



William M. Taylor
Superintendent

Deborah Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

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Deputy Superintendent

To: Kevin Murphy
Superintendent of Police

From: William Taylor
Superintendent of Police

Date: December 5, 2017

Re: Council Response

11/14/2017 12.1 Councilor Samaras – Request the City Manager investigate and report on any problem activities in the vicinity of Kirk Street and Merrimack Street

Attached, please find a review of the computer aided dispatch (CAD) calls for service produced by the Crime Analysis Unit for Kirk Street and Merrimack Street. After reviewing the data the Lowell Police Department (LPD) has utilized several strategies to address issues and increase public safety in the area of Kirk Street and Merrimack Street, particularly around the Living Waters facility. These strategies include but are not limited to assigning additional patrols in the area and working with other city departments. The assigned route officer advises at peak periods the kitchen at Living Waters would attract 50-60 homeless individuals for breakfast and lunch. As this number is significant, the perception from those in the area resulted in reports of this location becoming a problem with the homeless congregating. When the weather was warmer, those coming to the area for meals often stayed around in the Lucy Larcom Park area but as the temperature dropped the loitering issue has dissipated.

The LPD has been able to utilize state grant funding to assign an extra officer on foot patrol to this location from mid-afternoon up until 8pm on a daily basis. Assigned Officers also worked with various city departments to address any issues in the area such as the removal of excess trash, lighting repairs and any other damages that needed to be addressed.

On November 15, 2017, LPD Route 7 Officer Bourret accompanied City Inspectors to the Living Waters Facility. As a result, the location was found not to be up to code as it pertained to several necessary permits including food preparation in the kitchen and was shut down. The next day the Living Waters Facility was fully operational. The facility no longer prepares the meals themselves but has it catered by a local company. The Sector Captain will assign patrol personnel to the area and continue to monitor the activity.



Lowell Police Department

Central/ Merrimack Streets

5-Year Trend

Figure 1 illustrates the number of CAD Calls, Incidents, and Arrests in the area of Central and Merrimack Streets. Traffic/Motor Vehicle Charges, Accident, Fire, Alarm, Medical, Police Business, Assistance, Proactive Policing and Service Calls were omitted. Proactive Policing and Traffic will be discussed in the later portion of this document. Incidents were also filtered, and non-criminal incidents/ traffic removed.

Over the 5-year period, selected CAD Calls have decreased 12%. Consequently, incidents have decreased 44%, and Arrests 48%. Disturbances (81%) and Unwanted (209%), are the most frequent calls, and have increased over the aforementioned time period. In regards to those calls specifically, 70% came in between 07:00-20:00 everyday of the week. Only a small portion (15%), took place on the weekends between 00:00-04:00.

Incidents 11/28/16-11/27/17

Although incidents have decreased 17%, when compared to the prior year, the area is busy with different types of crime (refer to Table 2). Overall incidents primarily take place on Platoon 2, starting around 11:00 and increasing steadily till 18:00 during the work/school week. Weekends the peak hours are between 00:00-03:00 (20%).

Proactive Policing

Proactive Policing Calls have decreased over the 5 year period 47%, and increased 112% since last year in this specific area (refer to Figure 3). Directed patrols were concentrated in 3 time/day blocks, (1) weekends between 00:00-02:00 (40%), (2) weekdays 06:00-09:00 (24%), and (3) weekdays 16:00-19:00 (21%). For the most part patrols correlate to the time and day of the heightened calls and incidents previously mentioned.

Field Interviews

Field Interviews have increased 125%, from 60 between 11/28/15-11/27/16, to 135 between 11/28/16-11/27/17. Historical data is limited.

Traffic /Motor Vehicle Charges

There was little change over the 5-year period in regards to Traffic/ MV Charges, averaging 100 CAD calls per year. There were a total of 206 Citations written in this area from 1/1/16-11/27/17. Historical data is unavailable.

