

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 21, 2024

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 21, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT COMMITTEE ABSENT STAFF PRESENT

Mark Freeman, Chairperson Alicia Goforth Scott Somers None

Scott Butler Holly Moseley Alfred Smith

Chairperson Freeman conducted a roll call.

(Items on the agenda were discussed out of order, but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.)

1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

<u>2-a.</u> Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the City's homelessness strategy, including urban camping.

Community Services Deputy Director Lindsey Balinkie introduced Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director Andrea Moore, Assistant City Prosecutor Kristin Hooker, and Community Court Administrator Shawn Haught and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. (Attachment 2)

Ms. Hooker explained that the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Martin v. City of Boise* which mandated that a shelter bed must be available before a citation may be issued. She said the 2024 ruling in *City of Grants Pass v. Johnson* concluded that the Eighth Amendment's Cruel and Unusual Punishment Clause does not prohibit cities from enforcing laws that regulate camping on public property and that community-based policy decisions are better suited to address these issues. She discussed the existing City of Mesa (COM) public safety and urban camping ordinance, which currently only applies in public parks and in circumstances involving a public right-of-way. She emphasized that the COM would continue to offer services before issuing citations to violators. (See Pages 3 and 4 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Hooker confirmed that the update will expand the ability to enforce urban camping outside of the parks and will align with several neighboring cities that have recently changed their code to correspond with the court ruling. She confirmed that the proposed update changes the class of misdemeanors from Class 1 to Class 3 and explained the punishment for each misdemeanor. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Moore provided a summary of the proposed changes to the City Code, which update the Park Regulations and create an Urban Camping ordinance. She reviewed the updates to the Public Park Regulations noting the revised violation charges and detailed the updated electric bike code. (See Page 6 of Attachment 2)

Discussion ensued regarding electric bike definitions and classifications.

Ms. Moore explained the duties of the COM Park Rangers, outlined the processes used for enforcing the Park Regulations, and reiterated the goal of having positive interactions with all park patrons. She identified the use of progressive enforcement to maintain park safety but noted that the Mesa Police Department (MPD) is relied upon for situations that exceed the scope of the Park Ranger's duties. She reported that the changes to code, staffing and programming have led to positive changes in the park system. She provided statistics that indicate a decrease in homeless arrests from 2022 to date. (See Pages 7 and 8 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Haught provided a brief history of the COM Community Court program which was established in 2018 to help unhoused individuals resolve pending legal cases and receive social services. He advised that a community of prosecutors, public defenders, peer navigators, and community organizations assist in connecting program participants to housing, education and resources, aiming to stop the cycle of homelessness and addiction. He reported that the court directive is to have the participants return every 30 days to present their life improvements or something good they have done for the community. He reported statistics on the type and number of services provided since September 2024. (See Pages 10 and 11 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Haught shared a story about a participant who successfully completed the program and the positive impact it had on her life, reporting that she now provides peer support for addiction recovery. He announced that the Mesa Community Court had been awarded the Arizona Association of Drug Court Professionals Innovation Award and the State of Arizona Supreme Court Strategic Agenda Award for promoting access to justice. (See Page 12 of Attachment 2)

Responding to a question from Councilmember Somers, Mr. Haught confirmed that reoffenders are still offered the opportunity to graduate from the program.

Ms. Hooker added that if a participant passes through the system on a warrant or has been removed from Community Court, they will be referred to the prosecutor for review and may be allowed to re-join the program if deemed appropriate.

Ms. Balinkie reported that the Homeless Solutions team is now fully staffed and highlighted the members, pointing out their backgrounds and how they support the needs of the first responders and citizens that receive the services. She highlighted the partnership with the Phoenix Rescue Mission and the Hope Coach group which has six people dedicated to Mesa that assist with active community outreach. (See Pages 14 and 15 of Attachment 2)

Chairperson Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on Mesa's 911 Mental Health Response.

Special Projects Administrator Amanda Freeman introduced Police Lieutenant Stan Wilbur and Assistant Fire Chief Forrest Smith and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. (Attachment 1)

Ms. Freeman explained that the 911 mental health response for the City of Mesa (COM) has two parts: call diversion and crisis teams. She described how the 911 calls are handled since the call diversion program began in June 2021 and stated that the calls are triaged by the crisis system which eliminates the need to dispatch Police or Fire to every call. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Freeman stated that the 911 communication center is staffed with crisis liaisons who provide the call takers with real time training and support. She highlighted the call diversion statistics for 2023, which indicated that over 3,300 calls were diverted directly to crisis. She advised that those numbers are expected to decrease due to the success of the nationwide 988 program. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Freeman clarified that the crisis teams are contracted with Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI) and EMPACT and include a behavioral health technician and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). She mentioned the number of teams increased in 2023 to be available 24 hours per day, every day of the year. She explained that the Mesa crisis teams are only available for Police and Fire requests, noting that crisis calls received by the call center are diverted to the County crisis team. (See Pages 4 and 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Freeman provided data that indicated the number of requests made for the Mesa crisis team quarterly since 2022, noting the increase in requests every quarter. She gave an overview of the median response times by comparing the County crisis teams to the Mesa crisis teams which indicated a decrease in the response time that residents had received from Police and Fire. (See Pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 1)

Assistant Chief Smith added that the collaboration efforts between the crisis team, Police and Fire ensure that seamless care is provided in any situation.

