



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 27, 2015

SUBJECT: WILSON PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

DATE: AUGUST 14, 2015

FROM: LIEUTENANT ED EVERETT

Wilson Park is a multi-purpose park in the southwest corner of the College Park residential neighborhood and it is located at 360 W. Wilson St., at the corner of Fordham Dr. Amenities include a children's playground area, covered shelter, several picnic tables, restroom and a sand volleyball court. The park does not have a dedicated parking lot and there is limited parking on Fordham Dr. Most park users are pedestrians or those who arrive on bicycles.

The park is primarily used by a combination of families and individuals. The park has a moderate to high use population depending on the day of the week and time of the day. A number of residents in the area saw a big increase in the number of individuals using the park in February and March of 2015. In the early part of 2015, a bicycle rack was installed and park users are required to park their bikes in the rack. One of the high-use days is Wednesdays in the late morning to afternoon hours. This high use is attributed to a local Irvine church group feeding homeless individuals at the park during those hours. Attempts to relocate this church group and the feedings to a nearby church on Wilson St. are ongoing.

Enforcement Activities

The park falls within Area 2 of the police department's geographically policing model and is just north of the Area 1 border. It is patrolled by both Area 1 & 2 police officers. The police department also has a number of park rangers who are dedicated to patrolling and taking enforcement action in the various parks throughout the city. The park rangers work seven days a week and primarily work morning to early evening hours. When a police officer or park ranger is dispatched to the park or self-initiates a patrol check or enforcement activity at the park, it is classified as a Call-for-Service (CFS).

So far in 2015, the majority of CFS at Wilson Park have occurred when officers or park rangers conducted self-initiated patrol checks, often involving municipal code violations (57). These violations typically involved nuisance violations such as; drinking, smoking, camping in the park, and being in the park after dark. A number of CFS involved abandoned or found personal property (12) and subjects with outstanding arrest warrants (6). There were eight CFS involving drugs and four assault and batteries cases. Three subjects were arrested for being drunk in public.

Calls-for-Service (CFS) Statistics

During the period of January 2014 through December 2014 (12 month) there were a total of 631 CFS at the park. The majority of these CFS (494) were *proactive* patrol checks performed by park rangers and officers. 137 CFS were from the community or self-initiated reportable incidents.

January through July year-to-date (YTD) comparison for 2014 and 2015:

During the period of January 2014 through July 2014, there were a total of a total of 367 CFS. The majority of these CFS (294) were *proactive* patrol checks performed by park rangers and officers. 73 CFS were from the community or self-initiated reportable incidents by PD.

During the period of January 2015 through July 2015, there were a total of a total of 699 CFS. The majority of these CFS (493) were *proactive* patrol checks performed by park rangers and officers. 206 CFS were from the community or self-initiated reportable incidents by PD.

YTD through July 2015, total CFS at Wilson Park are up 90%; however, represented within that increase is a 68% increase in *proactive*, self-initiated patrol checks CFS of the park by PD staff. The increase in proactive, enforcement based CFS at Wilson Park can be largely attributed to a shift in park ranger and officer resources being directed toward Wilson Park due to the user increase and concerns from the community. All total, there were 133 more CFS from the community or self-initiated reportable incidents by the Police Department during the first seven months of 2015.

Continuing Strategies

- On-going dedicated patrol checks of Wilson Park by officers and park rangers, as other CFS workloads allow.
- Implementation of a "Part-Time Bicycle Detail" which will have focused patrols at Wilson Park on a weekly basis.
- Recent City Council approval of an additional Park Ranger position, we anticipate a position being filled in September.
- The police department is continuing to hire and train additional staff which will add to our incremental build-back of vacant specialty assignments that will continue to have an impact on Wilson Park.
- The police department's continuing partnership and strategic meetings with the City's Outreach Team and Network for Homeless Solutions



Ed Everett
Lieutenant