

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 12, 2017

The Public Safety Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on October 12, 2017 at 8:18 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Christopher Glover, Chairman
Mark Freeman
Kevin Thompson

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Dee Ann Mickelsen
John Pombier
Alfred Smith

1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

2-a. Hear a presentation and discuss regional, Mesa-wide, and downtown efforts to reduce homelessness.

Deputy City Manager Natalie Lewis introduced Police Detective Brandon Lavin and Police Lieutenant Michael Bellows who displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) related to the efforts to reduce homelessness Mesa-wide.

Ms. Lewis presented a map that outlines the areas where homelessness is most prevalent in the City. She pointed out the highest concentration of homelessness is found in the central district and downtown Mesa. She advised that a survey was completed that showed the Mesa Police Department's (MPD) non-profit partners have served 1,600 homeless throughout the City in one month. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Lieutenant Bellows explained that Chandler, Gilbert, and other cities in Arizona experience similar issues with homelessness. He advised that one of the challenges is the vacant land in the East Valley where the homeless congregate and once they are displaced there isn't a consistent way to get them to the resources that they need. He stated that homelessness is a very complex and pervasive problem. He explained that there needs to be a consistent approach from the City when it comes to providing resources to the homeless population.

Officer Lavin explained that MPD recognizes that being homeless isn't a crime and officers are not contacting or arresting individuals just because they are homeless. He advised that the

MPD has noticed that urban camping, trespassing, open alcohol containers, possession of drugs and aggressive behavior are crimes most associated with the homeless population.

Officer Lavin advised that in the last four months he has had 65 different contacts with homeless individuals in the downtown area. He pointed out that during every contact resources are offered, however 38% of the time these are repeated contacts with individuals and the issue is becoming more epidemic.

Ms. Lewis provided the possible reasons for the increase in homelessness in the City. She advised that in 2016, Central Arizona Shelter Services allowed individuals to camp in the parking lot and the closure has resulted in the redistribution of hundreds of homeless individuals throughout the metropolitan area.

Officer Lavin pointed out that the light rail is a conduit for the homeless population to navigate from Phoenix into Tempe and Mesa to utilize the resources downtown. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Lewis advised that in July there was a 24% increase in patrons to the Mesa Main Library, along with a 23% increase in August, due to the closure of the Burton Barr Library.

Officer Lavin advised that when the homeless are contacted and provided the resource of an emergency shelter most are reluctant to go because of their past experiences there. He stated that most shelters require individuals to be sober and some have an alcohol or drug dependency problem and are not allowed to stay in the shelters.

Ms. Lewis detailed the various solutions underway to help the homeless. She advised that they are very proud of the Navigator Program that was created in partnership with Community Bridges. She explained that the navigator working in the downtown area has had 165 contacts with homeless individuals; 70 of those individuals have chosen to work with the navigator and 24 have utilized the resources provided to them. (See Pages 4 through 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Lewis advised that through the Housing our Heroes initiative, Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers are provided to veterans to help them find and sustain permanent housing. She explained that out of the 191 vouchers available, 184 are in-use. She commented that the Chambers Veterans Resource Center received approximately 15 to 20 visitors per week and their job connection program has employed 35 veterans.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Ms. Lewis advised the Housing our Heroes initiative has an 88% overall success rate. She clarified by stating that 73% of the veterans have been successful in staying in their home, 15% of the veterans in the program have moved out on their own, 7% have left the program for negative reasons, and 5% have passed away.

Officer Lavin advised that the MPD has taken a creative problem-solving approach to the homelessness issue and stated that every contact should be educational and compassionate. He advised that if a homeless individual is cited, and that individual takes the steps necessary to gain housing and work towards any substance abuse problems before their court date, the courts are willing to drop the charges.

Ms. Lewis advised that an additional navigator was hired for the Main Library. She advised that the library's Code of Conduct policy has been updated, which now includes not sleeping in the library and removing unattended belongings. She stated the City is working closely with MPD to have added patrols at the opening and closing of the library and an additional security officer for the Main Library. She stated that during the Main Library's first-floor reorganization more computers will be added to the children's area for parents to use and the children's area will be updated to give more of a family feel and create a buffer.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department Director Marc Heirshberg advised there are currently five park rangers covering the entire City. He stated that the schedules for the park rangers have been restructured so that there is coverage seven days a week. He stated that it is his opinion that with the Pioneer Park reopening, additional assistance will be needed to cover City Parks.