Lieutenant Wilbur reiterated the importance of partnerships and stated that the collaboration enables staff to give the citizens the resources that they truly need and to prevent future calls.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Goforth, Lieutenant Wilbur confirmed that the Mesa crisis team calls are directed toward voluntary mental health issues and explained that repeat calls are forwarded to the mental health unit on the Police Department side to determine the best resource for each case.

Assistant City Manager Scott Butler remarked that if there is a question about which resource is needed for the patient, the crisis team will always be engaged for additional assistance.

Assistant Chief Smith commented that when the responders are in route to a scene, they are assessing the situation and may call crisis before arriving. He pointed out that since the call

diversion program began, the communication on the radio is different due to less mental health related and other crisis calls.

Ms. Freeman highlighted the top five call types dispatched to the Mesa crisis teams. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1)

Discussion ensued regarding the current and future funding sources of the program.

In response to a question from Councilmember Goforth, Lieutenant Wilbur explained that the call diversion program has removed the need to send multiple officers to a behavioral health scene where they are not needed.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the call diversion program, the crisis team, and the services provided by each team.

Chairperson Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on fireworks enforcement.

Mesa Police Department (MPD) Commander Dominique Sterlin introduced Commander JR Gomez and presented a PowerPoint presentation. (See Attachment 3)

Commander Sterlin provided an overview of the fireworks enforcement efforts from last year, confirming that the number of prohibited fireworks violations had decreased due to additional enforcement, citizen education, and added reporting options. He highlighted the actions taken during the sales dates which included posting education on social media, inspections at sale locations, undercover MPD detectives purchasing illegal fireworks, and mailing reminder cards to residents identified from previous tips. (See Pages 2 through 4 of Attachment 3)

Commander Gomez stated that pre-holiday enforcement began in June by watching social media sales, resulting in immediate arrests and seizures. He provided information about a large seizure of 84,360 pounds of illegal fireworks which required additional manpower and storage space. He confirmed that after the seizure, several other fireworks vendors communicated with MPD to obtain information and guidance to ensure compliance with the law. He referred to the challenge of the Arizona Revised Statute, Title 13, that states the penalties for the sale of illegal fireworks are civil sanctions and authorizes seizures to be made by the local police. He confirmed that a legal team is working with partners to introduce a bill that will make selling illegal fireworks a criminal offense and to hold the people breaking this law accountable in our city. (See Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 3)

Additional discussion ensued regarding the bill to change the State fireworks law.

Commander Sterlin reported details of the enforcement activities that took place during the July 4th holiday. He confirmed that the calls increased as the evening progressed and not all tips were able to be responded to by officers. He reported a five-to-one ratio of complaints received through the Mesa CityLink app versus calling the Police Department, which proves that the app made it easier for citizens to make complaints; however, there are improvements that need to be made to make the app better next year. (See Pages 7 and 8 of Attachment 3)

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Commander Sterlin discussed potential improvements for next year, such as starting education and communication earlier in the day before the fireworks begin. He reiterated that the high volume of calls and tips received made it difficult to address them all but confirmed that staff do follow up with each caller afterward. He stated that the program was successful and will be applied during the New Year's holiday. (See Page 9 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question from Chairperson Freeman, Mr. Butler confirmed that State law limits what can be done to address the illegal firework situation. He pointed out that the data obtained will provide information which will assist in future enforcement efforts.

Chairperson Freeman thanked the Public Safety staff for the great year. He requested that a future agenda item to review the adequacy of the inventory of older fire facilities.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.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 21st day of October 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



sr (Attachments – 3)

Response 911 Mental Health

Public Safety Committee October 21, 2024

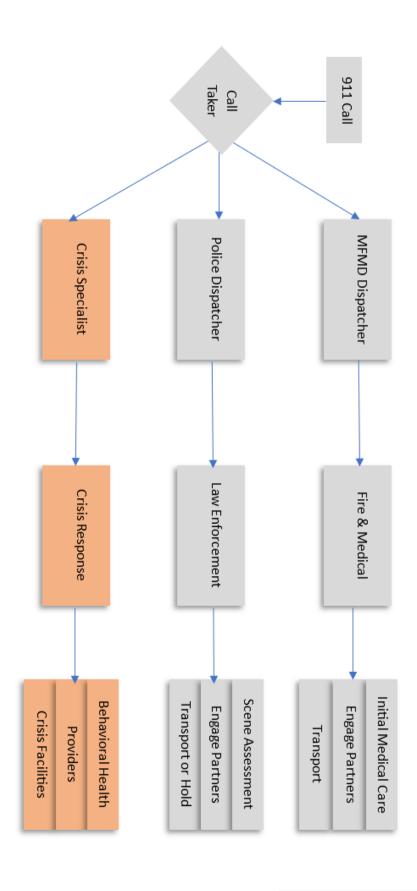
Forrest Smith, Assistant Fire Chief Stan Wilbur, Police Lieutenant Amanda Freeman, Special Projects Administrator





