



Homelessness and Public Safety in Palm Springs, CA

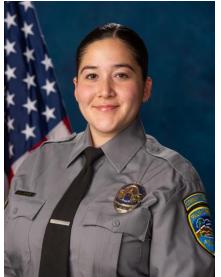


IMPACT TEAM



- Sgt. Frank Guarino
- Officer Jordan Belchamber
- Officer Jorge Diaz
- Officer Luciano Colontuano
- Officer Emmi Kramer
- Officer Chad Brown
- CSO Destiny Arce
- Code Compliance Officer Kristi Smith







Scanning – Approaching the Problem

- 45,000 resident population and Winter-time population 100,000
- Arrests
- PIT Count

Scanning - Approaching the Problem

- Crime and Quality of Life
- Police Resources Impacted
- Communication
- Community Frustration





Analysis/ Research

Conduced five community meetings in five Council Districts using a nominal group technique allowing residents to voice their concerns



Analysis -Research

- Compared Riverside County PIT to Palm Springs PD PIT
- IMPACT worked with City and County Officials to understand local resources and communication with the public and homeless population.

Defining the Problem

After scanning the problem, an initial problem statement was identified:

"Homeless individuals living in Palm Springs seize crime opportunities for continued substance abuse and clustering in locations that create hot spots for police activity and crime."





Offender

- Homeless as Offenders
- Victims, not just offenders
- Diverse Population

Target/Victim

- Residents
- Businesses
- Homeless Individuals

Locations

- Shopping Centers/Big Box Stores
- Fast Food chains
- Homeless Organizations
- Places of worship

Previous Responses (Inconsistent and Piece Mealed)

- Patrols
- Social Media
- Enforcement Operations
- Housing First Model
- Hostile Architecture

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Understanding the problem's cause

- Hypothesis
- Obstacles and Barriers







CA Prop 47: free pass for shoplifters?



Setting Objectives

- This project aimed to address interconnected issues of homelessness and crime
- Focused Hotspots identified through analysis
- Multi-faceted approach implemented
- Firm Message *Take the services, move elsewhere, or go to jail and disrupt your need for drugs*



Response

- Part 1 Survey
- Part 2 Provide Resources
- Part 3 Focused Enforcement

Resiliance, Inclusion and Support for Ending Homelessness



Assessment -Measuring the Impact

- Disrupted crime patterns
- Increased Service Connection
- Identified High Risk Individuals
- More Attention brought to the issue
- Improved Services Utilization
- Family Reunification
- Improved Public Perception



Assessment

- Reunified with family (Buses, Trains, Planes) - 45 people • Temporary Housing – 80 people • Arrests – More than 700

- Deaths 22 (OD, heat, other)

Uncertainties

- Long-Term Effectiveness
- Impact on Repeat Offenders
- Displacement
- Financial Impact



More Data Needed

- Crime Rates Before and After
- Service Utilization Rates
- Recidivism Rates

Operation Restore Hope