Ms. Lewis stated that local and regional resources are working together to help reduce homelessness in the Mesa area. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Officer Lavin advised that the MPD realizes that a combination of approaches is needed to tailor a solution while having a goal in mind.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Freeman, Ms. Lewis stated that the new navigator is funded by the MPD and the goal is to identify other ways to maximize federal dollars the City receives.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Freeman, Mesa United Way President Mark Young advised that currently, non-profit agencies are doing an excellent job of providing resources to the homeless, however, it is his opinion that there are gaps that still need to be addressed and this can be done through partnerships with other non-profits.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Freeman, Officer Lavin advised that the MPD plans to utilize the bike squad and available patrol units when possible to increase police presence in the downtown and light rail areas.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Officer Lavin advised that through the Community Prosecution Program, geographical restrictions are included in an individual's probation term when they commit a crime and are not willing to get help.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Ms. Lewis advised that the City has a great partnership with other Valley cities and keep each other informed on the services provided to the homeless. She advised that all the cities in the area are seeing an increase in homelessness and it isn't just a Mesa issue.

Chairman Glover thanked staff for the presentation.

2-b. Hear a presentation and discuss the Police Department's current efforts to limit pedestrian related traffic issues.

Training Lieutenant Gina Nesbit displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) related to the Police Department's current efforts to limit pedestrian related traffic issues.

Lieutenant Nesbit advised that the MPD enforces pedestrian traffic related issues to ensure the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists on the roadway. She stated that in recent months the City has had an increase in pedestrian fatalities and as a result, programs have been created to make the roadways safer.

Lieutenant Nesbit displayed two jaywalking statutes and advised that there are seven statutes related to pedestrian's rights and duties. She advised the most cited statute is ARS 28-793(C) because citizens will jaywalk on a longer street instead of walking to the crosswalk. (See Pages 2 through 3 of Attachment 2)

Lieutenant Nesbit displayed statistics that resulted in pedestrian fatalities and advised the number has increased compared to years past. She advised that out of the 13 pedestrian fatalities, 12 fatalities occurred because the pedestrian was in the roadway and crossing against the red light. She advised that Mesa pedestrian fatalities is 2.68% per 100,000 citizens and the United States has seen an increase in the number of pedestrian related fatalities. (See Pages 6 through 7 of Attachment 2)

Lieutenant Nesbit stated that the MPD plans to use education, enforcement, and engineering to tackle the issue of jaywalking. She pointed out that the MPD has 13 motor officers for the entire City and due to the large area, it has been a difficult task for them to focus on this one issue. She stated MPD has produced two public safety announcements related to pedestrian issues that aired on Channel 11. She pointed out that through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, an East Valley focus group was created and the idea was put in place to have flyers at bus stops educating citizens on pedestrian safety. (See Page 8 of Attachment 2)

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Lieutenant Nesbit advised MPD has not looked at studies to see where additional crosswalks should be put in due to a jaywalking issue.

Chairman Glover commented that the Transportation Department will be reviewing the High Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) policy and at that time it could be addressed where additional crosswalks or a HAWK should be placed.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Freeman, Lieutenant Nesbit advised that the MPD identifies areas that need education, enforcement, and engineering based on traffic enforcement requests from citizens and where traffic personnel are seeing the most violations.

Chairman Glover thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation and discuss the Police Department's use of forensic evidence in solving property crime cases.

Forensic Service Administrator Kimberly Meza introduced Detective Tyler Halter who displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 3**) related to the Mesa Police Department's use of forensic evidence in solving property crime cases.

Officer Halter provided information on how a crime scene is handled and the role of the forensic team in processing evidence. He advised that once evidence is found at a crime scene the MPD can either collect and process the evidence themselves or a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) can be called to collect the evidence. He pointed out that CSS are highly trained experts in processing and collecting evidence and are a great resource. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Meza advised that when a CSS is called to a crime scene, the CSS will gather information from the officer and will then evaluate the scene to determine where to focus the collection efforts. She stated that every crime scene is processed, regardless of the type of crime. She explained that a CSS is asked to assist at complex crime scenes or when advanced evidence techniques are required.