Part 1: Call Diversion

- Diverted calls = 911 calls sent straight to crisis
- PD and/or Fire do NOT get dispatched
- Calls are handled solely by the crisis system
- No Mesa resource is sent

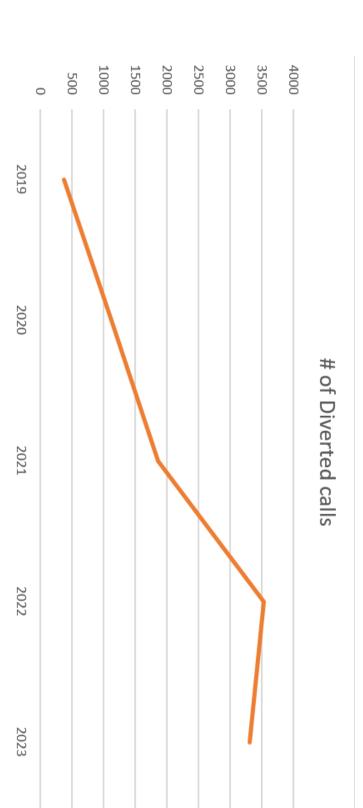


(dispatchers and call takers) received specialized training. 100% of Communications staff

per week Crisis Liaison staff are co-located in PD communications 40 hours

Over 3300 calls were diverted directly to crisis in 2023

#of Diverted calls



art 2: Mesa Crisis Teams

-Teams through Community Bridges and EMPACT are available for response for mental health crisis, substance use, other related calls and follow-ups.

-Teams include a behavioral health technician and EMT



Part 2: Mesa Crisis Teams

PD and Fire requests the teams through their communication centers.

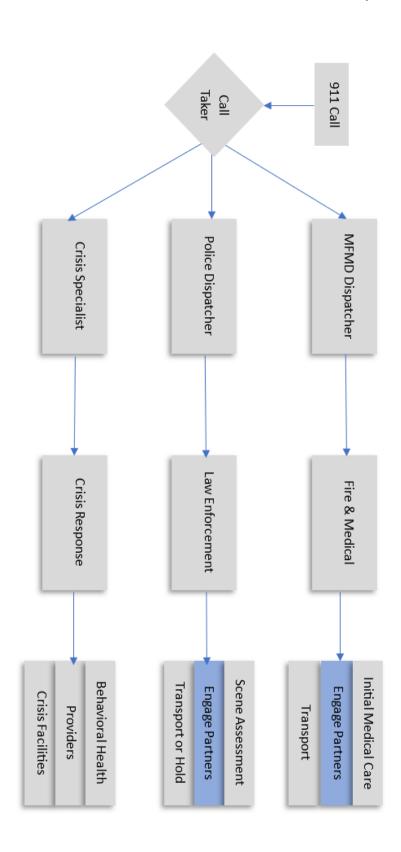
-Teams are available 24/7.

-Measures of interest are:

Response time

Top 5 call types

Monthly requests



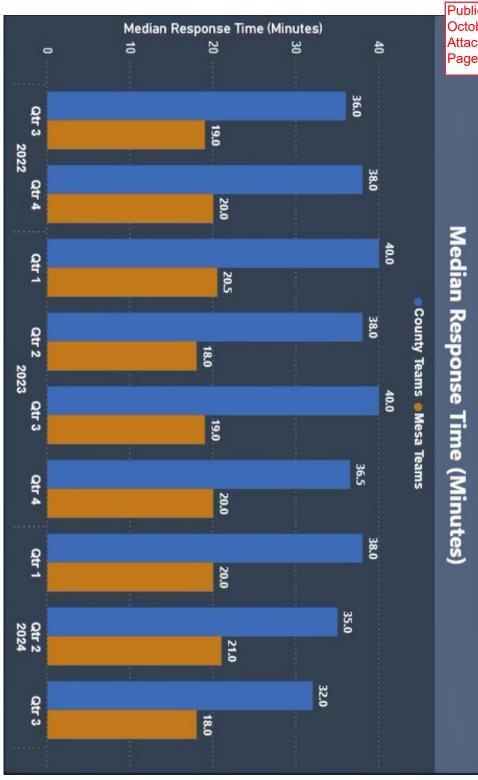
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Requests for Mesa Crisis

