



## Public Safety Snapshot Pioneer Square 2014

On Thursday, June 12, 2014, the Alliance for Pioneer Square hosted a community open house focused on public safety. Held from 8 AM – 7 PM, the purpose of the event was to hold a conversation with neighborhood stakeholders, residents, business owners, employees and others about the current state of public safety and civility in Pioneer Square.

### **Outreach**

Information was included in a neighborhood e-blast in early June. Postcards were sent to both retail and upper floor businesses. Information was also posted on the organization's website, [allianceforpioneersquare.org](http://allianceforpioneersquare.org).

### **Design**

The open house was held at 314 Occidental Ave S, a space currently used as a pop-up art gallery. The space was both centrally located and ADA accessible.

*Who was there?* At least two staff from the Alliance were on site at all times. In addition, representatives from SPD, Health and Human Services, City Council, the LEAD program and others were invited to be on site to have conversations with the neighborhood as well.

*Feedback?* There were three points to gather information from attendees: 1) Sign-in sheet, 2) a neighborhood crime "heat map" available for people to post small sticky dots where they feel the least safe in the neighborhood, and 3) flip charts with the question posted "What would you like to see happen in relation to public safety in the neighborhood?"

*Handouts?* The main safety related handouts distributed were 1) a one page overview of the LEAD program (*Attachment A*) and 2) business card size "quick contact" sheets (*Attachment B*). Neighborhood maps and current event information was also on display.

### What Did We Learn from the Open House?

Over 200 people attended the open house throughout the day. The steady stream of visitors allowed staff to have longer conversations with many attendees, gaining a deeper understanding of concerns regarding the neighborhood. After the event, Alliance staff compiled all suggestions and information. The following is an overview of what we've learned.

*Heat Map:* Attendees identified the following spots as places they feel the least safe in the neighborhood: Occidental Square Park, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Extension corridor from Yesler to Main and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave/3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S corridor from James to S Washington Street. (*Suggestion: use the same color dots for this activity for a clearer result.*)



*Observations, Opinions & Comments:* The following ideas were shared at the open house by attendees. We have split them by category.

<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seattle has lost balance, we are too tolerant of behavior that is uncivilized.</li> <li>• Education is everything. Educate the youth.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 911 when you observe illegal activity, don't turn a blind eye.</li> <li>• Host community meetings and conversations. Educate on the LEAD and MDT.</li> <li>• Educate people on homelessness, mental illness. Create opportunities to visit missions for better understanding.</li> <li>• Phone tree for retail neighbors. Keep businesses updated.</li> <li>• Personal safety: self-defense classes, MID evening escorts, give out mace/whistles.</li> <li>• Implement a neighborhood watch, take advantage of residents/workers walking their dogs.</li> </ul>
<b>SPD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforce existing laws and city ordinances: leash laws, feedings, no camping, drinking, public urination, drug trafficking, illegal vending, prostitution, DUI, etc.</li> <li>• Police presence on foot and bike – establish relationships and engage.</li> <li>• Partner foot patrols with mental health workers.</li> <li>• Police need to be allowed to enforce the laws.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take care of mentally ill population so they are not prey to criminal element (housing first programs with wrap around services).</li> <li>• Coordination of service provision among the missions and human service providers; restrooms, jobs in neighborhood, training.</li> <li>• 3000 homeless in Seattle, why does my neighborhood, Pioneer Square have 1,500?</li> </ul>
<b>Built Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public restrooms.</li> <li>• Increase and improve lighting in many areas.</li> <li>• Occidental: keep clean, enforce park rules, and consider privatization.</li> <li>• Create off leash or parklet in hot spots.</li> </ul>
<b>Activation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More activities in Occidental Square: food carts, picnics, etc.</li> <li>• Enliven King Street Station and Union Station Plaza.</li> <li>• More eyes on the street.</li> </ul>
<b>Laws</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforce current laws.</li> <li>• Engage landlords in safety programs for their buildings.</li> <li>• Develop a program specifically targeting aggressive panhandlers in conjunction with drug court.</li> <li>• Address businesses that are chronic offenders.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return Harborview and KC jail patients and inmates to their original communities, greater chance to assimilate back into society.</li> <li>• Pop up police and social service locations to meet with street people and neighbors in various locations.</li> <li>• Create tax incentives for small business to invest in Pioneer Square.</li> </ul>

## Concurrent Efforts

In addition to the open house, a public safety survey was launched to gather more information. A copy of the questions with suggested changes is included in this document (*Attachment C*). The following is a top-line summary of the data gathered.