Ms. Meza stated that to keep the laboratory efficient, most evidence processing is completed at the crime scene. She added that prints are collected and automatically entered into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System the next day and officers will request specific items to be tested for DNA evidence after evaluating all items at the crime scene.

In response to a question posed by Chairman Glover, Ms. Meza advised that evidence brought to the lab is processed immediately. She explained that any prints collected in the field are searched the next business day and DNA evidence is processed within 45 days.

Ms. Meza advised that unlike other cities in the area, the MPD can work property crimes because of how efficient the laboratory is. She pointed out that because the forensic evidence is processed in real time it allows MPD to work the cases immediately, which helps decrease crime. She highlighted a low-level crime that resulted in the suspect being apprehended because the evidence in the case was processed right away. (See Page 4 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Freeman, Ms. Meza advised that MPD does have an agreement with the Town of Gilbert to process their evidence through the City's laboratory. She pointed out that the agencies that don't have their own laboratory will use the State Crime Laboratory to process their evidence, but advised all the laboratories utilize the same database to possibly connect crimes with other cities.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Ms. Meza stated that there was an initiative that all agencies in the nation should process all sexual assault kits that weren't previously processed to possibly help solve other crimes. She advised the City had about 520 kits that had not been analyzed. She pointed out that the Maricopa County Attorney's Office received a grant which allowed the kits to be processed by an independent laboratory. She added that they anticipate the project to be completed this year.

Chairman Glover thanked staff for the presentation.

2-d. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide a recommendation relating future options available for the transportation of patients by the Fire and Medical Department.

Fire Chief Mary Cameli introduced Assistant Chief Cori Hayes who displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 4**) related to future options available for the transportation of patients by the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD).

Chief Cameli advised that in 2011 the City partnered with Gilbert, Queen Creek and Apache Junction to contract with Southwest Ambulance (SWA) for transportation services. She stated in 2014, an agreement was made with SWA to renew the contract as long as it didn't interfere with the MFMD receiving their Certificate of Necessity (CON). She pointed out the current contract expires in 2020. (See Page 3 of Attachment 4)

In response to a question posed by Assistant City Manager John Pombier, Chief Hayes advised that the City is the only municipality in the Valley that holds a complete CON and therefore MFMD can conduct any type of transport.

Chief Hayes provided an overview of the transportation models used by cities within the Valley. She advised that some jurisdictions are using sworn personnel and other jurisdictions are using civilian personnel for their staffing needs. (See Pages 6 through 7 of Attachment 4)

In response to a question posed by Chairman Glover, Chief Cameli explained that if the MFMD completed all transports, the benefit to the City is the continuous care model.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Thompson, Chief Hayes explained that there is an opportunity for the City to enhance the care provided to the community and discussions are taking place with the City Manager's Office and American Medical Response (AMR) to allow for more transports through the MFMD. She pointed out the Community Care Units do have the ability to complete some transports.

In response to a question posed by Committeemember Freeman, Chief Hayes advised that Superstition Fire uses civilian personnel to complete all medical transports and Gilbert is only completing low acuity (LA) transports.

Chief Cameli explained that currently the City has five LA units, and two more units arrive in November. She pointed out that the contract with AMR expires in two and a half years and for efficiency reasons the plan is to meet with AMR and discuss MFMD conducting LA transports in the near future.

In response to a question posed by Chairman Glover, Chief Hayes advised that all models are currently being considered. She pointed out that at this time the civilian model is more cost efficient.

In response to a question posed by Chairman Glover, Deputy City Attorney Alfred Smith advised that the MFMD can transport a patient if it doesn't directly affect the interest of AMR under the contract; when an AMR ambulance isn't available; and when it is in the best interest of the patient.

Assistant City Manager John Pombier commented that it is his opinion that the MFMD is still a regional leader and once the contract expires, Council will have the full range of options to consider to create the best transportation model.