THE NUMBER OF TIMES PER QUARTER A MESA CRISIS TEAM WAS REQUESTED/DISPATCHED

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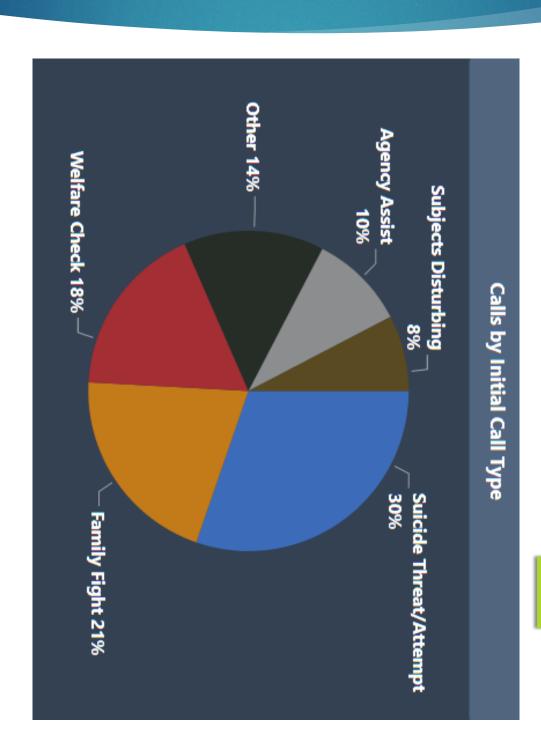
Median response time

MEDIAN RESPONSE TIMES FROM DISPATCH TO ARRIVAL ON SCENE

Public Safety Committee October 21, 2024 Attachment 1 Page 8 of 8

Call type

TOP 5 CALL TYPES THE MESA CRISIS TEAMS ARE REQUESTED ON



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Homeless Response Updates

Public Safety Committee
October 21, 2024

Shawn Haught, Community Court Administrator Kristin Hooker, Assistant City Prosecutor Andrea Moore, Director Parks, Rec, Community Facilities Lindsey Balinkie, Deputy Director Community Services

Public Safety Committee October 21, 2024 Attachment 2 Page 2 of 26



Public Safety and Urban Camping Ordinance Update

Kristin Hooker Andrea Moore

SERVICES VS CITATIONS

za-az





in accordance with Martin V. Boise, by first offering a bed is refused shelter beds, and then citing into community court, if The City of Mesa has been enforcing urban camping

camping. shelter beds prior to citing someone with urban June 2024, cities are no longer *required* to offer •With the decision in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, from

issuing a citation. However, the City of Mesa will still seek to provide services first before

PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE CITY CODE



- camping or camping related activity: •The City of Mesa Code currently offers two ways the City can enforce urban
- only located in the City Public Park Regulations and is limited to parks. Title 6, Chapter 10. •Public Park Regulations — the "urban camping" prohibition is currently
- circumstances in rights-of-way. Title 6, Chapter 1-17. camping is currently limited to parks, this can be used in certain Prohibition Against Blocking the Public Right-of-Way — because urban

PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE CITY CODE

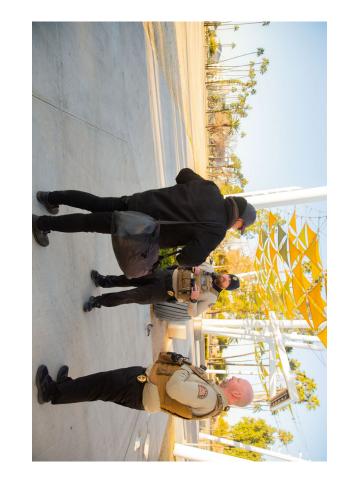
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he proposed updates to the Park Regulations, and

on other public property outside of the parks, in a creation of a new Urban Camping Ordinance, would expand the City's ability to enforce urban camping manner similar to many other communities.

This proposed update changes the class of 3 misdemeanor. Several neighboring cities, throughout the City, from a class 1 to a class recently made this change to further align with including Scottsdale, Phoenix, and Tucson, have also misdemeanor for urban camping in Parks, and

Grants Pass.



CODE UPDATES



Summary of Changes

Attachment 2 Page 6 of 26 an Camping Ordinance

- 1. Takes the concept of urban camping in the Parks Regulations and makes it applicable to other City property.
- 2. Revised definition of camping requires the establishment of temporary or permanent living accommodations similar to other communities.

