



Clean and Sanitary Downtown Test Case Options

City of Tacoma | Environmental Services

Study Session
October 28, 2019



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW



- Present Safe and Clean Opportunities to Improve Tacoma's Downtown Streetscape
 - Public litter cans
 - Three (3) proposals for Solid Waste Commercial Collection

ISSUES



• Downtown BIA Solid Waste Concerns

- Excessive blight and litter downtown
- Unsightly garbage containers on the pedestrian streetscape
- Unsecure garbage containers
- Lack of Public litter cans downtown



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ISSUES



• Contributing Factors to BIA Concerns

- Downtown homelessness population
- Lack of secure container storage locations
- Overloaded containers
- Illegal dumping
- Misuse of public litter cans



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PROPOSED TEST AREA



- Solid Waste Collection System Enhancements

- Public Litter Cans
- Commercial Solid Waste Collection
 - 3 Options Reviewed
 - Centralized Collection System
 - Daily Collection
 - Evening Collection
- Regular Downtown Site Visits
 - Education



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PUBLIC LITTER CAN PROPOSAL



- Benefits

- Secure Containers to prevent Scavenging
- Foot pedals
- Pedestrian and Worker Safety
- Solar Powered Compaction
- Improved Collection Efficiency
- Wrap opportunities
- Prevents some types of misuse



- Costs

- Up front capital/installation: \$127,000 (28 units)
- Annual Cost: \$47,000
 - Includes collection and disposal, cleaning, pressure washing, graffiti removal, repair and replacement

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CENTRALIZED COLLECTION SYSTEM



Issue	Pros	Cons
Reduced operating cost / monthly rates	✓	
Containers in streetscape	✓	
Curbside collection		✓
Containers for scavenging	✓	
Reduced blight litter	✓	



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COMPACTOR UPGRADES



8TH Street & Court A

Current



Proposed - Draft

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CENTRALIZED COLLECTION SYSTEM



Up Front Capital Cost	Annual O&M
Garbage System: \$205,000*	Garbage: \$52,000
Recycle System: \$185,000*	Recycle: \$24,000
* May require property acquisition or lease costs – not included in estimate	

- Enclosure Features

- Above or Below Ground
- Security Cameras
- Blends in with the streetscape (aesthetically pleasing)
- Wash Facilities
- Improved lighting

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CENTRALIZED COLLECTION SYSTEM



- Barriers to Success

- Available real estate
- Commitment from large garbage generators
 - Housing complexes – may require maintenance staff
 - Accountability and enforcement
- Equity and accessibility



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DAILY GARBAGE COLLECTION



Issue	Pros	Cons
Reduced operating cost / monthly rates		✓
Containers in streetscape		✓
Curbside collection	✓	
Containers for scavenging		✓
Reduced blight litter	✓	

- Benefits
 - Smaller containers in streetscape
 - Less garbage per day / opportunity for scavenging
- Barriers to Success
 - Increased operating cost / monthly rate increases
 - Requires a new rate structure

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EVENING GARBAGE COLLECTION



Issue	Pros	Cons
Reduced operating cost / monthly rates	N/A	N/A
Containers in streetscape		✓
Curbside collection	✓	
Containers for scavenging		✓
Reduced blight litter	✓	

- Benefits
 - Garbage containers emptied at night / less opportunity for scavenging
 - No net increase in operating cost or monthly rates
- Barriers to Success
 - Same garbage volume and containers in streetscape
 - Labor Contracts

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Stakeholder Feedback



- Clear preference for a centralized solid waste system
 - System addresses the concerns in the Theater District
 - Unattractive garbage containers in streetscape
 - Unsecured containers that can be rummaged through
 - Large furniture and trash bags left adjacent to containers

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NEXT STEPS



- Next Steps
 - Receive feedback from City Council
 - Short Term Actions (2019)
 - Daily staff inspections of BIA Test area
 - Installation of Big Belly public litter cans above and below the Spanish steps
 - Procure and Install Public Litter Cans – 1 Qtr. 2020
 - Mid-biennium budget modification
 - Identify opportunities for siting solid waste compactors – 1 Qtr. 2020
 - Centralized Solid Waste Capital Improvement project – 4th Qtr. 2020

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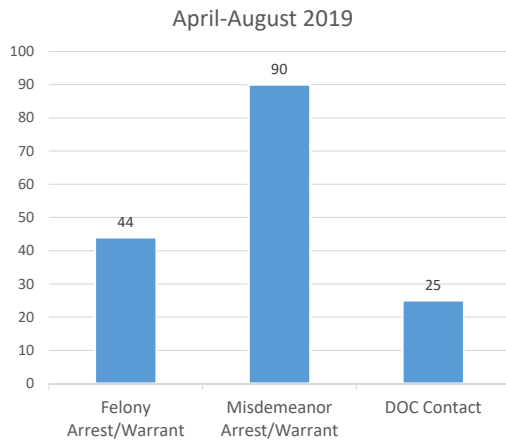
Downtown Safety

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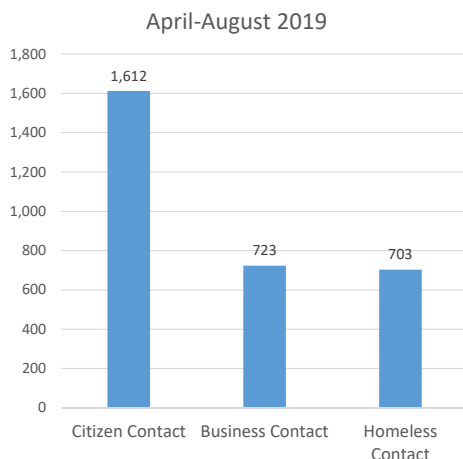
DOWNTOWN ENFORCEMENT



- Special Emphasis Teams (SET) deployed during special events in the downtown corridor. (17 SETs)
- Special Emphasis Teams deployed on a regular rotating schedule based on CAU (Crime Analysis Unit) data. (53 SETs)
- Worked with Criminal Investigations to share intel.
- Shared intel and statistics regularly with Shift Commanders.
- Increased uniformed presence from patrol graveyard shift.
- Identified and addressed two problem businesses in the area based on community complaints.
- Trespass authorizations for impacted businesses.

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DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY



- Foot and bicycle beats to ensure face to face contact with business owners and citizens.
- Identified top three mental health high utilizers who impact the downtown area and focused efforts on solutions.
- Share intel and statistics with Downtown Tacoma Partnership (DTP) Security and Pierce County Security to coordinate enforcement efforts.
- Met with top ten businesses identified as experiencing increased vehicle prowls.
- Offered Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) for impacted businesses.
- Meet regularly with Rialto Apartment and Winthrop Apartment Managers.
- Meet with managers of both commercial and residential tenants of Pioneer Human Services Building.
- Vehicle Prowl education for businesses and their employees.
- Distributed vehicle prowl mirror hangers and various educational fliers.
- Attend bi-weekly DTP meetings.

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CONTINUED EFFORTS



Areas of focus for the 2020 pilot project

- Increased Graveyard enforcement of trespass authorizations
- Focus on high utilizers experiencing mental health issues.
- Continued coordination with the Downtown Tacoma Partnership (DTP).
- Conduct overt/covert operations focused on vehicle crimes based on current crime data.
- Resourced based emphasis dependent on crime statistics across the City.

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