Chairman Glover thanked staff for the presentation and asked that a pilot program be presented at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 12th day of October, 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(attachments – 4)



mesa•az

Presenters:

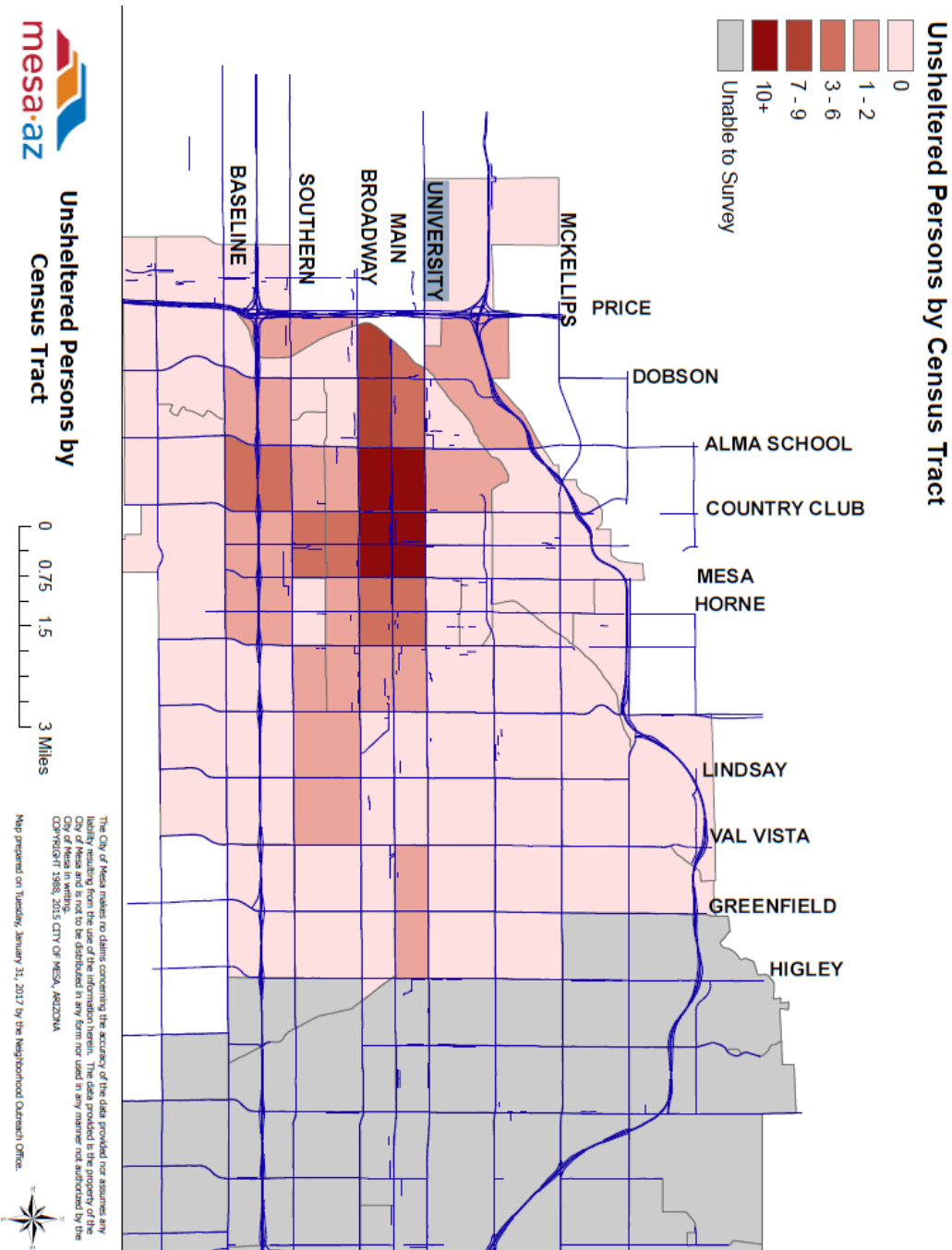
Natale Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Brandon Lavin, Police Detective

HOMELESSNESS IN MESA:

SOLUTIONS UNDERWAY

REGIONAL * MESA-WIDE * DOWNTOWN

PUBLIC SAFETY
OCTOBER 12, 2017



POSSIBLE REASONS FOR INCREASE

- Phoenix CASS overwhelmed, annex camping closed.
- Concentrated resources in Downtown Mesa; transit accessible.
- Temporary closure of Phoenix' Burton Barr Library; Mesa Main Library the only other valley library on light rail line.
- Not everyone chooses shelters – “Sober” restrictions; fewer available for families.