Public Park Regulations

- 1. Modifies the Park Regulations to change some violations from Class 1 Misdemeanors to Class 3 Misdemeanors and Civil Violations. For example: Abandoning Items for Misdemeanors to Civil Violations and Littering, Unleashed non-aggressive dogs, and Ice Blocking go from Class 1 Distribution, Shopping Carts, and Camping go from Class 1 to Class 3 Misdemeanors,
- 2. Also updates regulations on electric bikes, including allowing Class 1 Electric Bikes where pedestrians and human-powered devices are permitted

PARK RANGER PROCESSES AND ENFORCEMENT

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👺 Proactively seek and encourage frequent, positive contact with all park patrons

- Streets" program Utilize available resources to support our homeless population, including referrals to "Off the
- Hydration Campaign distributions
- Provide information and education promoting a positive park experience
- Keep parks and green spaces safe for all to use
- Embrace role as approachable leaders in the community throughout our city
- Progressive Enforcement to Maintain Park Safety:
- Start with positive explanation of park rules and other City codes
- 2. Elevate to written warnings if needed
- 3. Repeat and severe violations move to citations
- Community Court referrals used as appropriate to circumstance
- 5. Mesa Police Department is relied upon for any circumstances that exceed the scope of duties for a Park Ranger



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Homeless Interactions

Code, staffing, and programming changes are leading to positive change in the park system.



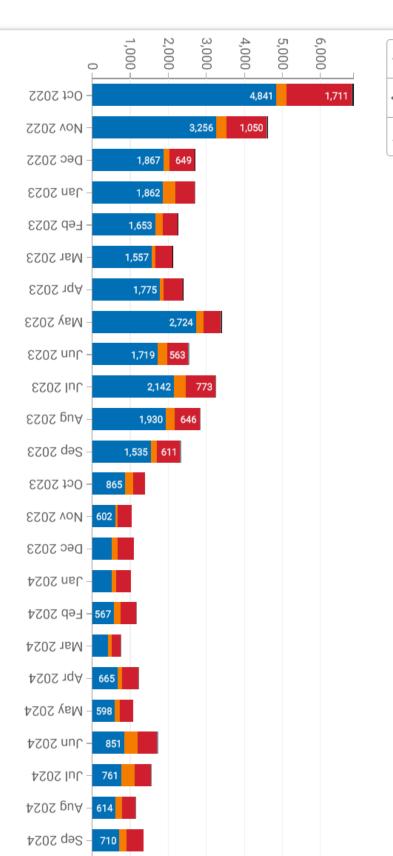
Homeless Assists

Homeless Contacted

Homeless Arrests

Homeless Citations

Homeless Warnings



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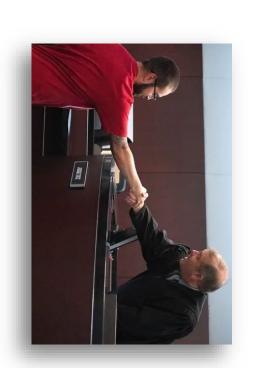
Shawn Haught

Community Court

ze-est

Established in July 2018

- Address unhoused with pre-adjudicated offenses
- Prevent cycle. Couple legal intervention with compassionate services
- Navigators: Community Bridges (CBI)
- Assess, assist, and connect
- Common Charges: Trespass, drug paraphernalia, shoplifting, code/park
- Referrals: Police, Park Rangers, Prosecutor's Office, Defense Attorney, Judges
- **Court Directive:** goals to meet prior to next court date
- Do something good for the community
- 4637 Participants: meet their goals, housed, and employed (or other income)
- Charges dismissed
- Fines reduced







COMMUNITY COURT

za-az

September 2024

46 Housing services

77 IDs

33 Birth certificates

23 Social Security cards

Outpatient mental health services

Assistance in hospital/urgent care appointments

348 Peer counseling

Scottsdale, Chandler, Tucson & Phoenix

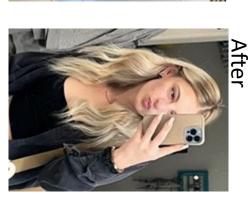
COMMUNITY COURT SUCCESSES & AWARDS

f 26

Court Successes

Natalie: 22, living in car and shed 18 months clean of meth, fentanyl, LSD Works in per support for addiction recovery





