

2008-2010 Resources Impact in the Lions Park Vicinity on the City of Costa Mesa

Housing and Community Development
Department

City of Costa Mesa



Executive Summary

This report was prepared to identify the impact on City resources from calls for police and fire services in and near Lions Park. Since 2008, the Lions Park vicinity, including Lions Park, Fire Station #3, Neighborhood Community Center, Downtown Recreation Center, Historical Society and Library has experienced an increase in police calls for service while the surrounding Patrol Area 1 has seen an overall decrease in calls for service.

Most categories of calls for service have remained constant, some experienced slight decreases, and others experienced slight increases. The major increase was in the category of “Patrol Checks”, which is an officer initiated general disposition signifying an officer is actively patrolling or checking a specific location for any reason. This increase is primarily attributed to the proactive approach of the Costa Mesa Police Department (CMPD) initiating these Patrol Checks. However, based on qualitative analysis from the CMPD, between 76% - 96% of calls for service in Lions Park are reasonably attributed to the chronically homeless population in Lions Park.

Two case studies were conducted to determine the full cost of police service provided to chronically homeless individuals. The costs include officer costs in the field, report writing and administrative time working on cases revolving around a single individual. There was one individual with cases reaching back to 1993 which cost the CMPD approximately \$34,234. The second case is about another individual dating from 2010 to present cost \$300.

These costs are not true operating costs but are monetary indicators of how much police officers' time is expended in Lions Park. Since the patrol function is a sunk cost, meaning the police officers are on patrol regardless of the type of calls for service they respond, this analysis shows that police officers spend significant time working with the chronically homeless population. This analysis was prepared in an effort to assist with future analysis of which strategies will best serve the outcomes intended by the City.

Purpose

This report intends to identify the budgetary impact of calls for police service in and near Lions Park. This report also expresses how much money and police officers' time is expended working with the chronically homeless population in Lions Park. The data analysis gives a quantitative perspective on the costs to the CMPD when responding to calls for service in the Lions Park area. The purpose of identifying costs in this fashion signifies how the City's resources are expended while working with the chronically homeless population. This analysis may help to determine which combination of strategies are most cost effective and best serve the desired outcomes of the residents and businesses of the City of Costa Mesa.

Methodology

Individual Cases

CMPD records track the number, type and length of police contacts with an individual. The field time for these interactions is averaged based on the average length of that type of call from the 2008 calls for service data. When a suspect is arrested a police officer spends time on report writing, booking procedures, transportation and guarding of a prisoner at Hoag hospital, and

transportation and booking at Orange County Jail. The CMPD estimated the above activities average time for completion:

- Booking Time – 20 Minutes
- Hospital Time – 1.5-3 Hours
- OC Jail time – 1.5 Hours
- Report Writing – 15 Minutes

Cost of time spent on these cases can be derived from multiplying the amount of time spent multiplied by the hourly top-step salary of a Costa Mesa Police Officer (\$45.76/HR).

Patrol Costs

The CMPD's records of calls for service in Patrol Area 1 between the years of 2008 and 2010 were analyzed. Patrol Area 1 is one of two geographic patrol areas in the City; Area 1 experiences a higher call volume than Area 2. CMPD records include an event location, a short description of the call for service, the disposition of the call, the start date and time of the response, and the end time and date of the response. Costs were analyzed by multiplying the total time of each call with the salary of a Top-Step Police Officer (\$45.76/Hr). The calls for service analyzed were for Patrol Area 1 as a whole, the Lions Park vicinity, and Lions Park itself. The Lions Park vicinity includes the entire area between W. 19th to W. 18th Streets between Anaheim Ave and Park Ave, (Lions Park, Costa Mesa Library, Costa Mesa Fire Station No 3, Historical Society and Community Center). "Lions Park" includes 570 W. 18th St, 567 W. 18th St and the Historical Society. Traffic related calls for service (e.g., traffic accidents and vehicle stops) in the Lions Park vicinity were removed from the analysis.

