

Beach Area Community Court Survey for Offenders

Date of Community of Court Session: August 20, 2005

Question: Before attending this panel, had you ever considered the kinds of issues that were discussed tonight? If no, what issues do you consider now?

Answers:

1. Yes, I have thought about the amount of urinators//real problems.
2. Myself being a parent, I would like to pass this on to my kids.
3. Drinking after hours-or posted hours.
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. No, well not drink and to make better choices.
7. Not really, the main issues with what the residents brought up with noise and "petty" crimes really does effect them.
8. Yes, I'm thinking more about preventative measures with the issues brought up.
9. No, that I don't drink at the picnic area where there are trash cans and a possibility of empty cans getting buried in the sand for people to step on.
10. No, I didn't realize some of the issues.
11. Yes, as a local resident of Pacific Beach, I have found a growing disrespect of the beaches by tourists that don't have to see the mess they make.
12. No, the glass on the beach and going to the bathroom on people's houses.
13. Yes, sometimes you forget about them though or don't give them serious enough consideration.
14. Yes.
15. Yes, the deterioration of the community.
16. Yes.
17. Yes.
18. No, drinking and driving.
19. Fire, burning wrong substance that harm surroundings.
20. Yes.
21. Yes.
22. If no more drinking is allowed on the beaches, wouldn't it just push the problem elsewhere? This doesn't cure alcoholism.
23. Yes.
24. Yes, the issues discussed did bring more awareness to the problems.
25. No, drinking on Mission Beach and the extensive incidents of urination.
26. Yes.

Question: What impact did the panel have on your views regarding criminal conduct in the Beach Area?

Answers:

1. I just realized what a problem the drinking has caused.
2. From listening to the panel, I agreed with what they say. I think most all the problems are alcohol related.
3. It opened my eyes to the problems that our city has regarding drinking.
4. I was unaware of the extent of things like public urination. I was surprised at how many citizens had observed this, as I find that very unpleasant as well.
5. Understanding the views and concerns of local residents.
6. Most of all criminal conduct that involves disorder and pollution.
7. Even the smallest of crimes are still crimes and citing these little things are important because they do have an effect on people who deal with it everyday.
8. Not much personally as I feel I'm generally considerate, but being more proactive about being vocal in preventing crimes etc. is important.
9. I agree with it being wrong to publicly urinate.
10. I am now more aware of the problems of public urination and public drunkenness.
11. Open your eyes, it's more than local drinking.
12. I didn't think there was this much crime in the beach area.
13. It gave me a little more insight into how drinking alcohol affects the community.
14. Not much.
15. It made me realize the problems are really larger than they seem.
16. Realizing that alcohol is the main cause of criminal conduct.
17. Limit the size of fires.
18. Be more quiet when walking home.
19. I live at the beach, I understand the qualities we give up.
20. As a resident of the beach, it helped me see how other residents view the issues going on in our neighborhood.
21. I had an idea that there were problems but not to this extent.
22. Eye opener, both positive and negative.
23. It made me sad.
24. They were very informative and it was good to hear the different perspectives.
25. I think it's good to target quality of life issues, however, it seems fairly random as to who is nailed.
26. Already knew.

Question: Did you think that these types of crimes were "victimless crimes?" Do you still think that? Why?

Answers:

1. I still feel that there are people who can drink responsibly. There are a few that ruin it for everyone else.
2. Don't have a comment.
3. Everyone is a victim.
4. Some crimes. I see the impact of crimes like public urination or dangerous bonfires, but don't see the victim in drinking between 8 - 10, etc. They may have preventative effects, but these crimes are themselves victimless.
5. Some were victimless and could be avoided with proper allocation of money by the city to also address visitors concerns.
6. No well, it's like they say a remainder for people to obey the law with the sanction.
7. No, I thought that before because you view it as isolated. But apparently it's prevalent and therefore affects real people all the time.
8. As an individual crime yes. But the officers brought up good info as to why I was cited.
9. Some of them.
10. No.
11. No.
12. Yes I thought the crimes were victimless. I don't anymore because I see the bigger picture now.
13. Yes and no. I see how these crimes can certainly have a negative affect on others.
14. All I know is that I was picking up an open can of beer that was on the beach and was looking for a trash can to throw away the can and got cited. I feel like my crime is a victimless crime.
15. Maybe not all crimes but like everybody said, your actions impact everybody around you.
16. No.
17. No, everyone lives here.
18. Yes and no.
19. No, bad judgment.
20. No, it's a law and laws aren't meant to be broken.
21. I can only speak of my crime itself and I do think that it was victimless at the point in which I was cited. I understand that there is a possibility that later on it could have been a problem. But only a possibility.
22. No, not sure.
23. No, thanks to the panel. I realize that people live here.
24. No, the harm that is caused to the community affects everybody.
25. No, I never did. But it was enlightening to hear community concerns.
26. No.