Court Awards

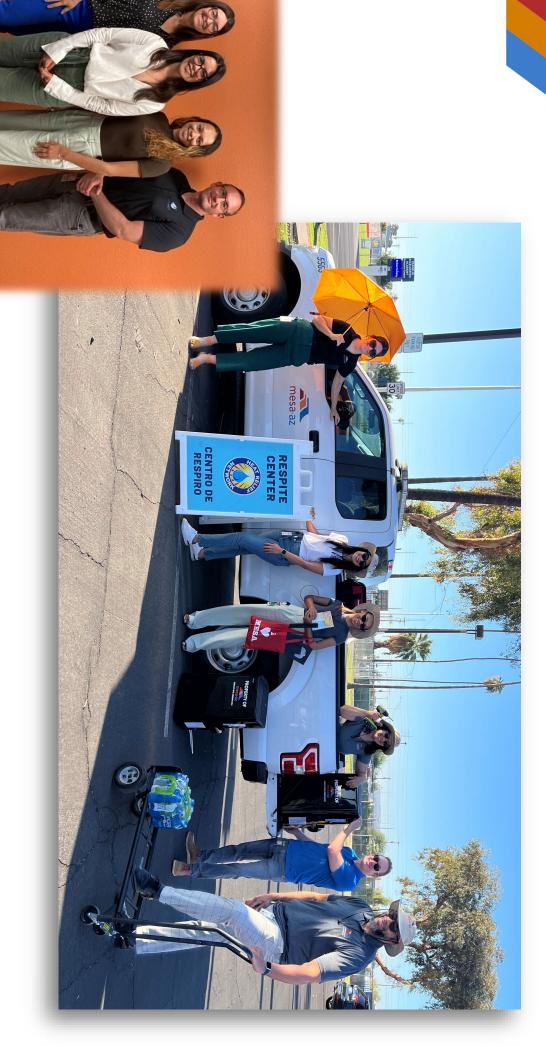


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Lindsey Balinkie

Office of Homeless Solutions



First Responder Support



- Street Outreach Navigation
- Off the Streets Access
- 0 Interdepartmental Collaboration
- **Community Partner Coordination**

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Questions?

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backup slides

Addressing Homelessness: Who to Call

Emergency

Mesa PD Non-Emergency 480-644-2211

For nonemergency police questions.

For a crime in

progress.

To report an incident that has already happened

Someone is unstable,

If you feel unsafe

for any reason.

substance, or causing

a disturbance.

hysterically, using

yelling/crying

Mesa Homeless Resource Line 480-644-HOPE (4673)

M-Th business hour response.
Non-emergency.

To refer anyone requesting services or resources.

For any other homelessness questions about getting/giving help.

Off the Streets Public Safety Hotline

24/7 Line (Contact Deana Lopez for number)

For First Responders Only PD/Fire/Parks

lo access services/shelter for someone when enforcing urban camping, etc.

Encampment Reporting

Non-emergency pd 480-644-2211

Mesa Now App

litylink



Summer 2024 Heat Relief





DAY RESPITE CENTER

care, showers and more. Pets navigation services, medical space, water, rest areas, meals, welcomed. Services include air-conditioned

Resurrection Street Ministries

including transportation to heat additional heat relief support relief centers call 2-1-1 or visit Hocations open through ptember 30, 2024. For





COOLING CENTERS

access to air-conditioned space. Locations provide water and

Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

635 E. Broadway

Allows leashed and well-behaved pets During excessive heat warnings Daily | 11 a.m. to 5 p.m Mesa Citadel Corps The Salvation Army 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 241 E. 6th St.

Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church 15 E. 1st Ave. Friends @ First Mesa

Daily | 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Outdoor hydration station provided at 7 a.m. Mesa Dining Room 49 W. Broadway Rd. St. Vincent de Paul

Monday - Thursday | 8 a.m. to 8 p.m Friday - Saturday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 1111 S. Stapley Dr.