Through a qualitative analysis process, CMPD personnel have reasonably attributed many types of calls for service to the chronically homeless population at Lions Park. Without individually reviewing every single call for service, this qualitative analysis is the most practical evaluation of which calls for service are attributed to the chronically homeless and which are not. It is important to remember that the **data are only calls for service**, meaning this is what a reporting caller tells the dispatcher the suspected emergency is or what a police officer initially describes is the incident he is responding to. What the office responds to may not be what is actually occurring at the time of the incident. **These are not crime statistics or arrest records.**

The calls for service categories reasonably attributed to the chronically homeless population of Lions Park are:

▪ 11350-Drugs (possession of a controlled substance)	▪ Assault with a Deadly Weapon	▪ Battery
▪ Begging	▪ Bike/Bicyclist Stop	▪ Burglary
▪ Check Welfare	▪ Disturbance, Drunk in Public	▪ Fight
▪ Indecent Exposure	▪ Keep the Peace	▪ Medical Aid
▪ Municipal Ordinance Violation	▪ Overdose	▪ Parking Violation
▪ Parole Violation	▪ Patrol Check	▪ Person Down
▪ Police Mutual Aid	▪ Police Public Assist	▪ Possession of Danger
▪ Resisting Police Officer	▪ Robbery	▪ Stolen Vehicle
▪ Subject Stop	▪ Suspicious Person	▪ Theft
▪ Trespassing	▪ Unwanted Guest Refuses to Leave	▪ Vagrant/Transient
▪ Vandalism	▪ Warrant Arrest	▪ Other ¹

These calls are not representative of the types of calls for service frequently occurring in the Lions Park Vicinity. “Other” includes but is not limited to, Annoying-Obscene Phone Calls,

¹ The Other category of calls for service are calls in which the quantity of incidents is limited to very few occurrences.

Brandishing Deadly Weapon, Drug Registration, Elder Abuse, Emergency Protective Order, False Impersonation, Fire Alarm, Foot Pursuit, and Indecent Exposure.

Results

Individual Costs

Records show the first case where “Individual 1” has 571 separate contacts with Costa Mesa Police. The first record tracks cases of an individual from 1993 to present. The interactions with “Individual 1” cost \$34,234. The chart breaks down the estimated time and costs. The total time spent amounts to 5,451 Hours or 2 1/2 years worth of regular business hours.

Table 4					
Type of Officer Involvement	Event Type	Primary Statute Description	Time Each	Total Time	Total Cost
ARREST	Arrested	242	2.67	646.14	\$29,567.37
CITED	Citation	226	0.31	70.06	\$3,205.95
CONTACT	Incident	83	0.31	25.73	\$1,177.40
PEDESTRIAN	Citation	9	0.31	2.79	\$127.67
	Other				
SELLER	Events	1	0.31	0.31	\$14.19
SUSPECT	Incident	4	0.31	1.24	\$56.74
WITNESS	Incident	4	0.31	1.24	\$56.74
INVESTIGATIVE	Incident	2	0.31	0.62	\$28.37
	Totals:	571	4.84	748.13	\$34,234.43

“Individual 2” has 9 separate incidents dating from 2010 to 2011. The interactions with “Individual 2” cost \$300 with a total time of approximately 6 hours and 30 minutes.

Table 5					
Type of Officer Involvement	Event Type	Primary Statute Description	Total Time in Hours	Cost	Comment
Arrestee	Incident	Warrant Arrest	3.58	\$163.97	(1)
Arrestee	Incident	Drunk in Public	0.92	\$41.95	(2)
Cited	Citation	Not specified	0.31	\$14.19	(2)
Cited	Citation	Not specified	0.31	\$14.19	(2)
Cited	Citation	Not specified	0.31	\$14.19	(2)
Contact	Incident	Miscellaneous non-crime	0.31	\$14.19	(2)
Cited	Citation	Not specified	0.31	\$14.19	(2)
Contact	Incident	Assault on a Peace Officer	0.17	\$7.63	
Investigative	Incident	Lost/Found Property	0.34	\$15.56	
Totals:			6.56	\$300.03	

