

City's Response to Homeless Issues

Captain Matt Magro

August 28, 2019

What is Homelessness?

- Complex issue
- At the forefront of every town and city throughout California
- Many perspectives

Why the Increase?

Why has the homeless population across the state increased?

- Lack of affordable housing
- Changes in laws
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Financial strain (health related/ unemployment)
- Mental health

Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

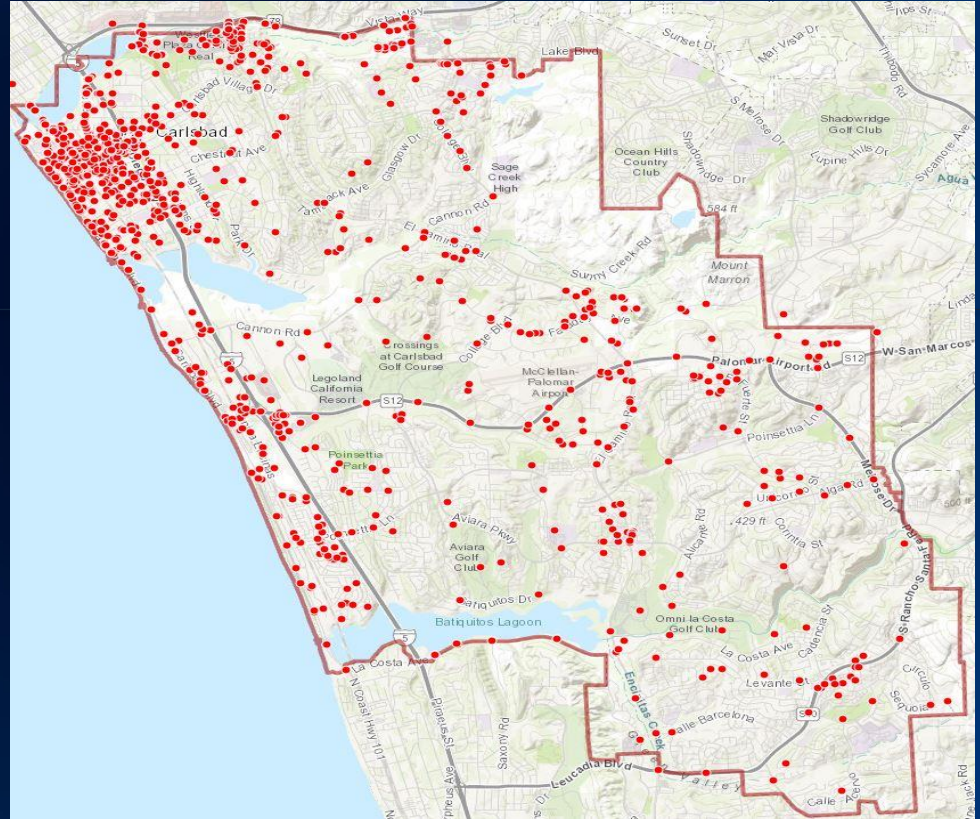
- Established 2017
- Sergeant and four Officers
- Building trust
- Compassionate enforcement
- Collaborative approach for long-term solutions
- Encampment response and cleanup

Homeless Related Calls For Service YTD

YTD 2019

All Police

3,192



Homeless Response Team Successes 2019 YTD

- *10 individuals into permanent housing
- 3 individuals into sober living
- 5 individuals into inpatient substance abuse treatment
- 9 individuals into emergency shelter
- *11 individuals connected with mental health services
- 16 individuals connected with their primary doctor

*3 individuals received services in more than

HOT Stats 2019 YTD

- 422 Contacts
- 61 Arrests
- 230 Field Interviews
- 73 Citations
- 94 Services provided/accepted
- 114 Camp cleanups



Homeless Camps



Enforcement Challenges

Information provided by President of Association of Deputy District Attorney's

- AB 109 - passed 2011
- Prop 47- passed 2014
- Prop 57- passed 2016
- Ninth Circuit Case Ruling
 - Boise vs Martin

AB 109

BEFORE

- Housed in State Prison
- Supervised by State Parole Agents
- Violation=return to prison for 1 year

AFTER

- Housed in County jail
- Supervised by County Probation
- Violation= 10 days “flash incarceration”
- Max 180 days

Proposition 47

BEFORE

- Theft over \$400 = felony
- Theft from business = felony
- Drug possession for personal use = felony

AFTER

- Theft over \$950 = felony
- Theft from business under \$950 = misd.
- Drug possession for personal use = misd.

Proposition 57

BEFORE

- “Non-violent” offenses eligible for parole after serving 50% of entire sentence.
- DA charged juveniles as adults based on age and crime.
- Credits limited to 50%, 15%, or 0%

AFTER

- “Non-violent” offenses eligible for parole after serving “primary offense.”
- Only a judge can transfer a juvenile to adult court.
- Unlimited credits for all prisoners.

Boise-vs-Martin

- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in September 2018 that cities can't criminalize sleeping outdoors when homeless people have no other choice.
- The ruling impacts nine Western states and has led some cities to revisit their homeless ordinances and practices.

Things the City Can't Do

- Arrest someone for being homeless
- Clear brush from a protected area
- Physically arrest people for trespassing-citation
- Clean out encampments immediately- must be posted
- Arrest someone for begging or asking for money- most cases not illegal
- Congregating or gathering in public is not illegal

Moving Forward

- Seven days a week HOT officers working
- Interfaith increased field services
- Full-time manager for the City's Homeless Response Plan
- Housing navigator position to assist with locating housing
- Collaborate with McAllister
- Goal is to become proactive vs reactive
- Chronic offender prosecution program with DA's Office
- City Attorney revising City ordinances
- Working on North County Regional Action Plan

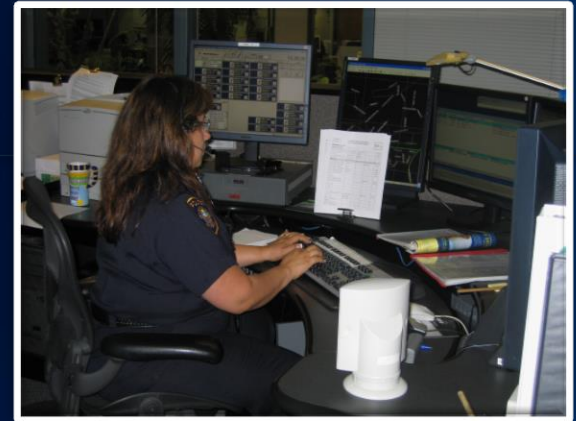
Communication Tools

- How we communicate
 - Website – www.carlsbadca.gov
 - News stories; prevention resources; reporting tools
 - Traditional media
 - Homeless information-maps
 - Social media
 - Facebook – CarlsbadPoliceDepartment
 - Twitter - @CarlsbadPolice
 - Instagram - @carlsbadpolicedept
 - Nextdoor
 - YouTube – City of Carlsbad



How Can You Help?

- Eyes and ears of your community
- See something say something
- Who to call
- When to call
 - Suspicious activity
 - Crime
- Online resources
 - www.carlsbadca.gov/police
 - City@yourservice App



Reporting Homeless Related Issue

Police Emergency – 911

Police Non-Emergency – 760-931-2197

Police HOT Direct – 760-931-2249

App-city@yourservice

HOT email policehot@carlsbadca.gov

Gary.marshall@carlsbadca.gov