

Portland Police Department

Memorandum

To: Helen Donaldson

Date: October 10, 2014

From: Asst. Chief Vern Malloch 

The Police Department has been asked by Planning Board staff to provide an analysis of calls for service (CFS) at Logan Place, 52 Frederick Street. We have provided raw data showing all the calls for police service from 2005 to September 22, 2014.

Annual CFS in the specified range average 72 with a high of 89 in 2013 and a low of 46 in 2008. As part of the analysis I have reviewed the type of calls and the outcome of some of the more serious call types in order to bring some context to the raw data. A spreadsheet contains the tally for certain call types by year. Not all call types were listed in the spreadsheet. I have focused on those believed to be of significance either because of number or type.

It is important to note that many of the calls fall into the behavioral health or mental health call type. During these calls the role of the police is usually to provide crisis stabilization and assist staff or emergency medical personnel. Call types such as follow ups and check the well-being are often a part of our ongoing efforts in responding to individuals with behavioral health problems.

Between 2005 and 2007 a significant number of CFS related to persons refusing to leave and persons bothering. This number reduced significantly after discussions with staff and policy changes were implemented. These call types remain relatively low in number.

Calls related to drug violations were examined for any patterns. During the period under review there were 38 of these calls. None resulted in arrests or police reports being generated. Five calls reported suspicious activity outside that might have been drug transactions. None were ever substantiated. Six of the calls were suicide attempts or accidental overdoses of prescription medication by residents. The remainder of the drug related CFS were all staff and residents reporting the smell of marijuana coming from various apartments. None of these calls resulted in any police reports or enforcement action. Enforcement of marijuana violations is difficult in residential settings like this because of the use of medical marijuana and an inability to distinguish legal uses from illegal. In 2014 there have been no calls of this nature.

In 2013 and 2014 there were 20 CFS for assaults. This is an alarmingly high number and represents a significant increase over earlier years under review. A closer examination revealed that sixteen of the calls involved the same resident acting as the aggressor toward other residents and staff. He suffers from severe dementia and in many instances he was transported to a hospital for evaluation. Six of the calls resulted in police reports. He was arrested or summonsed several times. None of the assaults resulted in serious injury and the victims never required medical attention. Most of the assaults involved pushing, slapping, or pouring beverages on someone.

In 2014 there were four weapons violations listed. In prior years there had been none. In reviewing the calls two were found to have been reported by residents and involved unknown people on a nearby walking path who were displaying knives or swords. One call was for a person hunting ducks with a firearm

along the Fore River. In the fourth incident a resident was arrested for possession of an illegal knife. This was the only weapons call related to Logan Place.

Analysis concludes that calls for service are higher than we would like. On a positive note, few calls resulted in police reports or arrests. None of the CFS were for serious crime types. The majority of CFS examined were generated by staff or residents, not neighbors.

We can anticipate an increase in police calls for service with development of any otherwise vacant parcel. Housing of the chronically homeless as takes place at Logan Place further increases the likelihood of an increase. Data review suggests there has been no negative impact on the neighborhood from a public safety standpoint. Other reports and studies have shown the population targeted for housing in this model draw significantly more police resources when they are homeless.

year	total cfs	RTL/bothe	Behavior	Asst FD	Intox Per	Drugs	Assault	Threat/har	Indecent	Theft	Fight	Weapons
2005	88	29	14	4	6	1	2	6	0	2	0	0
2006	82	23	16	2	4	0	3	3	0	3	1	0
2007	80	15	18	3	5	6	1	4	1	4	0	0
2008	46	4	11	3	2	2	4	3	0	0	0	0
2009	49	4	9	5	2	5	4	1	0	3	0	0
2010	65	5	18	6	0	6	2	3	0	2	0	0
2011	77	11	10	8	4	8	3	4	2	0	0	0
2012	71	4	4	15	1	8	6	5	0	5	1	0
2013	89	7	13	10	1	2	10	4	0	4	1	0
2014	74	6	8	5	6	0	10	1	0	0	2	4