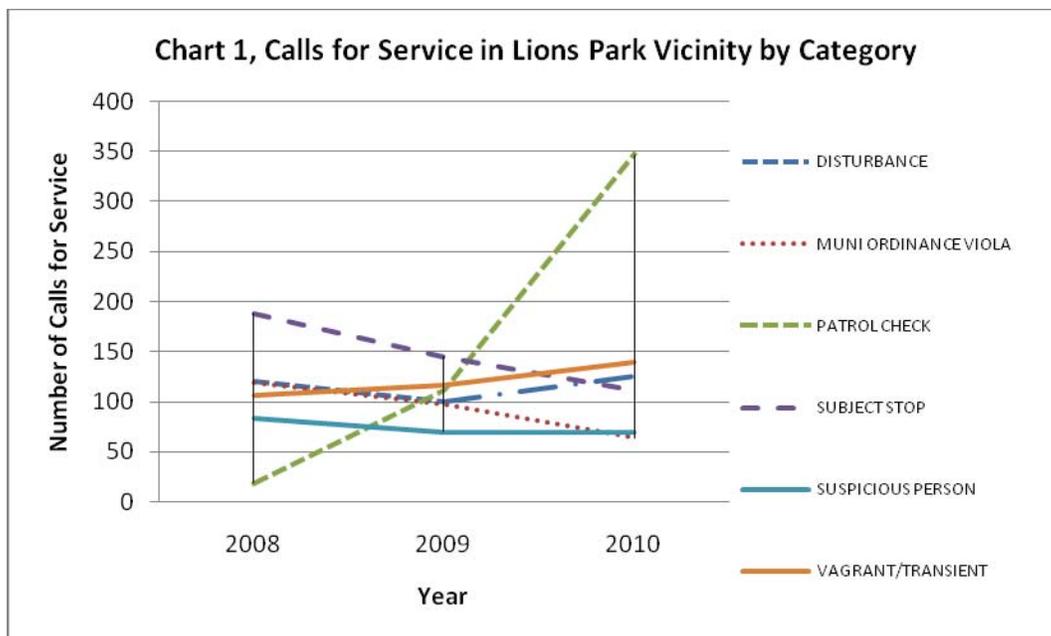
(1) Time includes average times for: Booking Hospital time, OC Jail time, Report Writing.

(2) 0.31 time for "citation(s)" and "incident" based on average of cost of all "muni ordinance viola" for all Area 1, 2008.

Patrol Costs

Since 2008, there was an overall increase in cost and time spent patrolling Lions Park (Table 1). Since 2008, there was a decrease in the number of calls for service and costs in Patrol Area 1 and an increase in calls for service and costs in the Lions Park Vicinity. Some of the increased calls for service in Lions Park between 2008 and 2010 are attributed to the increased proactive patrol checks by the CMPD in the Lions Park vicinity. There were a total of 9 patrol checks of Lions Park in 2008 compared to 299 in 2010 (Table 2). From 2008 to 2010, the percentage cost of police patrol activity and time spent on calls in the Lions Park vicinity has increased from 3% to 4% (Chart 4, 5). Lions Park has increased from <1% to 2% (Chart 4, 5).

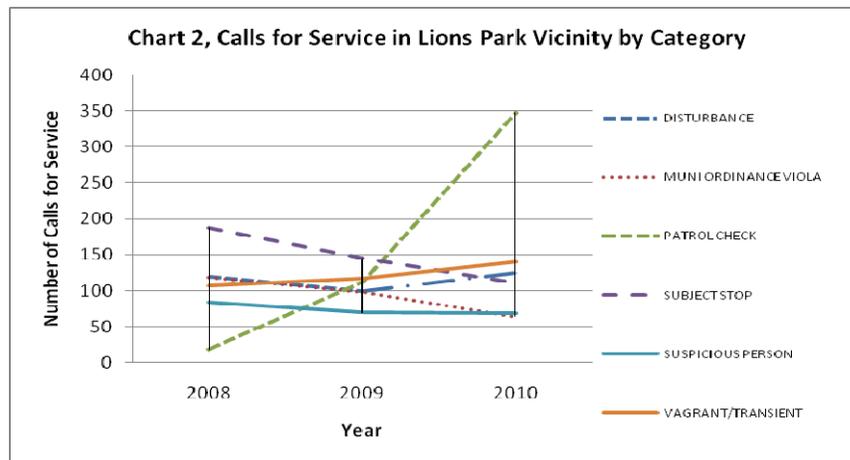
Table 1 Cost Summary Calendar Year 2008-2010						
		Calls for Service	Median Cost	Average Cost	Total Cost	Percent Costs
2008	Area 1 Total	37,860	\$11.63	\$23.15	\$876,596.16	100%
	Lions Park & Vicinity	1,261	\$10.89	\$20.87	\$26,954.29	3%
	Lions Park	200	\$9.39	\$15.44	\$3,908.88	0%
2009	Area 1 Total	33,979	\$11.06	\$22.01	\$814,014.84	100%
	Lions Park & Vicinity	1,204	\$11.44	\$22.38	\$21,008.81	3%
	Lions Park	332	\$8.72	\$20.83	\$6,631.00	1%
2010	Area 1 Total	34,861	\$9.91	\$19.44	\$677,648.40	100%
	Lions Park & Vicinity	1,642	\$9.15	\$18.53	\$28,621.35	4%
	Lions Park	633	\$9.15	\$17.99	\$11,385.09	2%



