



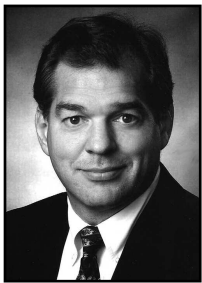
BID News

Current news about the Downtown Portland Business Improvement District

200 SW Market Street, Suite 1770 • Portland, OR 97201 • 503.224.8684 • Fax 503.323.9186

Downtown's crime drop continues for third consecutive year

Message from the PDSI Board Chair



Ron Beltz,
PDSI Board Chair

In November 2005, Portland Downtown Services, Inc. (PDSI) began the Enhanced Clean and Safe Security Program, a three-year project to reduce and prevent

crime downtown. Last month, we received the crime statistics for 2007. According to Central Precinct, the Business Improvement District shows a **16 percent decrease** in crime for 2007. This decrease is the third consecutive year that downtown Portland has seen a decline in crime, for a total reduction of **almost a third – 29 percent – over the last three years.**

Several factors are contributing to this decrease including:

- A partnership among the Alliance, the Mayor's office, Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct and Central City Concern focusing on repeat low level criminal offenders;
- Seven additional armed Clean and Safe security officers patrolling downtown streets, and

- An increased effort to keep downtown clean and graffiti free.

These statistics show that the funds paid by the downtown business and property owners for the security and cleaning programs are benefiting not just their businesses but also our entire city. Additionally, the collaborative approach the City, Central Precinct and downtown property owners have taken to address criminal activity has made an enormous difference in making downtown safe and livable for everyone who lives, works and visits downtown Portland.

The downward trend in crime took a noticeable dive after November 2005 when the Alliance joined in a partnership with Mayor Potter's office, Central Precinct and Central City Concern to provide a treatment option for chronic low-level criminal offenders, which has resulted in a **71 percent decrease in criminal activity** among that offender group since the program began. The Clean and Safe program, which employs individuals transitioning from homelessness to housing, also helps maintain the safety of downtown by providing round the clock cleaning services, including the removal of

approximately **2,000 graffiti tags a month** to improve the livability of downtown.

Additionally, beginning in December 2005 downtown property owners increased the amount of funding for security to hire **seven additional Clean and Safe officers** who patrol streets on foot and by bike seven days a week. These officers work closely with Central Precinct, alerting police to criminal activity. At that time Central Precinct also assigned a fourth bicycle officer to work with Clean and Safe, at no additional charge to the Business Improvement District.

I want to thank all of the downtown property owners who pay for this program, and most importantly the staff of the Alliance, Portland Patrol, Inc. and Central City Concern for their hard work and dedication to the Enhanced Clean and Safe Program. Great job!



CLEAN AND SAFE OFFICER HONORED

Clean and Safe Officer James Bare was awarded the Community Policing Problem Solving Award December 10. The Chief's Forum hosted the ceremony and Chief Rosie Sizer presented the award to Officer Bare.



Chief Rosie Sizer presents Clean and Safe Officer James Bare with the Community Policing Problem Solving Award.

Officer Bare worked in the Old Town Chinatown District as a Portland Police Officer for fourteen of his 29 years of community service. In 1998, after retiring from the Police Bureau, Officer Bare joined Portland Patrol, Inc. and returned to the Old Town Chinatown District as a Clean and Safe officer. During his time in the neighborhood, Officer Bare has developed a close relationship with both the business owners and community members.

Over the past year, Officer James Bare has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the Old Town Chinatown community with his active participation in the Old Town Chinatown Business Association, Central Precinct Service Coordination Team, Old Town Chinatown Safety

Committee, Housing Rapid Response meetings and Portland Development Commission safety meetings.

Officer Bare has worked closely with the Central Precinct Service Coordination Team in identifying individuals in need of social services and

housing. As part of Clean and Safe, Officer Bare routinely encourages the people in need to take advantage of these social services. He has personally been involved with assisting approximately 30 hesitant individuals getting into either housing or other social service programs.

Clean and Safe and the Portland Business Alliance salute Officer Bare for a job well done.

PDSI BOARD APPROVES ANOTHER \$234,000 HOLIDAY LIGHTING REIMBURSEMENT

It was another successful year for the Holiday Lighting Program. At its January meeting, the PDSI Board approved a second reimbursement of more than a quarter million dollars, thanks to savings accrued by efficient management of the lighting program during the past three holiday seasons. BID members will see a credit on their bill in February for the fiscal year 2008 holiday lighting program downtown.

With 721 trees lit this past season, our program is among the largest BID operated holiday lighting programs in the country. The Holiday Lighting Program wrapped up on February 1. This year, trees in the retail core were lit for 92 days, up from 76 last year. The lights were turned on earlier to celebrate the grand reopening of the downtown Macy's store. The program also received recognition from Pioneer Courthouse Square for contributing to the tree lights around the square.



The streets of downtown twinkled during the 2007 holiday season.

Call if you need Downtown Clean & Safe Services

Sidewalk cleaning, security patrol officer, graffiti removal, mentally ill persons assist, panhandling, shopping cart removal:

503.224.7383

Sidewalk Ambassadors, retail recruitment & retention, Business Improvement District directory of services:

503.224.8684



Sidewalk Ambassador Coordinator Vicente Guzman-Orozco, Central City Concern's Colesta Carr, and Officer Chuck Ault are part of the Clean & Safe team, making downtown inviting and keeping it safe for visitors, residents and workers.

