

Public Safety Action Committee Meeting

Met on May 10, 2017 at 4415 NE 87th Ave.

Issues Discussed

1. The **PDX app for reporting small violations** such as parking violations (not crimes, reporting them goes to 911) will shortly be terminated. Its function will be changed to an internet application “PDXreporters.org”
2. **Private surveillance camera registration:** anyone operating private surveillance equipment can register it with the police who can then use them in locating criminal behavior.
3. **RV’s with people living in them**
 - Under current city code, they cannot park in one place for more than 24 hours, however
 - the police have been ordered by the city to not bother them.
 - The city parking code could be changed.
4. **Abandoned vehicles (no one living in them)**
 - City has a contract with *only one* towing company,
 - which has run out of space to store them, therefore will usually not tow them.
 - The city is trying to contract more towing companies and using city land to store vehicles.
5. **Homeless people**
 - “Houselessness” is a “protected class” by federal law – just as you cannot complain about a person being “Muslim” (it is not a crime to be Muslim), likewise it is not a crime to be “houseless.” However its practical effects are garbage, sewage and often criminal behavior. Therefore when complaining to police, only “focusing on behavior” will get results. For example, “a man in the street is threatening people.”
 - When someone is arrested, the “Department of Community Justice” recommends whether he/she should be jailed. That is based upon his prior record.
6. **Resolution of problems under current law**

The only action available is for citizens to *form into or join* official organizations representing many others and complain to elected city officials, repeatedly over time. Knowledgeable individuals are available for advice.
7. **Needles used by drug addicts found in public**

Needle Exchange Programs often skip the *exchange* part. If old needles are not returned, they end up on the street.

Meg Juarez (Crime Prevention Coordinator) and Officer Bob Boylan conducted the meeting.

Richard Mohle, Chair, Wilkes Community Group