There are few discernable trends in the types of calls for service:

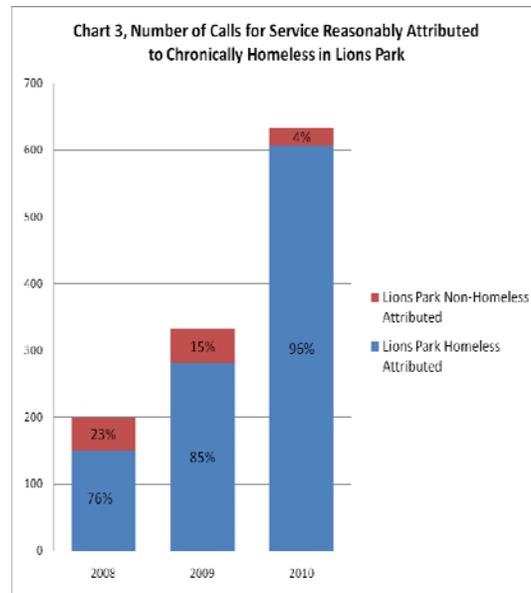
- Patrol checks in the Lions Park vicinity increased. Calls for service described as “transient/vagrant” also slightly increased. (Note: the Vagrant/Transient category is only a call for service disposition, and is in no way to be construed as a crime.)
- There is an increase of multiple types of calls for service under the heading of “other” while municipal code violations have slightly decreased (Chart 2).

- Between 2008-2010, the increase in Patrol Checks was largest while all other categories showed only small fluctuations.
- Based on information from the CMPD, the number of Subject Stops (generally officer initiated), most likely decreased because the patrol officers are entering Patrol Checks as their disposition on their Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) instead of Subject Stop.



Using CMPD data has enabled this analysis to expand and determine which types of calls for service are reasonably attributed to the chronically homeless population and what is not. Without going through the police records of every single call for service it is impossible to determine which calls are related to activity of the homeless and which are not. Short of that, LT. Sharpnack (Area 1 Commander) and Officer Trevino (Community Oriented Policing) have reviewed the data for which calls of service types in Lions Park and the immediate vicinity are reasonably attributed to chronically homeless population. The types of calls reasonably attributed to the homeless are: 11350-Drugs, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Battery, Begging, Bike/Bicyclist Stop, Burglary, Check Welfare, Disturbance, Drunk in Public, Fight, Indecent Exposure, Keep the Peace, medical Aid, Municipal Ordinance Violation, Overdose, Parking Violation, Parole Violation, Patrol Check, Person Down, Police Mutual Aid, Police Public Assist, Possession of Danger, Resisting Police Officer, Robbery, Stolen Vehicle, Subject Stop,

Suspicious Person, Theft, Trespassing, Unwanted Guest Refuses to Leave, Vagrant/Transient, Vandalism, Warrant Arrest, and Other.



The caveat to this type of qualitative analysis is that it is no exact calculation and there may be calls for service excluded because they are not believed to be attributed to the homeless. This analysis serves as a baseline to identify what is occurring at Lions Park.