SOLUTIONS UNDERWAY

- Navigators (Downtown, Main Library)
- Housing Our Heroes initiative. Chambers Veterans Resource Center.
- Creative problem-solving approach (partner with navigator; education; medical and victim service; enforcement as an incentive to seek help).
- Main Library—policy updates; space reorganization; navigator.
- Pioneer Park—Proactively preparing for fall/winter reopening via design, added park ranger/police patrols, uniformed officer at Feastival (food truck) Forest.



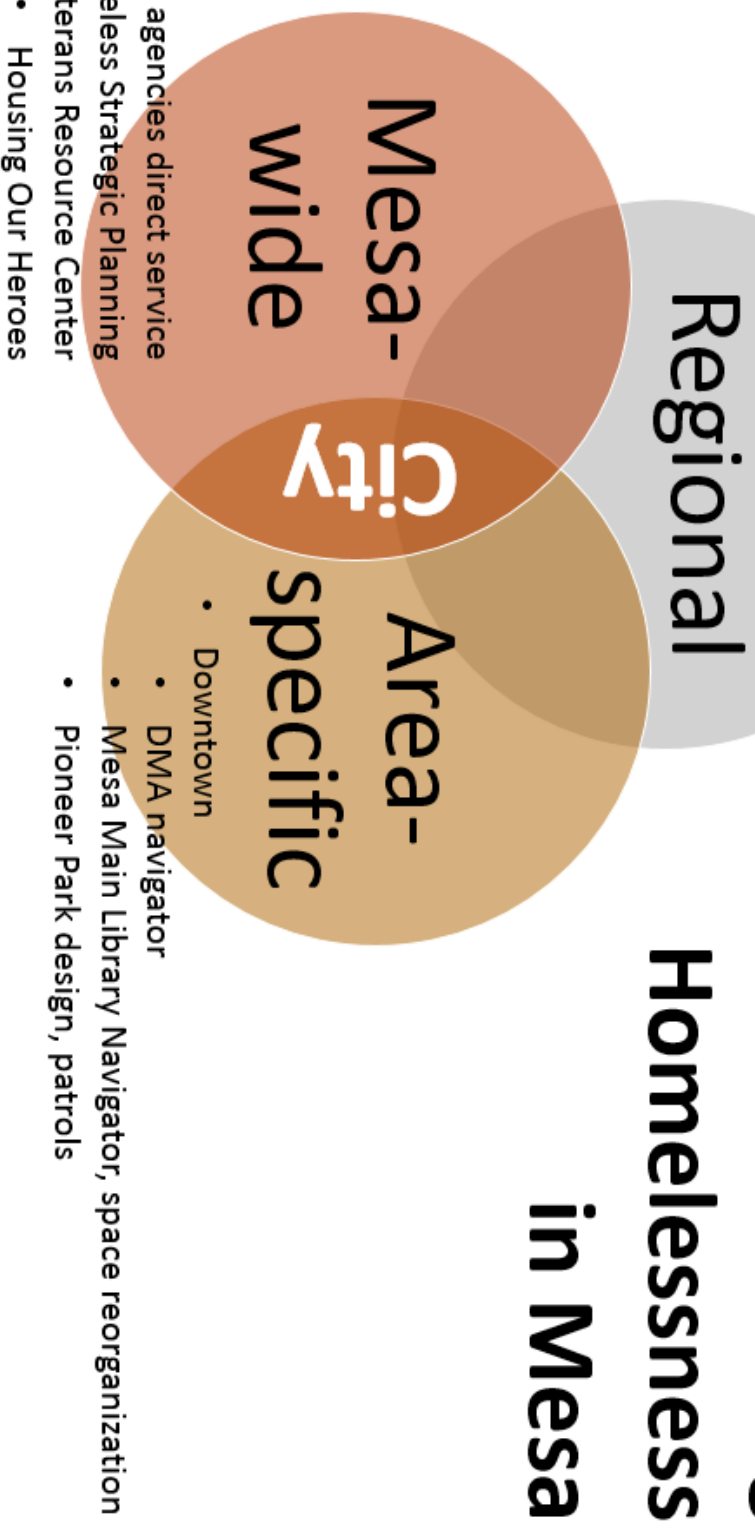
SOLUTIONS UNDERWAY

- Regional Partnerships; strategic distribution of federal funding.
- Paz de Cristo/MARC— new jobs search/placement.
- With County funding, East Valley partners interested in mapping out a new project that will provide a day center-type approach.
- Regional “By Name Listing” for Veterans— partnership with Phoenix
- Metro: End of the line interventions/assistance in Phoenix. Respect the Ride safety and security program.