Terros Health

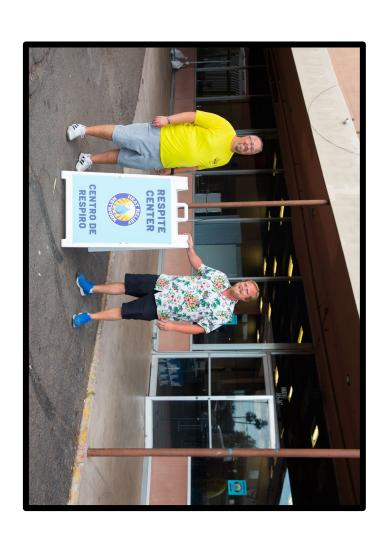
mesaaz.gov/summerhelp

Summer 2024 Heat Relief Centers

Day Respite Center: 1

Cooling Centers: 8

Hydration Stations: 9



Total Number of Visits

15,525

Pet Visits

533

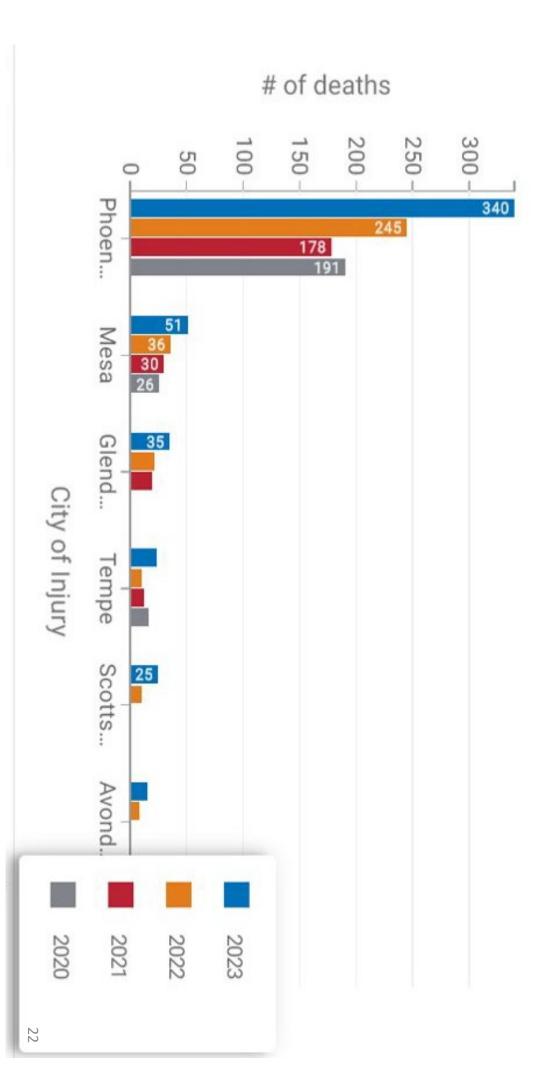
Water Bottles Served

77,671

Heat Related Deaths by City

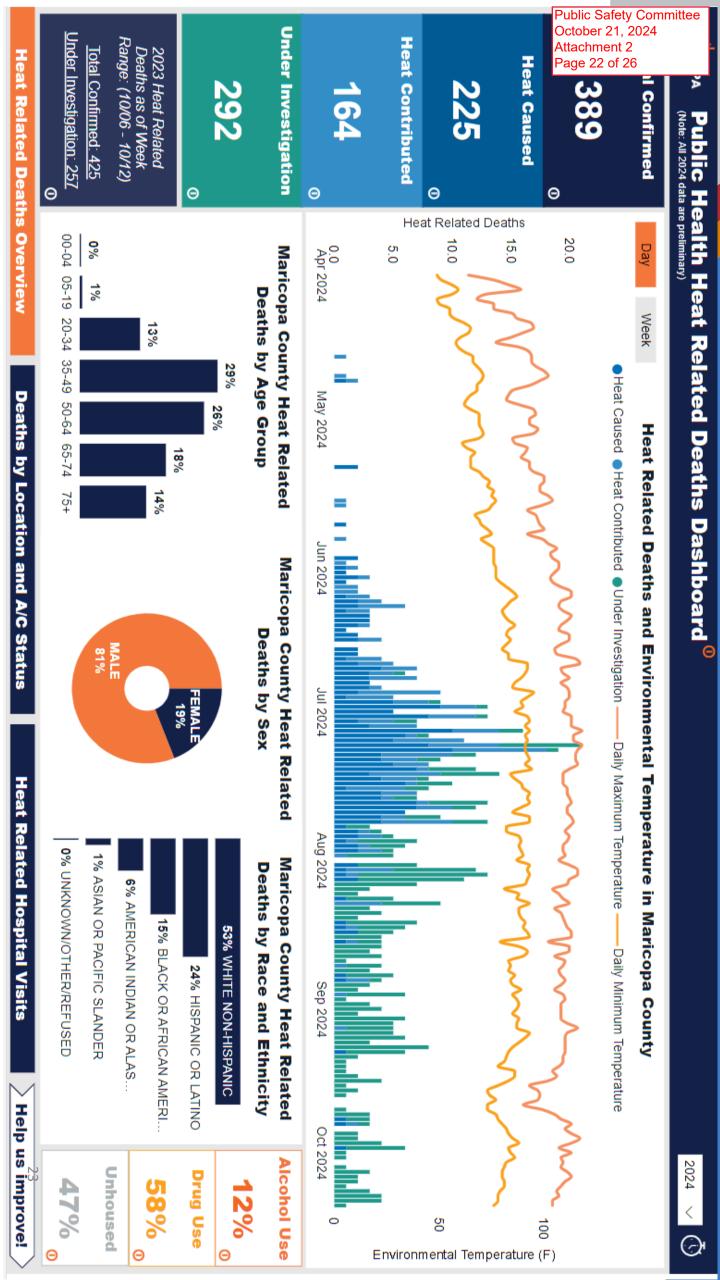
Heat-related deaths by City

heat-related deaths determined by Maricopa County Health Dept





...







Maricopa County Indoor Heat

1

Bu

200

347

60 Superior

Avo Avo Ploe

Gl∉ndale

Related Death Details	eath Deta	ils
AC Status	# of Indoor Deaths	% of Indoor Deaths
☐ AC Present	84	91.30%
Unknown	3	3.26%
Turned Off	16	17.39%
Non-	56	60.87%
No Electricity	9	9.78%
□ AC Not Present	8	8.70%
None	8	8.70%

Heat Related Deaths Overview

0

84

Deaths by Location and A/C Status

*Counts for heat related deaths in locations with ≥ 1,000 residents will display. To prevent public disclosure of decedent information, only counts will be provided.

