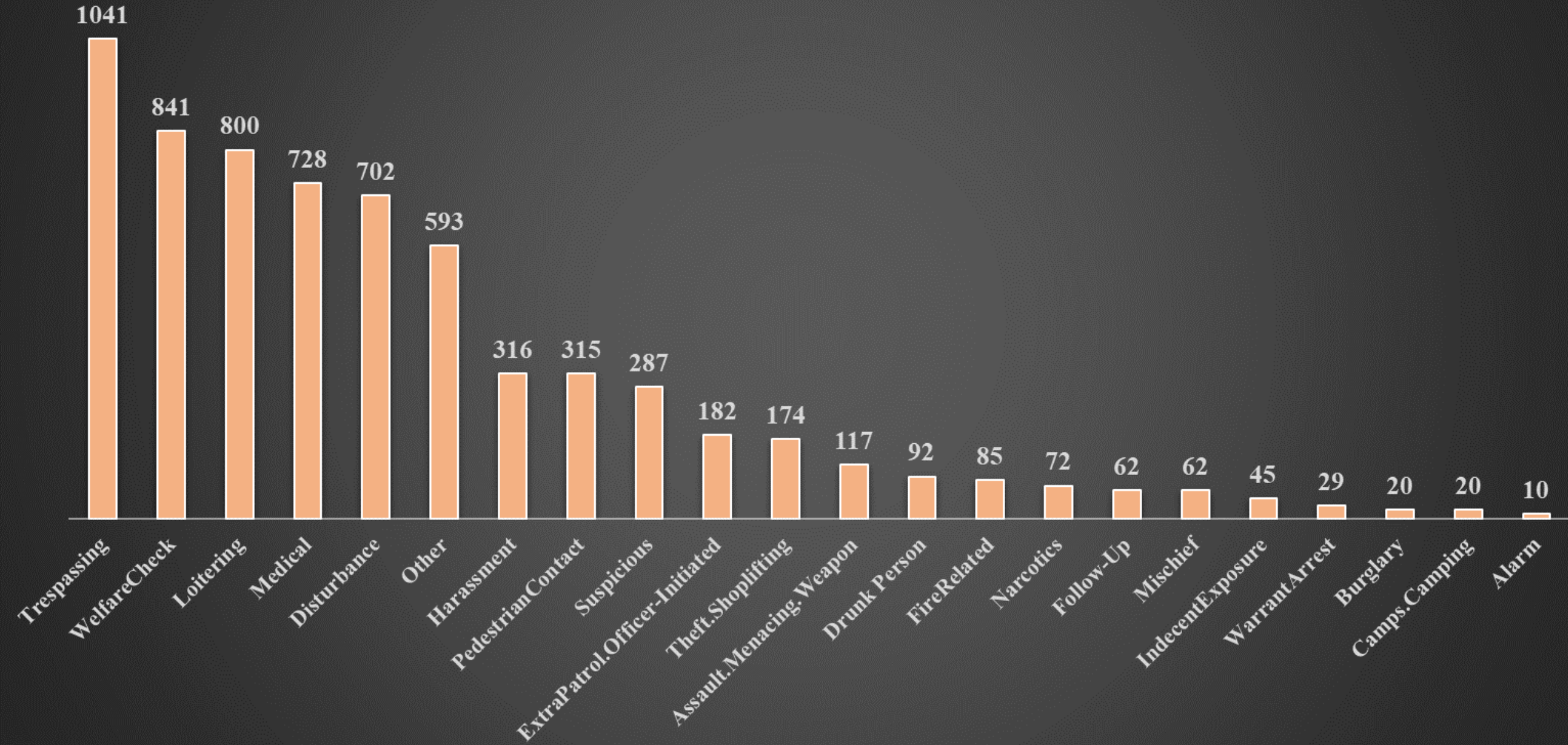


PEOPLE IN
REPORTS

#HOT CAD Incidents from 2020 - 2021



CAD Incidents Flagged as Homeless Outreach Team, 2020-2021



Core Departments

City Manager

City Attorney

HHS

Police Department

Parks and Recreation

Utilities Department

Community Vitality

Impact Departments

Communication &
Engagement

Facilities and Fleet

Municipal Court

IT

Open Space &
Mountain Parks

Input Departments

Transportation

Fire/EMS

Finance

Library Services

Thank you for your time.
Time to transition to a Q&A

Daniel Reinhard, PhD

Boulder Police Department

Email: reinhardd@bouldercolorado.gov