- MAG Regional Continuation of Care
 - Regional Coordinated Entry, Point in Time Count, HUD Funding Distribution
- Human Services Campus, East Valley Collaboration, Valley Metro

Reducing Homelessness in Mesa





Presenters:

Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Brandon Lavin, Police Detective

QUESTIONS?

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
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Presenter:

Gina Nesbit, Lieutenant

PEDESTRIAN RELATED TRAFFIC ISSUES:

MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT
METRO DIVISION
TRAFFIC SECTION

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JAYWALKING

ARS 28-796 – Pedestrian on Roadways

- A. If sidewalks are provided, a pedestrian shall not walk along and on an adjacent roadway.
- B. If sidewalks are not provided, a pedestrian walking along and on a highway shall walk when practicable only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic that may approach from the opposite direction.
- C. A person shall not stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of a vehicle.

JAYWALKING

ARS 28-793 – Crossing at other than crosswalk (Jaywalking)

- A. A pedestrian crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles on the roadway.
- B. A pedestrian crossing a roadway at a point where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided shall yield the right of way to all vehicles on the roadway.
- C. Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, pedestrians shall not cross at any place except in a marked crosswalk.

STATISTICS

From 5/01/2017 to 07/31/2017 there were 52 jaywalking related citations or warnings. The following is a summary of these citations/warning.

- Percent of total citations/warning issued by race:
 - White – 50% (26)
 - Hispanic – 21% (11)
 - Black – 15% (8)
 - Native American – 4% (2)
 - White, unknown ethnicity – 8% (4)
 - Unknown race – 2% (1)
- Percent of stops which resulted in a citation instead of a warning:
 - White – 77% (20 cites, 6 warnings)
 - Hispanic – 73% (8 cites, 3 warnings)
 - Black – 63% (5 cites, 3 warnings)
 - Native American – 50% (1 cite, 1 warning)

STATISTICS (CONTINUED)

- Percent of total citations/warnings issued by sex:
 - Males – 85% (44)
 - Females – 15% (8)
- Percent of stops which resulted in a citation instead of a warning:
 - Males – 73% (32 citations, 12 warnings)
 - Females – 65% (5 citations, 3 warnings)

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS FOR FATALITIES

- 2017 (January – September)
 - 23 total fatal collisions
 - Pedestrian fatalities – 13
 - Seven (7) since increased enforcement activities from May – September
- 2016 (January – December)
 - 28 total fatal collisions
 - 30 deaths
 - Pedestrian fatalities - 10

STATISTICAL COMPARISONS 2015

- Arizona State
 - 153 pedestrian fatalities
 - 2.24% of 100,000 population
- United States
 - 5,376 pedestrian fatalities
 - 1.67 of 100,000 population

EDUCATION - ENFORCEMENT - ENGINEERING

- We continue to conduct educational and enforcement contacts with the public
 - Raise awareness of the dangers to reduce deaths and injuries
 - Engage in conversation with the public
 - Provide safety reminders
 - Community engagement
 - Neighborhood Speed Watches
 - Crossing Guards
 - Safe routes for walking and riding
 - Radar Speed Trailers
- We engage in dialogue with the transportation department, ADOT, and GOHS
 - Analyze trends based on roadway/intersections
 - Address roadway improvement/upgrades/design



Presenter:
Gina Nesbit, Lieutenant

QUESTIONS?

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
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USE OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE IN PROPERTY CRIMES

MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT



PROCESSING PROPERTY CRIME

- Officer on scene
- Role CSS – photography, latent lifts, evidence collection
- Lab processing
 - Latent lifts automatically entered next business day - AFIS
 - Detective requests DNA to be processed – CODIS

STATISTICS

- 44% Crime Scene calls are property crimes
- Percentage cases that are property crimes
 - DNA: 50% cases
 - Latent Prints: 90% cases
- 29% hit rate on property crimes

CASE HIGHLIGHT – WHY WE’RE DIFFERENT!