-- Microsoft Bing
-- © 2024 Tom Tom. © 2024 Microsoft Comporation Terms

88

N Maricopa Rd

1

Florence

Kearn

347

6

Heat Related Hospital Visits

Eloy © 2024 TomTom, © 2024 Microsoft Corporation Jerms

Help us improve!

2024 Heat Related Deaths by Zip Code

OFF THE STREETS PROGRAM

- Program has existed for 4+ years in Mesa
- Temporary housing program for people experiencing homelessness
- Referrals from Mesa Police, Fire, Parks
- Allows City to provide services with urban camping enforcement

- Mesa's most vulnerable individuals are served
- Closed campus
- Case management to connect to services
- Rules and requirements
- Up to 90-day stay





Who we serve

- 21% survivors of domestic violence
- 10% are aged 62+
- 70% successfully graduate



48% female





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Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement Operational July 4, 2024 Results

Commander Dominique Sterlin Commander JR Gomez





MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Prohibited Consumer Fireworks

- Skyrockets/Bottle Rockets
- Firecrackers
- Reloadable Shell Device/Roman Candles
- Aerials
- Single Tube Devices

Residents can report fireworks concerns and tips to the Mesa Police Department

- Phone: (480) 644-2211 (non-emergency)
- Email: <u>FIREWORKS@mesaaz.gov</u>
- On-line Reporting Portal (Developed and released to public)



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Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Actions Taken – During Sales Dates

- MPD Media Relations Office posted education on the use of illegal fireworks on social media
- MPD Community Action Officers worked with the MFMD's Fire Inspector, inspecting sales locations
- MPD Street Crimes Detectives proactively purchased illegal fireworks within the City of Mesa from various sources
- community about using illegal fireworks MPD Community Action Officers sent reminder cards to residents identified during previous calls for service and tips from the





Mesa Police Department

your amazing fireworks show neone special let us know abo

ARS 36-1601

Undercover detectives, officers, and Fire Inspector's will be working to ensure that your firework show only includes legal fireworks.

Mailer sent out

Your safety is our #1 priority.

It would be unfortunate if your

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. We hope you have a safe holiday! holiday was ruined because of a criminal citation for an illegal fireworks display.



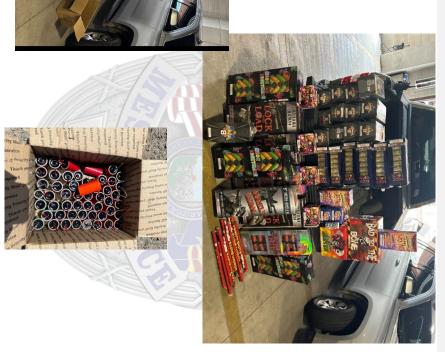
Public Safety Committee October 21, 2024 Attachment 3



Pre-Holiday Enforcement Numerous seizures and arrests

MPD Fireworks Enforcement





Mesa Police Department

Public Safety Committee October 21, 2024 Attachment 3 Page 6 of 10

Mesa Police Department



MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Pre-Holiday Seizures



84,360 lbs seized in one case

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Mesa Police Department

MPD Fireworks Enforcement

During the Holiday-July 4th

- Street Crimes Squads on duty (2 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants and 27 Detectives)
- Responded in real time to Calls for Service
- Proactively looked for illegal fireworks in use
- Responded to Tips received during the night
- $\, oldsymbol{\succ} \,$ Community Action Officers follow up on tips and calls for service where no one was located or unable to cite





MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Results-On July 4th

Firework Requests for Enforcement During Operation

District	Fireworks App.	Dispatch Calls	Total
Central	58	26	84
Fiesta	74	19	177
Red Mtn.	192	39	231
Super	203	22	225
Total	527	106	633

Firework Enforcement Stats:

Firework related contacts:	69
Firework related warnings:	22
Firework criminal cites:	13
Firework civil cites:	14

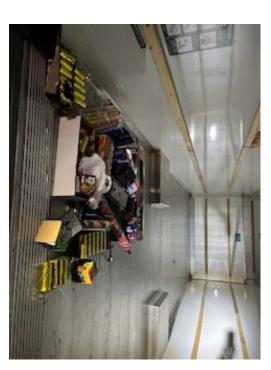


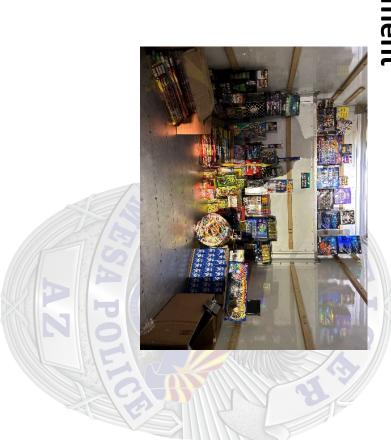
Public Safety Committee October 21, 2024



July 4th- Enforcement Seizures







Mesa Police Department **MPD Fireworks Enforcement**

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MPD Fireworks Enforcement

Questions



Mesa Police Department