It is also important to note that these statistics are not crime statistics, but are statistics of types of calls for service received by the CMPD. They are categorized by what the reporting party describes to the dispatcher as the apparent need for service or what the police officer records as the initial reason to take action. Not all categories are crimes merely descriptors of a type of action taken by a patrol officer. Finally, these statistics are not arrest statistics.

Summary

This quantitative examination of CMPD costs in the Lions Park area is an estimate of costs and not figures from the annual operating budget. Police officer salaries and patrol shifts are already

budgeted. This report expresses how much money and officers' time is expended working with the chronically homeless population in Lions Park. The purpose of isolating these costs in this fashion is to help identify the way the City's resources are currently expended to address the needs of the chronically homeless population to determine whether a different strategy is merited.

Appendix

Table 2, PD Stats	2008			2009			2010		
	AREA 1	LIONS PARK & VICINITY	LIONS PARK	AREA 1	LIONS PARK & VICINITY	LIONS PARK	AREA 1	LIONS PARK & VICINITY	LIONS PARK
11350-DRUGS	115	8	1	138	6	0	121	8	2
30 DAY IMPOUND	368	5	0	294	2	0	208	4	0
911 CALL NO VOICE	931	76	13	2439	41	16	2782	72	0
ADW - ADVISE ON MEDI	52	3	1	48	0	0	41	0	0
ALARM RESPONSE	112	76	17	1110	43	2	1214	40	4
ANIMAL CONTROL INCID	1109	22	13	1077	29	16	1481	21	10
BATTERY	224	12	2	243	16	7	223	12	2
BEGGING	40	15	0	65	15	0	43	13	0
BIKE/BICYCLIST STOP	576	20	4	705	7	1	517	12	3
BURGLARY	134	17	0	48	4	0	234	7	0
CHECK WELFARE	385	8	0	424	13	0	430	17	3
CSI REQ - SEE ORIGIN	269	7	3	231	1	0	146	0	0
DEFRAUD INNKEEPER	39	1	0	32	0	0	53	1	0
DISTURBANCE	592	120	12	3909	100	11	3615	125	25
DRUNK IN PUBLIC	229	64	4	628	71	5	599	46	10
FIGHT	271	21	2	239	10	6	222	24	6
FOUND PROPERTY	40	3	1	32	4	0	43	3	1
GENERAL BROADCAST	184	4	3	163	1	0	170	1	0
INDECENT EXPOSURE	26	2	0	28	2	0	24	4	1
KEEP THE PEACE	349	9	3	569	13	3	529	10	1
MEDICAL AID	227	12	3	315	27	2	365	23	4
MISSING PERSON	2	3	1	4	0	0	64	0	0
MUNI ORDINANCE VIOLA	614	119	27	601	98	55	472	64	31
OVERDOSE	46	1	0	42	1	0	55	3	0
PARKING VIOLATION	925	8	0	786	3	0	730	18	0
PAROLE VIOLATION	73	2	1	35	2	1	23	3	0
PATROL CHECK	784	19	9	1038	112	90	1928	347	299
PERSON DOWN	232	17	0	232	0	0	251	23	2
POLICE MUTUAL AID	193	3	0	186	3	0	180	2	0
POLICE PUBLIC ASSIST	201	14	7	221	10	4	240	9	2
POSSESSION OF DANGER	88	8	1	72	1	0	73	3	0
RAPE	7	3	0	1	0	0	6	1	0
REPORT	502	46	2	1109	53	7	1433	90	13
RESISTING POLICE OFF	34	1	0	27	3	1	20	2	1
ROBBERY	20	3	1	9	1	0	25	1	0
STOLEN VEHICLE	127	3	0	114	0	0	85	2	0
SUBJECT STOP	1325	188	34	1159	145	41	1127	111	36
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1690	84	10	1657	70	9	1676	69	12
THEFT	225	25	3	178	14	1	336	15	1
TRESPASSING	152	7	0	112	22	0	114	8	1
UNWANTED GUEST REFUS	160	15	1	191	15	0	167	18	1
VAGRANT/TRANSIENT	585	107	6	659	117	11	722	140	11
VANDALISM	109	13	3	626	13	0	367	7	0
WARRANT ARREST	616	26	6	511	23	8	399	24	14
OTHER	22878	41	9	14905	93	35	11310	239	137
TOTAL	37860	1261	203	37212	1204	332	34861	1642	633