CLEAN AND SAFE JANUARY STATISTICS REPORT

The Clean and Safe maintenance program had a busy month in January, removing from the Business Improvement District:

- **2,070** graffiti tags
- **1,566** bags of trash
- **132** needles
- **497** pieces of drug paraphernalia

During January the Clean and Safe Security Patrols engaged in 15,758 interactions with individuals on the streets of downtown Portland as they continue to enhance the safety and security of citizens in the Business Improvement District. These contacts included 6,626 business assistance and referral contacts, 4,627 pedestrian contacts, 81 arrests, 168 exclusions and an additional 152 non-enforcement problem solving contacts.

In December, 148 defendants were ordered by the Westside Community Court to perform community service on the Westside work crew. The Community Court work crews removed 70 bags of trash and cleaned 1,079 block faces in the Business Improvement District.

Forty-six defendants successfully completed the Theft Accountability Class. The Downtown District Attorney Legal Assistant reviewed a total of 112 misdemeanor cases for prosecution and 108 of those cases were issued for prosecution.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT DOWNTOWN PORTLAND EVERY DAY

In January the Sidewalk Ambassadors expanded their knowledge of downtown's attractions and history by touring the Portland Center for the Performing Arts' Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall and the Antoinette Hatfield Hall. The tour was followed up with a viewing of the two films presented by the Theater in the Square, featuring the things that make Portland great and a history of the Pioneer Courthouse.

This month, the Ambassadors also participated in the Park Block 5 groundbreaking, the Old Town Chinatown Arts and Culture committee monthly meeting, as well as receiving a presentation by Bryan Meyer from New Avenues for Youth, who requested the Ambassadors' assistance in his outreach to homeless youth.

Ambassador monthly statistics:

- Total Interactions:** 4,872
- Information referrals:** 2,757
- Publications distributed:** 1,575
- City and/or property owner service referrals:** 99
- Business visits:** 418
- Business modifications:** 23

PEDESTRIAN COUNT UP, RETAILERS REPORT STRONG SALES OVER HOLIDAYS

Downtown Portland was the place to shop during the 2007 holiday season with 25 percent more pedestrians hitting the streets and large and small retailers reporting strong holiday sales. The increase in downtown shopping can be contributed to new and remodeled stores as well as the construction moratorium that allowed for better access to downtown streets during the holidays.

These strong sales figures can be attributed to the increase in pedestrian traffic. The overall pedestrian count increased by 25 percent this year, and most notably, the corner of 4th & Morrison increased by more than 80 percent and SW 3rd & Taylor, Broadway & Morrison, and 10th & Washington increased by 49 percent, 33 percent and 28 percent, respectively.

The Alliance conducts these pedestrian traffic counts on 15 intersections within the Business Improvement District from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on comparable days every December and June. The purpose of the counts is to track pedestrian traffic volumes in front of key intersections within the downtown core, available retail space, and parcels poised for redevelopment. For a complete list of intersections and data, visit the Alliance Web site at www.portlandalliance.com.



CITY CHANGES GARBAGE STORAGE LAWS

This fall, Portland City Council adopted a new law making it illegal to store garbage or recycling in the public right of way for more than 24 hours. The Alliance participated in the City's Containers in the Right of Way working group to craft the law in a way that limited the impact on business by providing resources for businesses as well as accommodation for businesses that would face extreme hardship in complying.

In December and January, the City notified businesses about the new law and enforcement will begin in May and June on a complaint driven basis. The City will still allow construction drop boxes as long as there is a permit from the City. Any containers that block the sidewalk or create a nuisance will be ticketed and removed.

Many businesses will be able to comply by using existing space on their property, by reducing the container size and increasing the

frequency of collection, or by sharing collection costs with a neighbor who has adequate storage space. Businesses that need to make structural changes or have questions about city regulations can call City Permitting Services at 503.823.7690.

For additional information, contact Judy Crockett Office of Sustainable Development 503.823.5545.

ALLIANCE ASSISTS IN PDC BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Members of Alliance urban renewal budget task force have participated with other stakeholders and PDC staff to develop the 2008-09 Portland Development Commission budgets for Downtown Waterfront South Park Blocks, and River District. The goal of the Alliance through this process was to align the recently adopted policy recommendations regarding early debt defeasance and River District expansion with budget development as an interrelated strategy for continuing urban renewal in the downtown area for the long term.

2007-08 PDSI Executive Committee

Ron Beltz, Chair

Mike Kuykendall, President

Trond Ingvaldsen, Chair Emeritus

Michelle Martin, Treasurer

Anne Naito-Campbell, Ad Hoc

Greg Goodman, Ad Hoc

SIGN UP FOR THE BID NEWSLETTER

To sign up to receive our monthly BID eNewsletter, contact BJ Bachmeier at bbachmeier@portlandalliance.com.

Created nearly 20 years ago by downtown property owners, the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) funds the Clean & Safe Program, which provides cleaning, security, Sidewalk Ambassadors and community justice services in downtown. The BID also provides market research, retail advocacy, marketing assistance and communication services.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper

Visit our web site at www.portlandalliance.com for additional information about the Portland Business Alliance and the Clean & Safe Service District.