Question: What do you think will help prevent others from committing these types of quality of life crimes in this community?

Answers:

1. Keep giving tickets and post the rules in local news.
2. Less alcohol at the beaches.
3. Hopefully educating our community in communicating this issue to larger groups, through school, community events.
4. Fostering a sense of respect for fellow citizens and educational campaigns around the effects.
5. Awareness to visitors, like the suggestion by one of the panelists to hand out flyers to visitors.
6. Better signs and probably more visual of those that are already there.
7. Keep on citing people and hopefully it gets curbed by word of mouth.
8. More signs, brochures, warnings and possibly providing rules/laws/etc at store fronts.
9. Get rid of everyone's rights.
10. Making the rules well known as well as the consequences, and strict follow-up of the rules.
11. Give more options like this court session.
12. Getting the word out about the problems will help prevent other crimes from happening.
13. No drinking on the beach and programs like this.
14. Acknowledging more people. Especially out of towners.
15. Word of mouth, keep citing people that are violating the law.
16. Awareness that these actions affect the life of those living in the beach area.
17. Spreading the word.
18. More information.
19. Awareness.
20. Lifeguards should do verbal reminders over the P.A. system about times, or police officers.
21. Programs like this one.
22. More signs and promotion of rules via commercials, news, flyers, etc.
23. Education.
24. More programs like this to bring awareness.
25. Better, more visible signs posting rules of the beach.
26. Give more tickets.

Question: How do you think this panel can be improved?

Answer:

1. Let the panel ask us questions.
2. Bring more people from the community.
3. The panel is great! I just would like to see a diversified audience, i.e.: age group.
4. Smaller groups with active discussion could help bring more people into the discussion and encourage more interaction.
5. Have them interact with attendees instead of using suggestion/question cards
6. More fun.
7. No comment.
8. It was good.
9. Not sure.
10. No comment.
11. Get rid of the panelists that stereotype the locals and not the tourists that support their restaurants.
12. I think the panel did a great job.
13. Maybe finish with the community panel instead of beginning with it.
14. I didn't like how some members of the panel kept saying "you".
15. Nothing. It was great. Maybe more interaction.
16. No.
17. More speakers.
18. Expand.
19. Less venting on the same issues.
20. Allow the questions to be verbalized but limited.
21. More members of the community.
22. More facts rather than biased opinions.
23. Replace the bitter, accusatory gentlemen with someone else.
24. No answer.
25. It should be shorter and have less "scare tactics", showing pictures of gruesome injuries is a bit melodramatic.
26. I don't.

Question: Would you recommend this experience to others? Why?

Answer:

1. Yes, it was very influential about the local problems in our community.
2. Yes, because it helps like a reminder of alcohol.
3. Yes, I felt this made a very big impact on me and my family.
4. Yes, the community panel and police talks were both very informative, though the "scared straight" medical talk was a bit preachy.
5. Yes, to help understand beach community residents.
6. Yes, so you or they can be prevented.
7. Yes, it is a way to realize your impact with stupid crimes and you learn about issues you ignored before.
8. Yes, better than paying the ticket, brought up good issues.
9. Yeah, no record.
10. Yeah, to people that don't understand about the beach rules.
11. Yes.
12. Yes, because it really opened my eyes to problems.
13. Yes, it is a good eye opener and good substitute for a fine every time an offense is committed.
14. To people who were actually acting drunk and violent.
15. Yes, because it educates people with important info.
16. Yes, it is informative.
17. Yes, it is good info to absorb.
18. Yes, great job, organization was outstanding.
19. Yes, it makes people aware.
20. Yes, I have a lot of younger friends that do not understand the effects of alcohol.
21. Yes, it makes you realize what the community members think.
22. Yes, for the eye opening and prevent fines.
23. Yes, the Scripps Hospital rep and officers were informative.
24. Yes, it is a good opportunity to learn about what we can do to help the community.
25. Yes, only because it saves \$180.
26. Yes, because it gets them out of paying \$180.

Question: Would you be willing to share your experience at the Beach Area Community Court Pilot Project with other community members, criminal justice agencies, and/or local media? If so, please list your name and contact information.

Answer:

1. No. However, great program.
2. Yes.
3. Not at the moment! Thank you for asking!
4. Sure.
5. No.
6. No.
7. No.
8. No thank you.
9. No.
10. No answer.
11. Yes.
12. No answer.
13. Yes.
14. No.
15. Yes.
16. No.
17. No thanks.
18. No answer.
19. No answer.
20. No answer.
21. No answer.
22. No thanks.
23. No.
24. No answer.
25. No.
26. No answer.