- A little less than half (45%) of respondents were office employees. Another fifth (21%) were residents and 15% were business owners. Other respondents included building/property owners, building/property managers, retail employees, and others. Respondents skewed more towards female (54%) than males (41%). The majority of respondents (65%) were between the ages of 21 – 50 years old.
- Around two-thirds (62%) have been associated with Pioneer Square for five years or less. A third (34%) have been for two years or less.
- People felt “unsafe” on weekdays after dark, and “very unsafe” to “unsafe” on weekends after dark. All other times of the week were between “neutral” and “safe”, with the exception of post-game/event when their feeling of safety dropped slightly below neutral.
- When asked how often they observe illegal activities in the last six months, on average the respondents witnessed marijuana usage, drug sales, public urination, consumption of alcohol, and trespassing/loitering “often” to “all of the time”.
- A majority of respondents (93%) have witnessed non-violent crime in Pioneer Square in the last six months. Of those a few (17%) reported it to 911, a quarter (25%) found there was a timely response. Of those that didn’t call the majority (68%) stated “it didn’t seem like a dangerous/emergency situation” or “lack of confidence there would be follow through”.
- About half of respondents (49%) have witnessed violent crime in Pioneer Square in the last six months. A little over a quarter (28%) of those respondents reported the crime to 911 and of those about one-third thought there was a timely response, about a third thought there was not a timely response and about a third didn’t know. Of those that didn’t report the violent crime, the main reason stated was a “lack of confidence there would be follow through”.



# LEAD

## LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION

### The Need

- Seattle's downtown core is an urban residential community that boasts some of Seattle's best restaurants, nightlife, shops and cultural attractions. Unfortunately, it has also struggled with open air drug activity.
- Despite previous policing efforts, users and dealers still cycle through the criminal justice system. The traditional approach of incarceration and prosecution has not solved the problem. We cannot afford to continue to invest in strategies with little prospect of success.
- Between 1990-2008 there were over 85,000 jail bookings for drug offenses in Seattle. Drug crimes have a recidivism rate of nearly 63% in Washington State.

### What We Do

#### What is LEAD?

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is an innovative program that was developed with input from community leaders to address low-level drug crimes in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. It is now expanding throughout the downtown core. Instead of jailing and prosecuting low-level drug and prostitution offenders, LEAD will divert them immediately to community-based treatment and support services. LEAD's goal is to improve public safety and public order, and to reduce the criminal behavior of people who participate in the program.
- Law enforcement officials are supportive of this effort because it gives them another way to handle public safety issues. Instead of jailing every low-level drug offender and cycling them through the criminal justice system, veteran police officers determine whether someone is an appropriate candidate and eligible to receive services from LEAD.

#### Who runs LEAD?

- LEAD is the result of an unusual collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The collaboration of these stakeholders was motivated by a shared dissatisfaction with the outcomes and costs of traditional drug law enforcement.
- All stakeholders are represented on a Policy Coordinating Group that governs LEAD. Stakeholders include representatives from the Seattle Office of the Mayor; King County Executive Office; Seattle City Council; King County Council; Seattle City Attorney's Office; King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Seattle Police Department; King County Sheriff's Office; the Washington State Department of Corrections; Belltown LEAD Community Advisory Board; Skyway LEAD Community Advisory Board; The Defender Association, through its Racial Disparity Project; and the ACLU of Washington, through its Drug Policy Project.

#### How will we know if LEAD works?

- LEAD is a pilot program. It will undergo an evaluation to determine if it has been effective. The evaluation will consider: reductions in drug use and recidivism, cost-effectiveness, and impact on a community's quality of life. The evaluation will be conducted starting in 2014, once a sufficient number of participants have gone through the program to produce reliable data.
- LEAD has operated in the Belltown neighborhood since October 2011. It has already produced successes. Participants have received substance abuse treatment, found housing, and started working. Not every participant has succeeded, and some continue to struggle with substance abuse problems. LEAD caseworkers will continue to work with clients that face setbacks.

Have programs like LEAD been implemented elsewhere?

- LEAD was inspired by successful 'arrest referral schemes' that have been operating in the United Kingdom for some time. These programs have proven so effective in numerous evaluations that they have recently been implemented in virtually every police department in the United Kingdom.

**How We Do It**

Who is eligible for diversion into LEAD?

- Individuals who are arrested for eligible offenses within specified boundaries may be diverted into LEAD. Eligible offenses include low-level drug offenses, and engaging in prostitution. Individuals who have certain violent offenses in their criminal history are ineligible for diversion.

Who will provide services to LEAD participants?

- LEAD stakeholders have contracted with Evergreen Treatment Services (ETS) to provide services to LEAD participants. ETS has provided addiction treatment services in Washington for over 30 years, and has been actively involved in federally-funded research projects.

**LEAD Overview as of May 2014**

- Number of active participants referred in LEAD: approximately 190
- Participant demographics: 39% Female, 61% Male; 52% African American, 32% White, 4% Latino, 4% Native American, 8% Pacific Islander, Bi-racial, and other; 83% homeless
- LEAD participants ages vary: the youngest is 21, the oldest is 65 - most are in their 40's and 50's.
- Some of the services utilized by LEAD participants: substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, housing, occupational training, education assistance, job placement.
- Until now LEAD has been funded by large grants from the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the RiverStyx Foundation as well as smaller grants from other foundations. Foundation funding covered operations in Belltown from 2011 until now and will continue until Oct 2015.
- The addition of City of Seattle dollars in 2014 allows LEAD to expand operations to cover other neighborhoods (Pioneer Square, Chinatown/International District).
- For more information about LEAD: please visit: <http://leadkingcounty.org>.