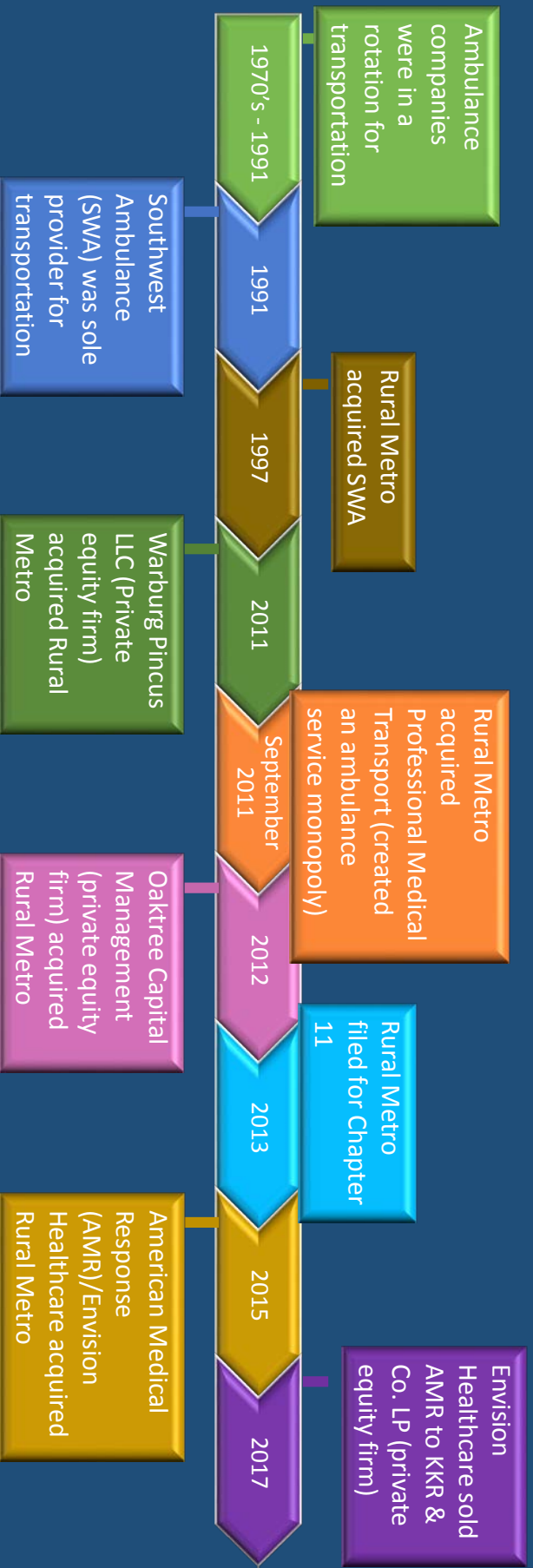
- String of 9 burglaries with no suspect
- Glacier Ice Water vending machine broken into – CSS responds – blood inside machine collected
- DNA resulted in CODIS hit
- Suspect arrested
- The crime spree of burglaries ended
- Suspect received 5 years DOC for breaking into vending machine

QUESTIONS?

Mesa Fire & Medical Department Transportation Update



Transportation History



Current Contract

- August 2011 Regional Ambulance contract with SWA
- 2014 Regional Contract partners changed
- 2014 Mesa renewed for 6 additional years
- November 2020 current contract expires



Mesa Transportation Facts

- Response time goals are 8:59 on Code 3 calls
- Response time goals are 14:59 on Code 2 calls
- Must achieve response time goal 90%
- Approximately 30,000 transports yearly in Mesa
- Certificate of Necessity acquired in July 2015



Valley Transportation Models



Currently runs their own transports

Phoenix Fire

Superstition Fire and Medical

Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical

Phased in approach to provide transportation over the next 2-3 years

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue

Peoria Fire/Medical

Phased in approach to providing transportation over the next year

Surprise Fire/Medical

Sun City Fire and Medical



Transports all ALS calls in their city and AMR transports all of the BLS

Tucson Fire

Yuma Fire

AMR provides transportation, GFD transports patients on LA incidents only

Gilbert Fire and Rescue

AMR provides transportation. They do not hold a CON.

Scottsdale Fire

Glendale Fire

Chandler Fire Health and Medical



Future

Currently we are looking at all models, what we are doing today and options for the future.

- Continue with current model
- Look at costs for providing transportation in-house
- Partnerships



Questions?