Chart 4, 2008 CMPD Calls for Service Cost

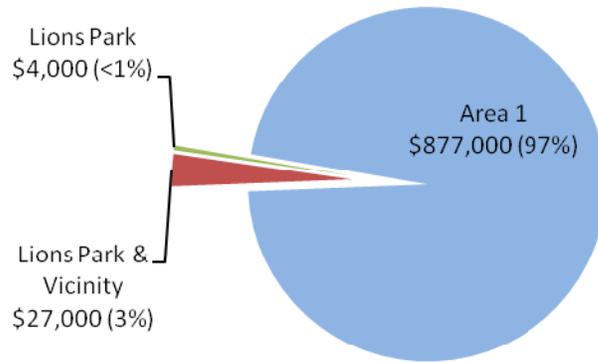
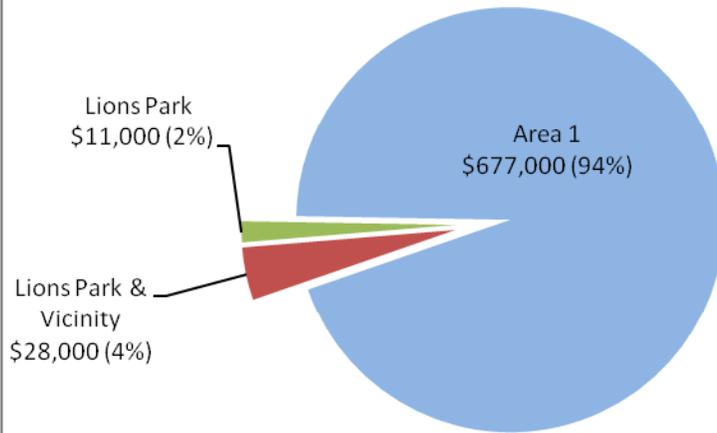


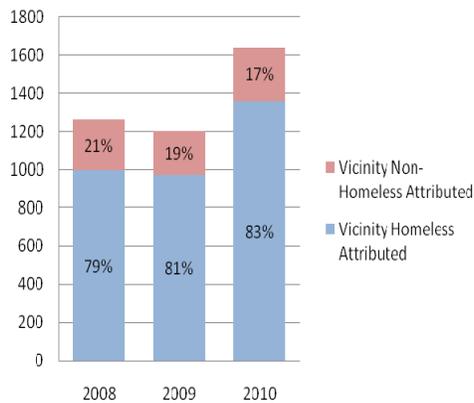
Chart 5, 2010 CMPD Calls for Service Cost

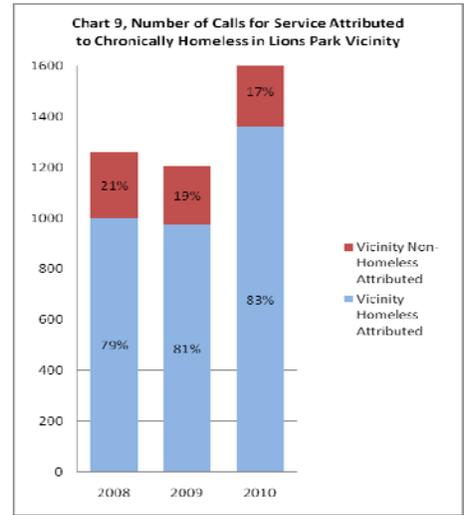
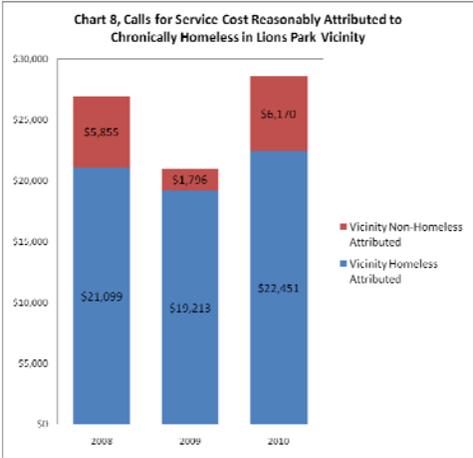
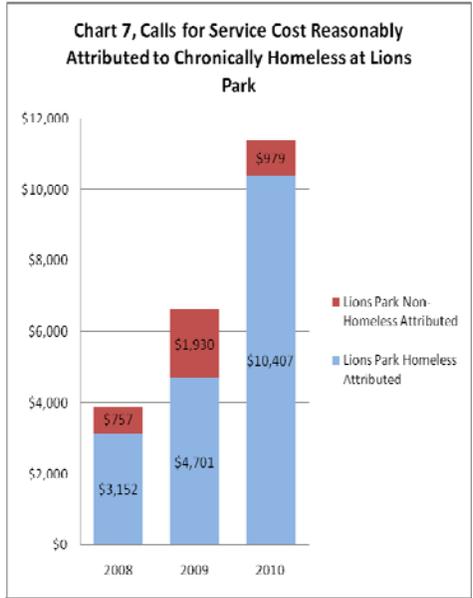