**PSq Public Safety Survey Questions 2014**

Q1. What is your affiliation with Pioneer Square?

- Building/Property Owner (1)
- Building/Property Manager (2)
- Business Owner (3)
- Employee (Office) (4)
- Employee (Retail) (5)
- Resident (6)
- Other: (7) \_\_\_\_\_

Q2. How long have you been in the neighborhood?

- 0 - 2 years (1)
- 3 - 5 years (2)
- 6 - 10 years (3)
- 11 - 20 years (4)
- Over 20 years (5)

Q3. How safe do you feel in Pioneer Square during the following times?  
(very unsafe, unsafe, neutral, safe, very safe)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekday morning (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekday midday (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekday afternoon (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekday after dark (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend morning (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend midday (6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend afternoon (7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend after Dark (8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post game/event (9)

Q4. In which areas do you feel the least safe in the neighborhood? You can choose up to 10 points by clicking on the map below.

((INSERT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MAP))

Q5. How often have you observed the following illegal activities in the last six months?  
(never, rarely, sometimes, often, all the time)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Marijuana Usage (1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drug usage (excluding marijuana) (2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drug sales (3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prostitution (4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Consumption of alcohol in public space (5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sale of alcohol in public space (6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trespass/Loitering (7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Urination (8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aggressive Panhandling (9)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crimes against persons (assault/robbery/threats) (10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Theft (11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (12)

Q6. Have you witnessed non-violent crime in Pioneer Square in the last six months? (Drug/alcohol sales or usage, public urination, petty theft, etc)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Have you witnessed non-violent crime in Pioneer Square in the last six months? (Drug/alcohol sales or usage, public urination, petty theft, etc) Yes Is Selected

Q7. Did you report the crime to 911?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Did you report the crime to 911? Yes Is Selected

Q8. Was there a timely response to your call?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I don't know (3)

Answer If Did you report the crime to 911? No Is Selected

Q9. Why didn't you report the crime to 911?

- It didn't seem like a dangerous/emergency situation (1)
- I didn't want to become involved (2)
- I was busy/working and did not want to give statement (3)
- Lack of confidence there would be follow through if I did call (4)
- I was concerned for my own safety (5)
- The 911 operators would not take it seriously/would consider my call a nuisance (6)
- Other (7) \_\_\_\_\_

Q10. Have you witnessed violent crime in Pioneer Square in the last six months? (Aggressive panhandling, crimes against persons)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Have you witnessed violent crime in Pioneer Square in the last six months? (Aggressive panhandling, crimes against persons) Yes Is Selected

Q11. Did you report the crime to 911?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Yes Is Selected

Q12. Was there a timely response to your call?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I don't know (3)

Answer If No Is Selected

Q13. Why didn't you report the crime to 911?

- It didn't seem like a dangerous/emergency situation (1)
- I didn't want to become involved (2)
- I was busy/working and did not want to give statement (3)
- Lack of confidence there would be follow through if I did call (4)
- I was concerned for my own safety (5)
- The 911 operators would not take it seriously/would consider my call a nuisance (6)
- Other (7) \_\_\_\_\_

Q14. How often do you see officers patrolling in Pioneer Square?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Sometimes (3)
- Often (4)
- All of the Time (5)

Q15. How often do you see officers engaging with the public, either with persons engaging in illegal behavior or otherwise?

- Never (1)
- Rarely (2)
- Sometimes (3)
- Often (4)
- Very Often (5)

Q16. Do you believe the officers you observe in Pioneer Square deter illegal behavior on our streets?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q17. Are you willing to become involved in any of the following activities? (Check all that apply)

- Write to Mayor/City Council/Other Elected Officials regarding public safety issues (1)
- Meet with representatives of SPD (2)
- Meet with Human Services representatives (3)
- Add me to the monthly Pioneer Square newsletter to stay up to date on current news in the neighborhood (4)
- No, thank you (5)

Answer If Are you willing to become involved in any of the following activities? (Check all that apply)&nbsp;No, thank you Is Not Selected

Q18. Please give us your name/email so that we may contact you when opportunities arise.

Name (1)

Email (2)

Q19. What is your age?

- 20 or under (1)
- 21 - 30 (2)
- 31 - 40 (3)
- 41 - 50 (4)
- 51 - 60 (5)
- 61 - 70 (6)
- Over 70 (7)
- Prefer not to answer (8)

Q20. Gender

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Prefer not to answer (3)

Q22. Thank you for completing our survey and please remember to attend the Public Safety Open House. Your input is vitally important and will be key in developing a multifaceted set of strategies regarding street civility and public safety. Public Safety Open House Thursday, June 12, 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM, 301 Occidental Ave S