Calls for Service Comparison Calendar Year 2008-2010

Table 3		Calls for Service	Percent of Calls	Total Cost	Percent Cost
2008	Lions Park Non-Homeless Attributed	200	26%	\$3,908.88	19%
	Lions Park Homeless Attributed	148	74%	\$3,152.18	81%
	Vicinity Non-Homeless Attributed	1261	21%	\$26,954.29	22%
	Vicinity Homeless Attributed	1000	79%	\$21,099.11	78%
2009	Lions Park Non-Homeless Attributed	332	18%	\$6,631.00	29%
	Lions Park Homeless Attributed	272	82%	\$4,701.27	71%
	Vicinity Non-Homeless Attributed	1204	19%	\$21,008.81	9%
	Vicinity Homeless Attributed	973	81%	\$19,213.09	91%
2010	Lions Park Non-Homeless Attributed	633	6%	\$11,385.09	9%
	Lions Park Homeless Attributed	593	94%	\$10,406.59	91%
	Vicinity Non-Homeless Attributed	1642	17%	\$28,621.35	22%
	Vicinity Homeless Attributed	1359	83%	\$22,451.38	78%

Chart 6, Number of Calls for Service Attributed to Chronically Homeless in Lions Park Vicinity





Fire Responses and Costs to the Homeless at Lion's Park

Year	ALS or BLS	Unit	Minutes on Call	Cost	Notes
04/05/2009	ALS	E83	45		Paramedic Engine Company Response
08/17/2009	BLS	E83	18		Paramedic Engine Company Response
09/06/2010	BLS	E83	16		Paramedic Engine Company Response
10/12/2009	ALS	E83	33		Paramedic Engine Company Response
10/15/2009	BLS	E83	21		Paramedic Engine Company Response
11/02/2009	BLS	E84	31		Paramedic Engine Company Response
11/28/2009	BLS	E83	10		Paramedic Engine Company Response

Totals = 174 \$22,011.00

01/14/2010	BLS	E83	16		Paramedic Engine Company Response
02/17/2010	BLS	E83	15		Paramedic Engine Company Response
03/24/2010	ALS	E83	50		Paramedic Engine Company Response
06/26/2010	ALS	E83	51		Paramedic Engine Company Response
07/12/2010	BLS	E83	17		Paramedic Engine Company Response
09/12/2010	BLS	E83	15		Paramedic Engine Company Response
09/27/2010	BLS	E83	15		Paramedic Engine Company Response
10/14/2010	BLS	E85	31		Paramedic Engine Company Response
11/02/2010	BLS	E83	14		Paramedic Engine Company Response
11/03/2010	ALS	E83	47		Paramedic Engine Company Response
11/04/2010	BLS	E83	17		Paramedic Engine Company Response

Totals = 288 \$36,432.00 165% Increase from year 2009

Totals for 2 Years = 462 \$58,443.00

Note: Paramedic Engine Company = 1 Captain at \$35.53/hour, 1 Engineer at \$30.77 and 2 Paramedics at \$30.10/hour (each) = \$126.50/hour for Paramedic Engine response. The salaries were based on step 5 of the salary resolution and and 13% paramedic bonus.